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John's Epilogue – Know “These Things”

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1 John 5:13-21 (Part 4)

The Apostle John has communicated by writing in his letter about things that a true believer must be certain in order to effectively serve his Lord. There are not many things that can be classified as certain in this life. Illness, accidents, violence, old age, untimely deaths, economic calamities, and a myriad of other things can make any normal day turn catastrophic.

Job, in the midst of his calamities speaks to this uncertainty, **Job 14:1**, *Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.* And **Job 5:7**, *but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.*

The conclusion of John's letter (5:13-21) is considered epilogue. An epilogue by definition is a section at the end of a book, letter, play that serves as a comment on or a conclusion to what has happened or been said.

I. You can be Certain of Eternal Life

II. You can be Certain of Answered Prayer (5:14-17)

III. You can be Certain of Victory Over Sin (5:18)

- A. The unsaved cannot experience transformation.
 - 1. **Psalm 51:5**, *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
 - 2. **John 8:34**, *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*
 - 3. **Romans 6:16**, *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*
 - 4. *“God's graciousness is not totally removed from any individual during this lifetime. In Hell, it is.” - R.C. Sproul*
- B. The person who is born again cannot live in an unbroken pattern of sin.
 - 1. Sin is incompatible with God's law (1 John 3:4).
 - a) **Psalm 119:97**, *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.*
 - b) **Psalm 119:113**, *I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.*
 - c) **Psalm 119:163**, *I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.*
 - d) **Psalm 119:165**, *Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.*
 - 2. Sin is incompatible with the work of Christ (1 John 3:5)
 - a) **1 John 3:5**, *You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*
 - b) **1 John 3:8**, *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*
 - c) **John 1:29**, *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
 - 3. Sin is incompatible with the work of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:9)
 - a) **1 Peter 1:23**, *Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;*
 - b) **1 John 3:9**, *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*
- C. A pattern of living righteously characterizes the born again believer; sin & unrighteousness characterizes the lost person. (Rom 6:17-22)
- D. God, through Christ, will preserve and protect (Rom 8:31-39)

IV. You can be Certain of Belonging to God (5:19)

- A. There are only two spiritual realms.
 - 1. God's kingdom
 - 2. Satan's kingdom
 - 3. There is no middle ground
 - a) **Luke 11:23**, *Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

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- b) **James 4:4**, *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

V. You can be Certain of Christ's Deity (5:20-21)

- A. True (5:20)
1. "And we know" (20a) It is the last "know" (1 John 1:1-4)
 2. "that the Son of God has come" (20b) God's Son has come in the flesh
 3. "and has given us understanding" (20c) (Luke 24:45)
 4. "so that we may know him who is true" (20d) (In the midst of lies, we may know truth)
 5. "and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ." (20e) (our union with Christ; Rom 8:1; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Peter 5:14)
 6. "He is the true God and eternal life." (20f)
- B. Exclusive (5:21) (Guard/Keep yourself – responsibility)
1. It is a command (**Exodus 20:3**, "*You shall have no other gods before me.*")
 2. God is intolerant of any false religions or false gods.
 3. Before me – means over or against me.
 4. Positive – Love God with all of our heart (devotion), mind (will & intellect to know), soul (affection), strength (passion, zeal)
 5. **Matthew 6:33**, *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
 6. No divided heart. What am I replacing God with (what are these things to be careful of?)?
 - a) 1 John 2:15-17, anything we pursue in life more than God. Not necessarily bad stuff.
 - b) What are the alarms we should hear?
 - (1) The leading indicator is when I am not excited in the Lord
 - (2) Church is mundane.
 - (3) My Bible reading & study is mechanical.
 - (4) My prayer life is repetitively vain or non-existent.
 - (5) My attitude is selfish
 - (6) My heart is cold & indifferent.