



**“The only certainty is
that nothing is certain.”**

- Pliny the Elder



Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

1 John 5:13-17

- *Blessed Assurance*

1. Of Eternal Life

2. Of Being Heard

3. Of Forgiveness

1. Assurance of Eternal Life

- “I have written to you who **believe**”
 - See John 20:30-31
 - Many *deniers* had left the church (2:18-19)
 - Addressed to those who held fast to the truth the apostles had proclaimed (2:21-24)

1. Assurance of Eternal Life

- “who believe in **the name** of the Son of God”
 - Position / authority (Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9); power (Acts 3:6, 12, 16); character (e.g. - 1 Sam. 25:25); disposition (e.g. - Ruth 1:19-21)
- To *believe in the name* -> *personal commitment to and reliance upon* the whole Person of Jesus

1. Assurance of Eternal Life

- “so that you may **know** ...”
 - *Know with certainty; satisfied conviction -> that you may be sure*
- “that you **have** eternal life”
 - It is possible to know with certainty that we have the eternal life that is found in Jesus
 - What has John written? (and not written?)

1. Assurance of Eternal Life

1. Do you have true fellowship? (1:1-2:2)
2. Do you really *know* Him? (2:3-6)
3. Do you abide in the *Light*? (2:7-11)
4. Do you hate the world system and do the will of the Father? (2:15-17)
5. Do you confess the apostolic Jesus? (2:18-27)

1. Assurance of Eternal Life

6. Are you purifying yourself? (3:1-3)

7. Practice righteousness & love? (3:4-10)

8. Love the brethren? (3:11-24; 4:7-21)

9. Keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight? (3:22)

10. Listen to the apostles? (4:1-6)

11. Believe that Jesus is the Christ? (5:1-12)

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that ... He hears us.”
 - Those who *believe* and *know* can also have boldness in prayer (cf. 3:21-22)
 - *Hear* – *listening favorably* -> *granting* (15)

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- “if we ask anything according to His will”
- *Lusts of the world vs. the will of God (2:15-17)*
 - “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (James 4:3)
- So, how do we know what God’s will is?

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- “if we ask anything according to His will”
 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is **good** and **acceptable [pleasing]** and **perfect.**” (Rom. 12:2)
 - Renew -> transform -> prove God’s will

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- “if we ask anything according to His will”
 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7)
 - “and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (1 John 3:22)

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- God has expressed His will in His word and commandments
- We must renew our minds with His word and commandments -> He brings transformation
- Renewing + transformation -> recognition of and adaptation to God's will
- We then pray differently

2. Assurance of Being Heard

- How would you pray for someone's loss of income? (Ex. 16:1-7; Deut. 8:1-10)
- How would you pray for someone who is sick? (Acts 3:1-10; 4:21-22)
- God's will is not always about resolving the problem, but changing us by means of the problem (Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4, 12)

3. Assurance of Forgiveness

- Example of praying “according to His will”
 - God does not want His children to sin (cf. 2:1)
 - If you see a brother sin, pray on his behalf
 - This is the loving thing to do
 - (And address the sin - Matt. 18:15-20)
 - You can have assurance that God will hear that request and *give him life*

3. Assurance of Forgiveness

- What is “sin leading to death”?
 - 2:18-29 -- **we must not wander from the truth that *Jesus Christ is the Son of God***
 - “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father” (2:23a)
 - “he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (5:12b)

3. Assurance of Forgiveness

- Acceptance or rejection of Jesus is clearly demonstrated by one's **overall pursuits** (3:10)
 - True believers walk in the *Light*, practice righteousness, love the brethren, etc. – antichrists do the opposite
 - Believers may sin, or even struggle with a sin long term, but do not *pursue sin* as a lifestyle

3. Assurance of Forgiveness

- “sin leading to death” would be the rejection of God’s Son, truth, *Light*, righteousness, etc., and the pursuit of darkness, the world, etc.
 - If you see this in someone who claims to be a brother, you can (should) pray for him, but there is no assurance that your request will be granted (see John 3:16-21)

So What?

- We need to examine our lives, conduct, hearts, and motives, to see if we have eternal life
 - Belief drives conduct; conduct reveals belief
- We need to renew our minds with God's word so that we know His will, so we can live and pray accordingly
- We need to be praying for one another



So What?

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end -Heb. 3:12-14