

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 16

TITLE: DEALING WITH DOUBT

TEXT: I JOHN 3:19-24

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE HYMN "BLESSED ASSURANCE" WAS WRITTEN BY FANNY CROSBY AND COMPOSED BY PHOEBE KNAPP AND WAS PUBLISHED IN 1873.

\* THE SCRIPTURE REFERENCE THAT THIS HYMN IS BASED UPON IS FOUND IN HEBREWS 10:22 WHICH SAYS: "LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A SINCERE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, HAVING OUR HEARTS SPRINKLED CLEAN FROM AN EVIL CONSCIENCE AND OUR BODIES WASHED WITH PURE WATER."

\*\* NOW A SHORT BACKGROUND FOR THE WRITING OF THIS HYMN IS FANNY CROSBY WAS VISITING HER FRIEND PHOEBE KNAPP AS THE KNAPP HOME WAS HAVING A LARGE PIPE ORGAN INSTALLED.

\*\*\* THE ORGAN WAS INCOMPLETE, SO USING THE PIANO MRS. KNAPP PLAYED A NEW MELODY SHE HAD JUST COMPOSED.

\*\*\*\* WHAT DO YOU THINK THE TUNE SAYS? ASKED KNAPP.

(2) FANNY CROSBY SAID: "BLESSED ASSURANCE JESUS IS MINE" WHICH WOULD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED HYMNS OF ALL TIME.

\* THE FIRST VERSE SAYS: BLESSED ASSURANCE JESUS IS MINE! O WHAT A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE! HEIR OF SALVATION, PURCHASE OF GOD, BORN OF HIS SPIRIT, WASHED IN HIS BLOOD.

\*\* THE CHORUS SAYS: THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG, PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG; THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG, PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.

\*\*\* NOW WHAT PROMPTS PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL DAY LONG?

\*\*\*\* THE ANSWER IS BLESSED ASSURANCE. FOR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION, ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS, ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN IS A GREAT BLESSING AND MAY BE THE GREATEST BLESSING THAT A CHRISTIAN CAN POSSESS.

(3) FOR IF THAT SETTLED CONVICTION PERMEATES YOUR HEART YOU CAN GO THROUGH THE GREATEST OF TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES.

\* BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT SETTLED CONVICTION, IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GO THROUGH TRIALS AND OVERALL TO LIVE SACRIFICIALLY FOR THE LORD AND TO BE FAITHFUL.

\*\* I MEAN IF THERE IS NO ASSURANCE WHY GO THROUGH WHAT WE DO FOR THE LORD?

\*\*\* LACK OF ASSURANCE IS A CRIPPLING DEBILITATING SPIRITUAL SICKNESS.

\*\*\*\* THEREFORE OUR LORD WANTS HIS BORN AGAIN CHILDREN TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE TRULY HIS.

(4) JOHN WROTE THIS LETTER SO THAT THOSE "WHO BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD MAY KNOW THAT THEY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE," I JOHN 5:13, THE KEY VERSE IN I JOHN.

\* JOHN WANTED HIS READERS IN THE CHURCHES TO BE CERTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION, POSSESSING AN ASSURANCE THAT WAS BOTH LEGITIMATE AND LASTING.

\*\* YET THERE ARE TIMES WHEN OUR HEART CONDEMNS US AND WE NEED GOD'S REASSURANCE THAT WE TRULY ARE HIS CHILDREN.

\*\*\* FOR THERE ARE OCCASSIONS WE SING BLESSED ASSURANCE JESUS IS MINE AND WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT IS JESUS REALLY MINE?

\*\*\*\* WELL, JOHN IN OUR TEXT TODAY DEALS WITH DOUBT AND GIVES SOME ASSURANCES TO REMIND US SO THAT WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, THAT WE HAVE BLESSED ASSURANCE.

(5) HENCE, I'VE TITLED THE SERMON TODAY, "DEALING WITH DOUBT."

\* AND AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH I JOHN 3:19-24, WE'LL LOOK AT 4 MAIN POINTS TO HELP THOSE OF US WHOM ARE TRULY CHRIST'S, TO HAVE ASSURANCE.

