

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW? ----- QUESTIONS WE MUST ANSWER

### Introduction:

- A. I last weeks lesson - we noted that it is more reasonable to believe in God's existence than not to believe - because of what can be known - **Rom 1:19-20** (NKJV) - 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
- B. In today's lesson we will ask and answer 3 main questions that we can know and we need to know.
  - 1. Do You Know God?
  - 2. Are You Confident of Your Relationship With God?
  - 3. Are You Confident That You Are Going To Heaven?
- C. We live in an Uncertain World!
  - 1. Economic turmoil – Natural Disasters – Our own health and the health of those we love - The uncertainty of life itself.
    - a. When we buy a car, we are uncertain that it's going to function well and so we want a guarantee. And the manufacturer provides a guarantee and if he didn't provide a guarantee we wouldn't buy the car. And then fearing that we might have an accident for which we could not pay and then get sued, we hedge against that uncertainty by buying an insurance policy and spend our lives pouring a small fortune into the insurance company for something that hasn't happened. But it might. And when you go to a store to buy an appliance, you are immediately told by the sales person that you need to buy a 36 month warranty, or you need to buy a service guarantee, which is another way of saying this is a lousy product, something could go wrong. And many people do that. There's uncertainty about our health and so we spend thousands of dollars a year buying either insurance or buying into some kind of a medical plan to protect us from illness and accident and catastrophic issues that might come into our lives physically.
    - b. There's even uncertainty of life in a family. And so insurance policies are basically purchased so that should the bread-winner, the husband, die there's money immediately given to the wife. Most of you women sitting out there would be far wealthier if your husband was dead than you are now...or certainly many of you.
  - 2. **James 4:13-16** (NKJV) - 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
  - 3. **Ecclesiastes 1:13-14** (NKJV) - 13 And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. 14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.
- D. What we noted last week in our lesson is that there are things we can know for certain:
  - 1. That something cannot come from nothing –
  - 2. That every effect must have an adequate cause –
  - 3. That all things material are in a state of entropy – getting old and running down - not getting newer and improving.
  - 4. Good health and life on earth will end for everyone -

### II. **Some things we can know for certain:**

- A. We can **Know God** - **Psalm 100:3** (NKJV) - 3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made

us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

- B. There is **no where else or anyone else** that we should go to for help - **John 6:68-69** (NKJV) - 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- C. That the **law of God** is perfect - **Psalm 19:7** (NKJV) - 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
- D. Sin will **always surface** - **Numbers 32:23** (NKJV) - 23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.
  - 1. Commonly referred to as "Karma".
- E. We will **not escape the judgment** by condemning some things we are ourselves are doing - **Romans 2:2-3** (NKJV) - 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?
- F. **Gal 6:7-8** - God is not mocked we will **reap what we sow** - be careful the Tornado is coming.
  - 1. **Galatians 6:7-8** (NKJV) - 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
- G. **Prov 11:18** - just like his father the Devil - **the wicked man** is deceptive in his work.
  - 1. **Proverbs 11:18** (NKJV) - 18 The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.
- H. When we are doing and love the Lord our God - **all things work together for good** - **Romans 8:28** (NKJV) - 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
- I. As we all know - we are dying - yet it is possible to **know that we are being renewed daily** - **2 Corinthians 5:1** (NKJV) - 1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

### III. **The Emphasis in 1<sup>st</sup> John's writing with regards to knowing God and having Eternal Life:**

- A. First John is written as a response to some of the errors of Gnosticism –
  - 1. John emphasizes that there are indeed things that we as Christians can know -
- B. The word **"know"** appears 39 times in this epistle –
  - 1. All references from NKJV - **1 John 2:3** - 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
  - 2. **1 John 2:4** - 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
  - 3. **1 John 2:5** - 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
  - 4. **1 John 2:29** - 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.
  - 5. **1 John 3:24** - 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
  - 6. **1 John 5:2** - 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.
- C. **That We Know God:**
  - 1. **If we keep His commandments** - **1 John 2:3-5**
    - a. **1 John 2:3-5** (NKJV) - 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is

perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

2. He who keeps His commandments **abides in God** and He in him – **1 John 3:24**
  - a. **1 John 3:24** (NKJV) - 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
3. Those who **know God hears the apostles** – **1 John 4:6**
  - a. **1 John 4:6** (NKJV) - 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
4. We can know that we have **been begotten of God** – **1 John 5:1-4**
  - a. **1 John 5:1-4** (NKJV) - 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.

