

25 - 1 John 2:20-27 - 2018-11-04

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:10-11

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon: "You Know All Things" 1 John 2:20-27

Benediction: 2 Timothy 1:12b

I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

INTRODUCTION

There are many antichrists in this last time, this last hour. That was true long ago when John wrote his letters, it is true now, and it will be true until the Lord Jesus comes back. We can't be in the wonderful last hour before Jesus comes back without also being in the hour when there are many antichrists.

But the Lord Jesus has not left us without a defense against the deceptions of the antichrists! We have the unction or anointing with the Holy Spirit that He has. By the Holy Spirit working in us, we know what we need to know, and can be sure of it, so that the many antichrists cannot draw us away from the fellowship we have with Christ and His apostles and all His church.

TEXT

BODY

I. How the Text Should Read

A. Is it "you know all" or "you all know"?

1. there is a textual variant: some Greek manuscripts say the one; some say the other
2. this was translated "ye know all things" from Wycliffe in the 1300s to the ASV of 1901
3. the RSV of 1946 went with the other reading, "you all know." This was followed by the NASB and some others
4. whether your bible reads "you know all" or "you all know" makes no practical difference in the doctrine, because both are true; John is talking about you all knowing all; so let your bible read whichever way, and it will make no difference in the doctrine

B. I am using the old traditional reading here, "ye [or you] know all things"

C. But if your bible says, "you all know" or something similar, you'll find as we go along that the doctrine is the same either way

II. What False Notions Must Be Cleared Away

- A. You know all things in an absolute sense, so you have no need of anyone teaching you anything ever
 - 1. everything about everything
 - 2. omniscience
- B. You know all things without having learned them from the apostles
 - 1. 1 John 1:1-5 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- (2) the life was manifested, and **we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you** that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- (3) **that which we have seen and heard we declare to you**, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (5) This is **the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you**, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
 - 2. he does not mean, "without having heard them from the apostles, you know all things"
 - 3. he does not mean, "you know things that are not in the bible, but are revealed to you by God speaking to you privately"
- C. APPLICATION: Do not let the pentecostal/charismatic movement influence you here. It is very popular in those groups to indicate the Holy Spirit has spoken to you. It is considered very spiritual to claim this verse as a declaration of independence from the Reformation, the local churches, and even the bible.

So much for those common false notions of what it means that "you know all things."
But what does it really mean that "you know all things."

III. What "You Know All Things" Means

- A. "You Know All Things" Means "You Know the Truth"
 - 1. 1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know **the truth**, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.
 - a) know all things = know the truth
 - b) all things = the truth
 - 2. John 8:28-32 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. (29) And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (30) As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. (31) Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My

word, you are My disciples indeed. (32) And you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall make you free."

3. "You know all things" means "You know the truth"

B. "You Know All Things" Means "You Know What You Have Heard from the Beginning"

1. 1 John 2:24 Therefore let that abide in you **which you heard from the beginning**. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
2. Acts 3:1 Now Peter and **John** were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
3. Acts 3:13-21 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. (14) But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, (15) and **killed** the Prince of life, whom God **raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses. (16) And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (17) "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. (18) But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. (19) **Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, (20) and that **He may send Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before, (21) whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things
4. Note the points
 - a) verse 15 Jesus was killed according to the scriptures, which say that the Christ would suffer
 - b) verse 15 God raised Jesus from the dead, and the apostles are eye witnesses to it
 - c) verse 19 those who repent have their sins blotted out
 - d) verse 20 God will send Jesus Christ back here again for the restoration of all things
5. This is essentially what the disciples of Jesus Christ had heard from the apostles from the beginning of the preaching of the gospel

"You know all things" means "You know the truth"

"You know all things" means "You know what you have heard from the beginning"

- C. “You Know All Things” Means “You Know All About Jesus Being the Christ, the Son of God in the Flesh”
1. One place in the gospel of John
 - a) John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe **that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that believing you may have life in His name.
 - b) JRY: this summary comes after the account of His death, burial, and resurrection
 - c) you know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who has died on the cross, has been buried, and on the third day rose again
 2. One place in 2 John
 - a) 2 John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess **Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
 - b) you know that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
 3. Several lines here in 1 John
 - a) 1 John 2:22-23 that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Father
 - b) 1 John 4:2 that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh
 - c) 1 John 4:9-10 God sent His only-begotten son into the world...loved us...propitiation
 - d) 1 John 4:14 the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world
 - e) 1 John 4:15 Jesus is the Son of God
 - f) 1 John 5:1 that Jesus is the Christ
 - g) 1 John 5:5 that Jesus is the Son of God
 - h) 1 John 5:11 that God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son

IV. What “To Know” Means in this Context

- A. It doesn’t just mean that we have this information, but others lack the information. There are many people who have heard these things, but do not know them to be true.
 1. possibly they do not believe the gospel is factually accurate; they do not know the history and faith presented in the gospels are really what the bible says they are
 2. possibly they do know in the sense of recognizing that the gospel is historically accurate; they just do not know in the sense of believing in Jesus Christ with true saving faith
- B. But the disciples of Jesus Christ know all these things to be the truth, by the anointing with the Holy Spirit which we have received in Christ; we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; we believe *in* Jesus Christ, the Son of God

CONCLUSION

There are many antichrists in this last time. But our Lord has made us ready to resist their deceiving influence by sharing with us His anointing of the Holy Spirit. By the unction of the Holy Spirit, we know the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which we have heard from His apostles from the beginning.