\*\* NO. 1 WE'LL LOOK AT THE CONFIRMATION IN V. 19; NO. 2 THE CONDEMNATION IN V. 20; NO. 3 THE CONFIDENCE IN VV. 21&22; AND NO. 4 THE COMMANDMENT IN VV. 23&24.

\*\*\* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE BEFORE US, LET'S DIVE INTO THE THEME OF DEALING WITH DOUBT BY LOOKING AT THE CONFIRMATION. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.

I. THE CONFIRMATION, (READ V. 19)

**A. NOW JOHN BEGINS IN V. 19 BY SAYING, "WE WILL KNOW BY THIS." AND BY THIS TAKES US BACK TO V. 18**

**AND THE PRECEDING REPETITIOUS THEME OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER.**

**\* SO WE WILL KNOW BY THIS, BY WHAT? BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER IN DEED AND IN TRUTH, NOT JUST WORD OR TONGUE, BUT WE WILL KNOW BY THE ACTION OF DEED AND TRUTH, BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER.**

**\*\* NOW WHAT WILL WE KNOW IF WE TRULY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?**

**\*\*\* WELL, WE WILL KNOW THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH AND THAT WILL BRING ASSURANCE OF SALVATION BEFORE THE LORD.**

**\*\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER, WE WILL KNOW, LIT. WE WILL COME TO KNOW THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, THAT WE ARE SAVED, WE WILL BE ASSURED OF THAT BY THE FRUIT OF THE ACTION OF LOVE IN OUR LIVES.**

**1. WE WILL BE ASSURED OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST WHO IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, AND WE WILL BE ASSURED FROM THE WRITTEN TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE THAT WE ARE BELIEVERS THROUGH LOVING ONE ANOTHER IN DEED AND IN THE TRUTH.**

**\* AND THE VERB ASSURE HERE IN V. 19 IS AN IMPORTANT WORD. IT LIT. MEANS TO PERSUADE OR WILL PERSUADE. THAYER ON THIS WORD TRANSLATES IT “TO TRANQUILIZE.”**

**\*\* SMITH TRANSLATES THIS WORD “TO PACIFY, TO WIN WITH CONFIDENCE, TO SOOTHE THE ALARM” OF OUR HEART.**

**\*\*\* AND AS WE PUT THESE MEANINGS TOGETHER WE ARE TALKING ABOUT BEING PERSUADED, TO HAVE CONFIDENCE, TO GIVE US PEACE THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, THAT WE ARE THE LORD’S.**

**\*\*\*\* AND HOW DO WE KNOW THAT? BY THIS, LOVING ONE ANOTHER IN ACTION, IN DEED, IN SACRIFICE.**

**2. THE FRUIT OF TRULY LOVING THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST SHOULD LEAD US TO KNOW FROM THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD THAT WE ARE HIS, BEFORE HIS HOLY VIEW.**

**\* IT IS TO SAY, BEFORE HIM, BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD WHO KNOWS AND SEES ALL, WE ARE ASSURED THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, WE HAVE A CALM, TRANQUIL, CONFIDENT HEART BEFORE THE HOLY ONE IN HIS PRESENCE.**

**\*\* SO IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, THE LATIN CORAM DEO, WE REST IN HIS PRESENCE.**

**\*\*\* LET ME FURTHER EXPLAIN. AS A REMINDER OF HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, CALVIN USED THE MOTTO “CORAM DEO” WHICH AGAIN MEANS “IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.”**

**\*\*\*\* AND CALVIN KNEW THAT HE SPENT EVERY SINGLE MOMENT IN THE SACRED PRESENCE OF THE ALMIGHTY AND THAT GOD’S EYE WAS ALWAYS UPON HIM.**

**3. AND TO DO THAT, IS TO LIVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD. DEFINE IT.**

**\* AND LIVING LIKE THAT WAY CORAM DEO IN HIS PRESENCE SHOULD CHANGE OUR LIVES AND GIVE US A CONSCIOUSNESS THAT SHOULD CHANGE OUR LIVES.**

**\*\* BUT GET THIS. IN HIS HOLY PRESENCE, BEFORE HIM IN V. 19, WE HAVE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY AND ASSURANCE BECAUSE OF THE FRUIT OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER. OUR HEARTS ARE AT REST IN HIS PRESENCE.**