#### D. **That We Have Passed From Death To Life**

1. **“Because we love the brethren”** - **1 John 3:14**
  - a. **1 John 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
2. If we **do not love our brethren**, we know that we will not have eternal life – **1 John 3:14,15**
  - a. **1 John 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
  - b. **1 John 3:15** (NKJV) - 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
3. We can **know what love is** – (the example of Jesus; When we help others) - **1 John 3:16-18**
  - a. **1 John 3:16-18** (NKJV) - 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

#### E. **That God Hears Our Prayers**

1. **Because we keep His commandments** - **1 John 3:22**
  - a. **1 John 3:22** (NKJV) - 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
2. Confidence when we **ask for anything according to God’s will** - **1 John 5:14; Mat 7:7-11; Eph. 3:12**
  - a. **1 John 5:14** (NKJV) - 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
  - b. **Matthew 7:7-11** (NKJV) - 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
  - c. **Ephesians 3:12** (NKJV) - 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

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<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

3. **We have the petitions** we ask of Him – **1 John 5:15; John 15:7**
  - a. **1 John 5:15** (NKJV) - 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
  - b. **John 15:7** (NKJV) - 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- F. **Those Born of God Do Not Sin**
  1. **Walks in the light** - **1 John 1:5-10**
    - a. **1 John 1:5-10** (NKJV) - 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
  2. **Purifies himself just as He is pure** - **1 John 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:22**
    - a. **1 John 3:3** (NKJV) - 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
    - b. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
  3. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin** – **1 John 3:4-9**
    - a. **1 John 3:4-9** (NKJV) - 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
  4. **Whoever practices unrighteousness is not of God** – **1 John 3:10-12; Rom. 6:3-19**
    - a. **1 John 3:10-12** (NKJV) - 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.
    - b. **Romans 6:3-19** (NKJV) - 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of

unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

#### G. That We Have Eternal Life

1. One of the purposes of John's epistle – **1 John 5:11-13, 20**
  - a. **1 John 5:11-13** (NKJV) - 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
  - b. **1 John 5:20** (NKJV) - 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
2. We shall be like Jesus and see Him as He is - **1 John 3:2**
  - a. **1 John 3:2** (NKJV) - 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
3. We know that we are of the truth and our hearts are assured before Him - **1 John 3:19**
  - a. **1 John 3:19** (NKJV) - 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

#### IV. What is your Condition of your Relationship with God?

##### A. Three Tests offered by John in 1<sup>st</sup> John:

1. Belief in Jesus – **1 John 5:1,4; Heb. 11:6; John 8:24**
  - a. **1 John 5:1** (NKJV) - 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
  - b. **1 John 5:4** (NKJV) - 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.
  - c. **Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
  - d. **John 8:24** (NKJV) - 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
2. Love – **1 John 2:10; 3:10,14; 4:7,8; John 13:34,35; 5:1,2**
  - a. **1 John 2:10** (NKJV) - 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.
  - b. **1 John 3:10** (NKJV) - 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
  - c. **1 John 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love

the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

- d. **1 John 4:7** (NKJV) - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
    - (1) **1 John 4:8** (NKJV) - 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
  - e. **John 13:34** (NKJV) - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
    - (1) **John 13:35** (NKJV) - 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
3. **Obedience** – **1 John 1:6,7; 2:3,4,6; 3:10,22; 5:2,3**
- a. **1 John 1:6** (NKJV) - 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
    - (1) **1 John 1:7** (NKJV) - 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
  - b. **1 John 2:3** (NKJV) - 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
    - (1) **1 John 2:4** (NKJV) - 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
  - c. **1 John 2:6** (NKJV) - 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
  - d. **1 John 3:10** (NKJV) - 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
  - e. **1 John 3:22** (NKJV) - 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
  - f. **1 John 5:2** (NKJV) - 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.
    - (1) **1 John 5:3** (NKJV) - 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
- B. **1 John 5:18-20** (NKJV) - 18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

## V. In Conclusion:

### A. **Three Questions:**

1. Do You Know God?
2. Are You Confident of Your Relationship With God?
3. Are You Confident That You Are Going To Heaven?

### B. An Invitation to know for certainty:

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
2. Have you confessed Jesus before men?
3. Have you turned from sin?
4. Have you been baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins?
5. Are you continuing to believe in the name of Jesus, loving God and His children, obeying His commandments?