

WE KNOW GOD KEEPS US

CMBC January 29, 2017

1 John 5:18 – 20

MB Mission Video 2020 Movement "Putting Your Life In God's Hand"

You can only be certain about those kinds of life changing decision, because you know God and know that you can trust Him for direction in your life. .

We come to the John's concluding summarizing statements the Apostle John has written to the church he once pastored, the church at Ephesus.

The church was in a place of uncertainty:

- they were 50 years removed from Jesus' life on earth;
- the Romans had destroyed the temple;
- the world was under the thumb of a pagan empire.
- False teachers were infiltrating the church, claiming that enlightenment, not faith, mattered.

While Christians have always struggled with doubt, in our post-modern, 21st century world, it seems harder than ever to be sure of anything.

ILL: The president of Harvard said, in her inaugural speech, "Truth is an aspiration, not a possession....we challenge those who would embrace such certainties."

But John tells us that the God, who is the Creator, who created us, is the God who is calls us back into a loving relationship with Him. And because He is a God of love, He wants us to know how we can have salvation and an eternal relationship with Him.

Yes, He is divine, of a dimension far beyond us, but He entered into our world and made Himself known. In fact, John's Gospel begins, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

And, says John, we have seen him and known him and he is the truth. So throughout John's letter he declares that we can know, with certainty. And in this summary of his letter the word "know" is central.

1. We Know God Keeps Us Safe

[18] We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

This statement is not with the tone of waging a finger.

This is a statement of truth. Sin has been dealt with in your life.

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin;

- a. The one is born of God, who has become God's child has a changed attitude toward sin
 - i. The changed attitude is that it is not anymore about not wanting to do wrong, which is true. Even the world desires that.

- ii. But now the primary attitude is a desire to please God, to live for the glory of God in every circumstance.
 - iii. We are committed to not continue practicing sin
 - iv. For instance, John wrote, **[3:16] We have come to know love by this: that Jesus ⁵⁷ laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians.**
- b. Our sins are forgiven
- i. Here is the basis of that changed attitude: God has forgiven our sin.
 - ii. And because of that **the one who was born of God keeps him safe**
 - iii. The one that is fathered by God, is protected by God.
 - iv. God will protect his children from the destructiveness of the evil one.
- c. God's power for victory over sin
- i. It is this protection that gives us victory over sin
 - ii. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives that helps us overcome sin.

We know that God keeps us safe

2. We Know Evil Rules And Why

[5:19] We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- a. The world is out of control
- i. President Trump wants to keep the American people safe, but you can't do that without hurting the innocent. It is a mess.
 - ii. In the past year 20 plus people have died in Abbotsford from drug overdose. So we set up a safe center where people can shoot up with drugs, but they are supervised in case they overdose and 100s used that site. 30 plus lives were saved at that center after they had overdosed. But lives continue to be ruined and the sellers of drugs murder each other to keep their territory.
- b. We know the reason
- i. We know that this isn't just about bad people.
 - ii. We know this is Satan wanting to destroy God's kingdom.
 - iii. This is bigger than us, and we are part of caught this battle.
 - iv. We know why there is evil.
- c. We will be in conflict
- i. God has stepped in to save us and Satan's rule will finally be defeated,
 - ii. But he will fight us at every possible turn.
 - iii. Jesus told us this: **John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. [19] If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.**
 - iv. We are in this conflict.
 - v. But remember why.

- vi. God has chosen us to be on the side that defeats the powers of evil through the name of Jesus.
- d. But greater is He that is in us
 - i. Remember what was stated in **verse 18** the evil one cannot harm him.
 - ii. Here is what we heard in **Chapter 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
 - iii. We know that evil rules today and we know why. But we also know that God will one day completely defeat evil.

3. We Know The Son Of God Is True

[5:20] We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ.

- a. This is the true Saviour
 - i. The world is looking for a Saviour
 - ii. We know that Jesus brings the salvation that the delivers us from the evil of this world.
 - iii. We can know this because God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit has shown us this amazing truth.
 - b. God's gift of understanding this mystery
 - i. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true.
 - ii. We have this knowledge because the gift of the Holy Spirit and God's Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit have given us understanding.
 - c. "In Him" is a life changer
 - i. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ.
 - ii. This salvation, this life change is because God has entered into our world.
 - d. Eternal life confirms the truth
 - i. How do we know this is true? The evidence is the eternal life that is offered us as a gift from God
 - ii. He is the true God and eternal life.
- To know this isn't arrogance.
 - **ILL.** If I told you that my name was Ron Berg and that I was the pastor of this church, and you believed me, would that mean you are arrogant?
 - What John is saying is that we can only know these truths because God revealed them to us. In fact, God came to us in Jesus, so that we would hear and know.
 - And by knowing these truths, our lives are changed by believing.
 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.