**\*\*\* AND ALTHOUGH IN HIS PRESENCE WE KNOW THAT WE DO NOT ALWAYS MEET THE STANDARD THAT GOD HAS GIVEN, WE STILL ARE ASSURED THAT HIS GRACE HAS BESTOWED UPON US IN SALVATION THROUGH THE VISIBLE FRUIT OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER, FOR LOVING**

**ONE ANOTHER IS SUPERNATURAL, NOT NATURAL, IT IS HARD, IT IS NOT EASY.**

**\*\*\*\* HOWEVER, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE DON'T LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS WE SHOULD AND OUR HEARTS CONDEMN US. AND THIS HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS WE SHOULD AND WE ARE CONVICTED AND HAVE GUILT, AND WE WONDER, HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?**

**4. WELL, JOHN DEALS WITH THIS IN THE NEXT VERSE IN V. 20, WHICH I HAVE ALLITERATED WITH THE WORD CONDEMNATION. LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE.**

## **II. THE CONDEMNATION, (READ V. 20)**

**A. NOW THERE ARE MORE TIMES THAT WE WANT, YES MANY TIMES THAT WE DON'T LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS WE SHOULD, AND WE YIELD TO UNLOVING THOUGHTS ABOUT PEOPLE AND ACTIONS THAT ARE UNGODLY.**

**\* AND WE WONDER, HOW CAN I THINK OR ACT LIKE THAT AND BE A CHRISTIAN? HOW CAN I BE SAVED? AND WE START TO DOUBT OUR SALVATION BECAUSE OUR HEARTS, OUR CONSCIENCES START TO CONDEMN US AND WE ARE CONVICTED AND THAT IS GOOD.**

**\*\* BUT IT BECOMES BAD WHEN THAT GUILT IS NOT DEALT WITH AND WE ALLOW OUR EMOTIONS TO RUN WILD, AND**



**ALLOW OUR MINDS TO RUN WILD THAT WE ARE NOT  
SAVED.**

**\*\*\* AND SUBJECTIVELY AND EMOTIONALLY WE LAPSE  
INTO DESPAIR. WE START TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE  
CONDEMNED AT THAT TIME WITH NO HOPE.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT WHEN WE FALL INTO SIN AND OUR  
CONSCIENCES ACCUSE US FOR OUR LACK OF LOVE  
TOWARD OUR BROTHER OR SISTER, OR OTHER SINS, WE  
SHOULD NOT DESPAIR AS THOUGH WE ARE LOST.**

**1. FOR THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND  
AT THAT TIME OBJECTIVELY, THAT GOD WILL NOT BRING  
US INTO CONDEMNATION ,FOR WHEN WE ARE IN CHRIST,  
WE WILL NEVER BE CONDEMNED TO HELL, (QUOTE  
ROMANS 8:1).**

**\* AND WHEN OUR HEARTS TELL US WE ARE NOT THE  
LORD'S WHEN WE SIN, WE MUST QUIET OUR HEART WITH  
THE OBJECTIVE TRUTH THAT WE BELONG TO GOD, AND  
HE IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS FOR HE KNOWS ALL  
THINGS.**

**\*\* SO HOW ARE WE TO ASSURE OUR HEARTS WHEN THEY  
ARE CONDEMNING US? BY RESTING IN THE OBJECTIVE  
TRUTH THAT THE GOD WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING AND  
WHO IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS, KNOWS OUR LIVES  
AND SEES OUR WEAK LOVE AT TIMES, BUT HE KNOWS**

**WE ARE HIS BECAUSE HE HAS JUSTIFIED US BY HIS GRACE THROUGH REDEEMING US IN CHRIST.**

**\*\*\* AND AS OUR LOVE EBBS AND FLOWS AND SOMETIMES FAILS FOR ONE ANOTHER, WE ARE CONDEMNED BY OUR HEARTS, WE ARE CONVICTED. AND WE NEED TO CONFESS OUR SIN IMMEDIATELY.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT THE SUBJECTIVE VERDICT IN OUR EMOTIONS AT THAT TIME IS, HOW CAN I BE A BELIEVER?**

