

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

CONCLUSION OF SERIES ON 1 JOHN (5:13-21)

Introduction:

ILLUSTRATION: In many instances, duct tape is highly reliable – but as a means of water transportation, it may not be a prime choice.

Just ask the Alaskan man who recently attempted to cross a channel near Juneau on a “homemade watercraft” – more specifically, “an inflatable, duct-taped craft” – complete with a paddle, his dog, and a conspicuous lack of a life jacket.

A local news outlet stated that while the “weather on scene was reportedly calm with 9mph winds,” a local Coast Guard crew still ended up coming to the man’s aid, when the makeshift boat started to fill with water.

“Having deemed the craft unsafe,” a new report stated, “they transferred it, the man, and his dog, to nearby Douglas Harbour.” Fortunately for the man, and possibly to guard against embarrassment, the news release did not identify the man in question.

This man’s “boat” was homemade, patched together with duct tape and carried no life jacket on board; yet he still trusted it with his life – and even his dog’s life! As we come to the end of 1 John, is there anything we can rely on that will get us to the other side securely and safely?

- Last 9 verses of John’s epistle contain the word “know” 5 times.
- Meaning of “Know” depends on the context.
 - Knowing = understanding
 - Could mean knowing someone generally, personally, or intimately

- As we look at these 5 assurances from knowing God, we need to look at each in its context to see what the promise is.

1. Know Eternal Life

1 John 5:13 *I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.*

- Those who believe IN ... Not just ABOUT
- You have eternal life NOW.

2. Know Confidence

1 John 5:14 *And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him*

CONTEXT: Ask in line with His will.

- Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane: “not my will but yours...”
 - Christians being persecuted today may pray for relief, but add: “Your will be done”.
- When we pray for a change or a job – do we add “your will be done”?

Psalms 37:4 *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires.*

- As we delight in Him, our will comes in line with His will.

1 John 5:15 *And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.*

- We KNOW He hears
- We KNOW we have the answer

1 John 5:16-18 *If you see a fellow believer sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it. All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death.*

We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.

CONTEXT: People who had left the early church and had:

- i. Denied that Jesus had come in the flesh
- ii. A focus on spiritual knowledge
 - We are to pray for those who have just lost their way
 - For those who have become anti-Christ; anti-Holy Spirit – we are to let God deal with them.

3. Know Security

1 John 1 5:18-19 *We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.*

- Those born of the spirit do not practice sin.
 - Practice = do something again & again even when there is a pressure to stop
- We are being held

4. Know Jesus

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.

- We know He has come
- We know God - Jesus shows us what the father is like
- We know we are His.