God sent His only-begotten Son to be the Savior of the world. This is Jesus the Christ, who has come in the flesh. Whosoever repents of sin and believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has forgiveness of sins and eternal life from God the Father.

We, the disciples of Jesus Christ know all these things to be the truth, by the anointing with the Holy Spirit which we have received in Christ.

verse 20 ye know all things

Cotton:

What is it that they know? All things pertaining to life and godliness 2 Peter 1:3

JRY:

know all things = know the truth

all things = the truth

not all things absolutely

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

JRY: this summary comes after the account of His death, burial, and resurrection

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

1 John 2:21 “the truth” [Cotton: the doctrines of the gospel]

1 John 2:22 the truth about Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God the Father

1 John 2:24 that which ye have heard from the beginning

see 1 John 4:6 he that knoweth God heareth us...truth

1 John 4:2 that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

1 John 4:9-10 God sent His only-begotten son into the world...loved us...propitiation

1 John 4:14 the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world

1 John 4:15 Jesus is the Son of God

1 John 5:1 whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ

1 John 5:5 he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God

1 John 5:11 God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son

There are many people who have heard these things, but do not know them to be true. But the disciples of Jesus Christ know them to be the truth.

God sent His only-begotten Son to be the Savior of the world. This is Jesus the Christ, who has come in the flesh. Whosoever believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has eternal life from God the Father.

The believer in Jesus Christ knows all these things to be the truth, by the anointing with the Holy Spirit which he has received in Christ.

verse 27 the same anointing teacheth you of all things

Cotton:

the virtue of this unction
ointment so sufficient that they need not be taught more...than it will teach them

JRY:

Those who would seduce or deceive you will be in the guise of those who would teach you. (26-27)

verse 27 you do not need that anyone teach you

JRY:

John here warns us against those who would say:

-Let me teach you more about Jesus than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning.

-Let me teach you differently about Jesus than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning.

You do not need someone to teach you more or differently about Jesus Christ being the only-begotten Son of God than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning. By the Holy Spirit you know it to be the truth.

1. up through the ASV of 1901, the word “ye” was used to show the plural; in this verse where the bible uses the verb “to know,” the verb is in the plural;
 - a) I find it interesting that having the bible say, “ye” and “you” for the plural and “thou” and “thee” for the singular is not something that began or ended with the King James version of 1611
 - (1) it was like that long before 1611 in the Wycliffe, Tyndale, Geneva, and other bibles
 - (2) in the editing done at Oxford and Cambridge in the 1760s, it was retained
 - (3) in the 1885 Revised Version and the 1901 American version of that revised version, it was retained
 - (4) even in the 1922 Moffatt bible it was retained!

(5) in the 1950s the RSV, and in 1971 the NASB retained many of the uses of “thee” and “thy”

(6) not until the 1970s were those old pronouns abandoned in the new translations

C. Is it “you know” or “you have knowledge”

1. these two statements amount to about the same thing
 - a) you know
 - b) you have knowledge
2. but they are not the same statement
 - a) in one, “you know,” the verb is “to know”
 - b) in the other, the verb is “to have” and “knowledge” is the object of that verb
3. the Greek text says, “you know all”
 - a) as I mentioned before, a textual variant in the form of the word “all” allows a reading of “you know all things” or “you all know things”
 - b) but to translate this as “you all have knowledge” is simply not accurate
4. guess who first translated it that way---you guessed it---James Moffatt
 - a) from his own ideas about how to make the bible more understandable to the average reader, Moffatt rendered many places in the bible with different statements in English than what he was supposed translating from in the original Greek New Testament
 - b) in many of these, the RSV of 1946 followed his paraphrases; the way this effects us is that the ESV is a revision of the RSV, so we get Moffatt’s strange phrases in the ESV
 - c) in some places I have come across, like this right here, the RSV did not follow Moffatt’s strange language, but then the ESV did anyway!
 - d) I am very inclined to like the ESV, because it has been generally embraced by the Reformed churches, and many of you use it; but week after week I keep finding that the ESV uses language first put forward 100 years ago by James Moffatt, that simply does not translate the bible accurately

D. Is it “all of you know the truth”?

1. some of the translations say that
2. no; the word for “truth,” *aletheia*, is not found in that statement in the Greek scriptures; it has been brought in from the next verse by the

translators to fill in where they think an English speaker would have said that

3. several of the translations have that; I think it started with the 1974 NIV, but I'm not sure
4. the statement is not false; that is a point I will make in a moment, that what John means that you know is that you know "the truth"
5. but the bible doesn't really say that here; that is a human addition

Prelude: Grace 73 "I Am Confident of This"

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano - transpose

Trinity 151 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Anna: piano - see attached in F

Trinity 6 "Psalm 22"

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Anna: piano - see attached in F

Grace 11 "Are You Washed in the Blood"

Noah: direct

Anna: piano

Trinity 727 "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

Noah: sing

Anna: piano