**2. BUT JOHN IS SAYING, THE VERDICT THAT ULTIMATELY COUNTS IS NOT THE ONE I PASS ON MYSELF, BUT THE ONE THAT GOD PASSES ON ME.**

**\* SO JOHN SAYS, IF OUR HEARTS CONDEMN US, GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS AND KNOWS ALL THINGS.**

**\*\* JOHN SAYS WE ARE TO APPEAL, NOT TO OUR HEARTS AT THAT TIME, BUT TO THE GREATNESS OF GOD AS OUR ASSURANCE AND SUFFICIENCY, OUR HEARTS CONDEMN US, BUT GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS.**

**\*\*\* LET ME ILLUSTRATE FROM SCRIPTURE. IN JOHN 21, JESUS ENCOUNTERS PETER AFTER HIS RESURRECTION.**

**\*\*\*\* AND IF YOU RECALL PETER DENIED THE LORD 3 TIMES PRIOR TO HIS CRUCIFIXION. BIG BAD PETER EVEN DENIED HE KNEW CHRIST TO A SERVANT GIRL.**

**3. WELL, JESUS SOUGHT OUT THE GRIEVING PETER IN JOHN 21:15-17 AS PETER WAS PROBABLY GOING THROUGH A LOT OF GRIEF ABOUT WHAT HE DID.**

**\* WELL, JESUS ASKS PETER 3 TIMES IF HE LOVES HIM.**

**\*\* AND AFTER THE 3'D TIME PETER ANSWERED, LORD YOU KNOW ALL THINGS, YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU IN V. 17.**

**\*\*\* PETER KNEW OBJECTIVELY THAT CHRIST KNEW THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF INCLUDING HIS SIN, BUT PETER KNEW THAT EVEN IN HIS DENIAL THAT HE STILL LOVED CHRIST AND KNEW THAT JESUS KNEW THAT.**

**\*\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, PETER APPEALED TO THE INFINITE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS LORD. HE UNDERSTOOD WHEN HIS HEART WAS CONDEMNING THAT JESUS WAS GREATER THAN HIS HEART AND KNEW ALL THINGS. AND SO THE ULTIMATE GROUND FOR QUIETING AN OVERACTIVE CONSCIENCE IS NOT THAT WE CAN POINT TO ANYTHING IN OURSELVES THAT MAKES US THINK, YES, I AM A CHRISTIAN WHEN WE DON'T FEEL LIKE ONE.**

**4. BUT OUR ULTIMATE ASSURANCE IS THAT WE BELONG TO THE ONE WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, WHO DOES NOT TREAT US AS OUR SINS DESERVE. WE BELONG TO THE ONE WHOSE BLOOD CLEANSSES US FROM EVERY SIN.**

**\* THEREFORE GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS, GREATER THAN OUR SINS, FOR HE IS INFINITELY RICH IN MERCY AND GOD'S SALVATION EXCEEDS OUR SINFULNESS, SO HERE OUR CONSCIENCE FINDS PEACE AND REST!**

**\*\* JOHN HERE IS TRYING TO REASSURE TRUE BELIEVERS THAT ARE LIVING WITH DOUBT AND THE CONDEMNATION WE HAVE IN OUR HEARTS WHEN WE DON'T LOVE THE BRETHREN. AND FROM OUR HEARTS WE FEEL LIKE WE ARE UNSAVED, BUT GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS, AND HE KNEW US AND CHOSE US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, AND THOUGH WE MAY NOT FEEL SAVED AT THAT TIME SUBJECTIVELY, WE ARE SAVED BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD DID IN CHRIST FOR US AND WHAT HE KNOWS, AND HE IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS.**

**\*\*\* GOD IS THE HIGHER COURT WHEN WE GO THROUGH THAT KIND OF DOUBT. SO THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION**

**FOR THOSE THAT ARE TRULY IN CHRIST. AND IN TURN WE SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THAT WHICH IS OUR THIRD POINT TODAY. LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE.**

**III. THE CONFIDENCE, (READ V. 21)**

**A. NOW IN VV. 20&21, WE HAVE ANOTHER CONTRAST IN I JOHN IN V. 20 WITH THE HEART THAT CONDEMNS US, TO V. 21 TO THE HEART THAT DOES NOT CONDEMN US.**

