

God's Children

No. 150

Introduction.

- I. This evening I would like to invite your attention to a reading from the 4th and 5th chapters of First John.
- II. It is a text rich in meaning and application. Though it is a time of fear and imminent war, our text inspires assurance, unwavering confidence, boldness, and a spirit of victory.

19We love, because he first loved us. **20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. **21** And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. **5** Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God: and whosoever loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. **2** Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. **4** For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, *even* our faith. **5** And who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? **10** He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in him: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he hath not believed in the witness that God hath borne concerning his Son. **11** And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** He that hath the Son hath the life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life. **13** These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, *even* unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God. **14** And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: **15** and if we know that he heareth us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him. ASV

- I. **How We Know We Are Children Of God** - John tells us how we know we are children of God.
 - A. John is clear - not race or nationality or education - not feelings - not dreams - not tongues - not testimony of men.
 - B. How do we know?
 1. **Practicing righteousness.** (1 Jn. 3:29).
 2. **Loving brother** (4:20, 21).
 3. **Believes in Jesus** (5:1).
- Believing Jesus means **more than believing He was a man.**

- Believing in Jesus means **more than just saying Lord, Lord.** (Lk. 6:46).

Believe in Him as the Son of God. (Jn. 8:24).	Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33)
Repent of our sins. (Lk. 13:3).	Be baptized. (Jn. 3:5; Mk. 16:16; Matt. 28:19).
Deny self (Matt. 16:24).	

4. **Keeps God’s commandments**

- Keeps - not **ignores or tramples or mocks**
- Scriptures place a lot of emphasis on keeping God’s commandments. (Eccles. 12:13; Matt. 7:21; Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:2, 3).
- John gives the **motive for obeying God’s commandments.**
 - Some obey God out of - Desire for health, wealth, peace, fear, pressure, tradition
 - We are to obey God out of love. (Matt. 22:37).
- John makes a **marvelous statement about God’s commandments** -“His commandments are not grievous.”
 - Everyone of them is good. Every one is meant for our good.
 - Not one is meant to hurt us or make us miserable.
 - May all of us have the attitude of the psalmist.** He was a man close to God and had the highest respect for God’s commandments.

PSA 119:10 With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.

PSA 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

PSA 119:12 Blessed art Thou, O Lord; Teach me Thy statutes.

PSA 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, As much as in all riches.

PSA 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

PSA 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.

PSA 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.

PSA 119:35 Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, For I delight in it.

PSA 119:48 And I shall lift up my hands to Thy commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Thy statutes.

PSA 119:69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Thy precepts.

PSA 119:72 The law of Thy mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

PSA 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

PSA 119:103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

PSA 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

PSA 119:127 Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold.

PSA 119:129 Thy testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them.

PSA 119:131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Thy commandments.

PSA 119:151 Thou art near, O Lord, And all Thy commandments are truth.

PSA 119:160 The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.

PSA 119:164 Seven times a day I praise Thee, Because of Thy righteous ordinances.

PSA 119:172 Let my tongue sing of Thy word, For all Thy commandments are righteousness.

II. Who Will Overcome The World? John answers. (1 Jn. 5:5).

A. It is the one begotten of God - It is the one who believes Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..

B. Jesus is the way to victory - the way to heaven. (Jn. 11:25; 14:6)

III. Know We Have Eternal Life - Our text teaches us we can know we have eternal life. (1 Jn. 5:13).

A. We do not have to live with doubt and uncertainty.

B. We can have great confidence. (1 Jn. 1:7; 3:14, 24).

IV. Boldness Of The Children Of God - John tells us of the boldness of the children of God.

A. God's children can be very bold. (Heb. 4:16).

1. We are His children - He is good- He promises to bless us. (Matt. 7:7-11).

2. **James** gives us the same assurance. (Jas. 5:16).

3. **John** assures us that God will give us the things we ask for according to His will. (1 Jn. 5:14, 15).

B. **Here are some things we know that are according to His will.** We know these things are right.

Leaders - Our leaders - our elderly to give us guidance	God create a spirit of repentance and humility across the nation - Jas. 4:6	Our needs - physical - emotional fear, anger, depression, helplessness
Inner Peace - Peace for the world and nation.	Wisdom - Jas. 1:5, 6a Need divine wisdom - not human.	Our fellow Christians - all over world - war will affect all Christians.
God's will be done. - Matt. 6:10 Everything is not God's will.	Those suffering - those trapped, their families	Enemies - Matt. 5:43, 44 Innocent among our enemies

Conclusion.

I. Yes, we serve a loving and merciful God. He is able, willing, and anxious to bless us. He will bless us and answer our prayers of faith that are according to His perfect will. (Prov. 15:29).

II. How do we develop this great love for God?

A. **John answers.** (1 Jn. 4:19).

B. **God loved us beyond our comprehension.** He gave His precious, His only begotten Son to die for us.

C. Let us show our love and appreciation by loving Him back. Let us place our unwavering faith in God, the Father and in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

III. Come to Jesus as we stand and sing.

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