

## Message #23

## I John 5:18-21

You will notice that in three consecutive verses the verb “we know” shows up. This particular verb is the verb “oida,” not “ginosko.” Ginosko speaks of knowledge gained by experience and observation. Oida speaks of knowledge which is intuitive (Smith, p. 92). Every verb is perfect, active and indicative. What this means is at a specific moment in the past which continues into the present and on into the future (perfect tense), it is a fact (indicative mood) that we are involved in the action (active voice) of continually knowing these things.

**THOSE WHO ARE RIGHT WITH GOD AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, CONTINUALLY KNOW THEY ARE RIGHT WITH GOD BY SPECIFIC THINGS WHICH THEY CONTINUALLY KNOW TO BE TRUE.**

**ASSURANCE #1** – Those in fellowship with God continually have the assurance of their practice. **5:18**

Every believer who is in fellowship with God knows and continues to know that no one who is born of God continually and habitually pursues a lifestyle of sin. The Christian life is incompatible with a continual life of sin.

I want to make the point that Dr. Mitchell from Multnomah made—if your life is dominated by sin and you profess that you are a Christian, then you need to carefully examine yourself to see whether or not you are really a child of God. No one truly born of God will continually pursue a lifestyle of sin. He may sin once in a while. That is why we have I John 1:9. But he will not continually and habitually pursue a life of sin.

**Reason #1** - Because the believer will be kept by Jesus Christ from such a life. **5:18b**

Now the question pertaining to this phrase is who is keeping who? Some believe the point is the true believer will not continually sin because he will guard himself from such a lifestyle. The problem with this view is the pronoun is not himself. Many believe the reference is to Jesus Christ keeping the believer from a continual life of sin.

**Reason #2** - Because the believer will be kept from the touch of the evil one. **5:18c**

The English word “touch” does not do justice to the Greek word. The Greek word is one that means to fasten to, to cling to in a very hostile way, like an attack of a bear or snake in which the enemy fastens or clamps onto one to do damage (Smith, p. 56).

**ASSURANCE #2** – Those in fellowship with God continually have assurance of their position. **5:19**

The “whole world” that is every person in the universe who is not in a true relationship with Jesus Christ, is under the power of Satan.

The Greek word “lies” is one that means to lie in a state of sleep or death (Smith, p. 243). Every person who is not born of God is in a state of being dead and asleep in their sin, in a world which is controlled by Satan.

**ASSURANCE #3** – Those in fellowship with God continually have assurance in their perception. **5:20**

**Reality #1** - They know the Son of God has come into the world. **5:20a**

**Reality #2** - They know they have an ability to understand from Him. **5:20b**

**Reality #3** - They know that everything about Him is true. **5:20c**

**Reality #4** - They know that they are in Him. **5:20d**

**Reality #5** - They know that Jesus Christ is the true God. **5:20e**

**Reality #6** - They know that only in Jesus Christ is eternal life. **5:20f**

Every believer in true fellowship with God knows these realities.

Now **verse 21** challenges the children of God to “guard yourselves from idols.” There is an article before the noun “idols.” This has specific reference to that which is false as opposed to the true God. Guard yourself from false doctrine, from false teaching, from anything that detracts from a true relationship with God. Guard yourself from anything that pulls you away from true fellowship with God.

An idol may be classified as anything that comes between us and a close relationship with God.

The Bible was written so that we could know God. I John was written so we could know we know God and know we have fellowship with God. So guard yourself; pursue fellowship with God above all else in life.

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