**\* JOHN TURNS FROM THE CONDEMNING HEART TO THE ASSURANCE AND BLESSING OF A HEART THAT HAS BEEN MADE TRANQUIL WHICH DOES NOT CONDEMN.**

**\*\* TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY, PEACE PREVAILS, DOUBT CEASES WHEN V. 20 IS APPLIED AND WE GO BACK TO THE OBJECTIVE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD THAT WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO HAS MADE ATONEMENT FOR ALL OUR SIN.**

**\*\*\* SO WE TAKE EVERY ACCUSATION AGAINST US TO THE BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST, SAYING, MY SAVIOR HAS PAID THE FULL PRICE FOR MY SIN.**

**\*\*\*\* AND HE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT THE FATHER EMBRACES. MY SAVIOR'S BLOOD HIDES ALL MY TRANSGRESSIONS FROM VIEW;**

**THEREFORE MY HEART DOES NOT CONDEMN ME. THE FATHER SEES ME IN THE SON AND NO LONGER IN SIN, SO MY CONFIDENCE IS IN GOD'S WORK AND WHAT HE DID, AND MY HEART DOES NOT CONDEMN ME TO THE PLACE OF DOUBT ANYMORE, FOR GOD WHO JUSTIFIED ME IS GREATER THAN MY HEART.**

**1. AND IF WE APPLY THE TRUTH OF V. 20, OUR HEARTS WILL NO LONGER CONDEMN US IN V. 21 AND WE WILL CONFESS AND FORSAKE OUR DOUBT AND WE WILL HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE, BLESSED ASSURANCE BEFORE GOD.**

**\* WE CONFESS AND FORSAKE OUR SIN IMMEDIATELY, THEREFORE WE HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND THEREFORE TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD AND HAVE CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD.**

**\*\* NOW THE WORD RENDERED CONFIDENCE MEANS FREEDOM IN SPEAKING, UNRESERVEDNESS OF SPEECH, A BOLDNESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.**

**\*\*\* AND IT DESCRIBES THE PRIVILEGE OF COMING BEFORE SOMEONE OF IMPORTANCE, AUTHORITY AND POWER AND FEELING FREE TO EXPRESS WHATEVER IS ON ONE'S MIND.**

**\*\*\*\* AND IN THIS CONTEXT IN APPLYING IT TO BELIEVERS, DOUBT CEASES WHEN BELIEVERS ARE FOCUSING ON THE ONE WHO SEES ALL AND HAS DECLARED US RIGHTEOUS, WHO IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS.**

**2. AND SUCH ASSURANCE CAUSES BELIEVERS TO ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH CERTAINTY, WITH BOLDNESS. WE ARE FORGIVEN SINNERS. AND WE COME NOT ON OUR OWN BUT THROUGH CHRIST AND THIS CONFIDENCE OR BOLDNESS IS NOT PRESUMPTION, RATHER IT'S GOD'S ANSWER FOR OUR DOUBT.**

**\* FOR OUR CONFIDENCE IS NOT BASED ON ANYTHING WE ARE OR HAVE DONE IN OURSELVES.**

**\*\* FOR OUR CONFIDENCE IS FOCUSED AND CENTERED IN JESUS CHRIST AND WHAT HE HAS DONE. WE DON'T APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER WITH DOUBT AND AN UNHOLY FEAR BUT IN BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENCE, WHICH LEADS JOHN TO TALK ABOUT PRAYER.**

**\*\*\* LOOK AT V. 22 PLEASE.**

**B. READ V. 22. NOW WHEN WE HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND TRULY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION IN CHRIST, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO HIM IN PRAYER AND CONFIDENCE TO BOLDLY COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, QUOTE HEBREWS 4:15&16.**

**\* NOW AS WE COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE WHATEVER WE ASK OF HIM, WE RECEIVE FROM HIM. NOW WHY?**

**\*\* BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS AND DO THE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.**

**\*\*\* SO WE DON'T HAVE A BLANK CHECK AND SAY, LORD I WANT A MILLION DOLLARS AND WE RECEIVE THAT FROM HIM, WE HAVE THE CONDITION OF OBEDIENCE TO HIM AND WANTING TO DO WHAT IS PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT THAT OVER-RULES OUR SELFISHNESS TO ASK FOR SELF-GLORY, BUT RATHER FOR GOD'S GLORY.**

**\*\*\*\* AND HERE AGAIN IN JOHN, HE TALKS ABOUT THE TEST OF OBEDIENCE AGAIN. FROM ANOTHER VANTAGE POINT, FROM PRAYER AND CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS NOT TO DOUBT, FOR OBEDIENCE HELPS TO TAKE AWAY DOUBT.**

**1. IT IS ANOTHER EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE HIS. OBEDIENCE SHOULD TAKE AWAY DOUBT AND BRING BLESSED ASSURANCE.**

**\* AND OF COURSE, ANSWERED PRAYER SHOULD BRING ASSURANCE ALSO AND ASKING FROM A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND A HEART THAT DOES NOT CONDEMN US BRINGS CONFIDENCE, AND SPECIFICALLY HERE, IN PRAYER.**



**\*\* SO THE THEME OF VV. 21&22 IS CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE, WITH NO DOUBT THAT EVEN CARRIES OVER INTO OUR PRAYER LIVES.**

**\*\*\* AND WE MOVE FROM THE CONFIDENCE TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE CLEAR COMMANDMENT THAT GOD GIVES. LOOK AT V. 23 PLEASE.**

#### **IV. THE COMMANDMENT, (READ V. 23)**

**A. NOW JOHN REDUCES THE COMMANDMENTS HE HAS TALKED ABOUT IN V. 22, WHICH BRINGS ASSURANCE IN PRAYER AND CONFIDENCE THAT WE ARE THE LORD'S, JOHN REDUCES THE COMMANDMENT TO A SINGLE COMMAND THAT HAS TWO PARTS.**

**\* FOR JOHN SAYS "THIS IS HIS COMMANDMENT" SINGULAR, IT'S IN THE SINGULAR FORM. AND THIS ONE COMMANDMENT HAS TWO PRONGS: FAITH IN CHRIST AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, AND WHEN THERE IS GENUINE FAITH IN CHRIST, TRULY BELIEVING IN THE NAME OF GOD'S SON JESUS CHRIST, IT WILL MANIFEST ITSELF IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER. THESE ARE TWIN BIRTHMARKS.**

**\*\* FAITH AND ACTION AGAIN ARE CONNECTED. FAITH IN CHRIST AND LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN ARE INSEPARABLE, IMPERATIVES, COMMANDS.**

**\*\*\* FOR GOD COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO REPENT, ACTS 17:30 (QUOTE).**

**\*\*\*\* AND PART OF GENUINE FAITH, OF TRULY BELIEVING BIBLICALLY IS TO REPENT, TO TURN TO CHRIST FROM SIN IN GENUINE BELIEF, SAVING FAITH.**

**1. AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TRULY BELIEVED ON CHRIST, BEEN SAVED, WE HAVE THE COMMANDMENT FROM JESUS TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AND WHEN YOU TRULY BELIEVE, YOU WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER CONTINUES TO BE A TEST OF TRULY BELIEVING, WHICH NOW GOD HAS GRANTED FAITH, WANTS US TO LIVE IN BLESSED ASSURANCE OF THAT SALVATION. BUT THE ABSENCE OF LOVE REVEALS THE ABSENCE OF FAITH.**

**\* BUT ALSO THE TEST OF OBEDIENCE COMES AGAIN TO THE FOREFRONT IN V. 24 TO HELP US KNOW THAT WE ARE THE LORD'S, WHICH GIVES EVIDENCE OF HAVING**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLING IN US. LOOK AT V. 24 PLEASE.**

**B. READ V. 24. NOW FINALLY IN V. 24 IN DEALING WITH DOUBT, JOHN GIVES TWO INFALLIBLE INDICATORS BY WHICH WE CAN TEST WHETHER WE ARE IN CHRIST AND HE IN US.**

**\* AND THE FIRST INDICATOR GOES BACK TO OBEDIENCE, THAT WE KEEP THE LORD'S COMMANDMENTS.**

**\*\* FOR THE BLESSING PROMISED TO THE ONE WHO KEEPS HIS COMMANDMENTS IS THAT HE ABIDES IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IN HIM.**

**\*\*\* AND THE WORD ABIDES LIT. MEANS TO STAY OR REMAIN AND IS ONE OF JOHN'S FAVORITE WORDS FOR SALVATION.**

**\*\*\*\* SO WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED BY OBEDIENCE NO. 1 AND NOW WE KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED, THAT CHRIST ABIDES IN US BY THE SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN TO ALL GENUINE BELIEVERS.**

**1. AND ROMANS 8:16 SAYS: THE SPIRIT HIMSELF TESTIFIES WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.**

**\* AND BELOVED, THE HOLY SPIRIT ASSURES US THAT WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN BY THE FRUIT HE PRODUCES IN US THAT TELLS US WE ARE GOD'S SONS, THAT WE ARE HIS OWN.**

**\*\* AND THE SPIRIT NEVER WITNESSES TO OUR SPIRIT APART FROM FAITH AND OBEDIENCE AS A RESULT OF FAITH.**

**\*\*\* THE PRESENCE AND WORK OF GOD'S SPIRIT IN US SEALS TO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD ABIDES IN US, THAT WE ARE TRUE BELIEVERS.**

**IN WRAP UP: (1) JOHN IN OUR TEXT TODAY DEALS WITH DOUBT AND ASSURANCE WITH MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER TO GIVE US BLESSED ASSURANCE.**

**\* AND IT'S AS IF IN THIS TEXT JOHN UNITES THESE VARIOUS STRANDS OF ASSURANCE AND HOW TO KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH HE HAS BEEN UNFOLDING SEPARATELY IN THE FIRST 3 CHAPTERS OF I JOHN, THAT HE UNITES OR BRINGS THEM ALL TOGETHER IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF CHAPTER 3.**

**\*\* BELOVED, WE DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE WITH DOUBT, NOR DOES OUR LORD WANT US TO LIVE IN DOUBT.**

**\*\*\* AND SOMETIME WE HAVE DOUBTS, I DO!**

**\*\*\*\* LACK OF ASSURANCE CAN BE DUE TO MANY THINGS, SUCH AS LOSING THAT DAY IN THE ONGOING BATTLE WITH INDWELLING SIN.**

**(2) IT CAN COME FROM SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS. IT CAN COME WITH THE WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE AND CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND US.**

**\* AND WHEN WE ARE BURDENED WITH DOUBT, WE BEGIN ASKING AM I REALLY A CHRISTIAN?**

**\*\* WE SEE OUR LACK OF LOVE AT TIMES, OUR YIELDING TO LUST AT TIMES. WE SEE OUR ANGER AND SELFISHNESS AT TIMES. WE HAVE UNKIND WORDS AND ALL KINDS OF WICKED THINGS COME OUT OF US.**

**\*\*\* BUT I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE HOLY AFFECTIONS AND DESIRES TO OBEY THE LORD AND TO LIVE FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO THE TRUTHS WE'VE COVERED TODAY.**

**\*\*\*\* AND BE ASSURED BY THE ONE WHO IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS WHICH OUR HEARTS CAN LEAD US ASTRAY AT TIMES, THAT WE ARE HIS.**

**(3) AND AS WE GO BACK TO THESE PRECIOUS OBJECTIVE TRUTHS, MAY WE BE ABLE TO SAY AND SING: BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE, OH WHAT A**

**FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE. HEIR OF SALVATION,  
PURCHASE OF GOD, BORN OF HIS SPIRIT, I HAVE BEEN  
WASHED IN HIS BLOOD.**

**\* AND MAY OUR STORY AND SONG BE, PRAISING MY  
SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.**

**\*\* AND LASTLY I SAY WITH GREAT CONCERN FOR  
OTHERS, NO FRUIT, NO FAITH. REPENT AND RECEIVE  
CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND YOU WILL BE  
ABLE TO START TO LOVE OTHERS. THAT IS GOD'S  
COMMANDMENT FOR YOU. TRULY BELIEVE IN THE NAME  
OF THE SON WHICH WILL LEAD TO LOVING ONE  
ANOTHER. (LET'S PRAY)**