

Intro:

The Bible Proclaims Absolute Truth in a World of Uncertainties,

1. Biblical Truth is
 - a. Objective – b/c it is divinely revealed, it exist independently outside of man’s mind
 - b. Rational - it is intelligible, not mystical, no hidden messages for the spiritual elite
 - c. Accurate - properly interpreted in a normal rational fashion yields divine truth
 - d. Authoritative - divinely revealed, bears God’s authority, binds all that it affirms
 - e. Incompatible with Error - b/c it contains divine truth, anything it contradicts is wrong
2. Scripture is filled with Certainties
 - a. sin has consequences - Num 32:23
 - b. righteousness brings reward - Pro 11:18
 - c. God alone (just a few)
 - i. is God - De 4:39; Isa 43:10-12; 45:6
 - ii. can do all things - Job 42:2
 - iii. judges according to truth - Rev 16:7; 19:2
 - iv. punishes sin - Ro 2:2
 - v. created everything - Is 48:13
 - vi. is good and merciful - Ps 23:6

XIX. 5 Christian Certainties

A. Eternal Life - vs 13

1. These things I have written to you -
 - a. refers back to the tests that John wrote in the entire letter
 - b. jumps from 2nd person (vs 12) to 1st person
 - c. **1:4** announced the purpose of his writing
 - d. Strong parallel between vs 13 and **Jo 20:31**
2. Assurance is only for those “who believe in the name of the Son of God,”
 - a. that you may know that you have eternal life,
 - i. God has guaranteed these blessings by giving the Holy Spirit - **Eph 1:14**
 - ii. If one passes the doctrinal and practical tests, they could know for certain that they have eternal life
 - iii. Eternal life
 - not merely living forever in a chronological sense
 - the essence of eternal life as defined by Jesus - **Jo 17:3**; who himself is eternal life - 5:20
 - the believer’s participation in the shared life of Christ - **Jo 1:4**
 - b/c of his union with Christ - **Ro 5:21; 6:4,11,23; 1 Co 15:22; 2 Co 5:17; Ga 2:20; Col 3:3-4; 2 Ti 1:1,10; Jd 21**
 - A present possession, not merely a future hope - **Jo 3:36; 5:24; 6:47,54; 10:28**
 - The Future Hope
 - though not fully manifested in this life, at Rapture or death, eternal life will free us from the fallen flesh - **1 Co 15:50-57**
 - we will experience the adoption of sons, the redemption of the body - **Ro 8:23; Phil 3:21; 1 Jo 3:2**
 - b. and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God - **Ac 13:43; 14:22; Ro 11:22; Col 1:23**

B. Answered Prayer - vs 14-17

1. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,
 - a. **parrhesia** - all out-spokenness, frankness, bluntness, publicity; assurance:-- bold (-ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence... lit. freedom of speech

- b. before or in Him
 - i. denotes “in His presence”
 - ii. Through Christ we have boldness in His presence - **Eph 3:12; Heb 4:16**
- c. the promise
 - i. when we know that we have eternal life and we boldly and freely come to Him, requesting anything according to His will,
 - ii. He hears us -
 - more than being aware of our request
 - He grants our request
 - the qualifier - according to His will
- d. If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death,
 - i. he will ask, - **Mt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1-2**
 - ii. and He will give him life, change of heart is that which only God can bring - **Pro 21:1**
 - for those who commit sin not leading to death.
 - There is sin leading to death
 - someone associated with the church that falls away - **Heb 6**
 - unrepentant believer - **Mt 18:17; 1 Co 5:5**
 - I do not say that he should pray about that.
 - iii. All unrighteousness is sin/ there is sin not leading to death - 1 Jo 3:4

C. Victory Over Sin - vs 18

1. We know that whoever is born of God does not sin;
 - a. reiteration of a vitally important principle - 3:9
 - i. sin in incompatible with the law of God - 3:4
 - ii. sin in incompatible with the work of Christ - 3:5
 - iii. sin in incompatible with the work of the Holy Spirit - 3:9 (His seed)
 - b. unbelievers
 - i. can do nothing but sin - Ps 51:5
 - ii. Are slaves to sin - Jo 8:34; Ro 6:16
 - iii. Defiant, rebellious, haters of God - Ps 5:10; Ro 1:28-32; 5:10; 8:7
 - iv. Under the dominion of Satan - Eph 2:2
 - v. Dead in sins - Eph 2:1
2. but he who has been born of God - 2nd reference
 - a. keeps himself,
 - i. we are told to keep ourselves pure - 1 Ti 5:22; the commands of God - 1Jo 3:22; the faith - 2 Ti 4:7; unstained by the world - Ja 1:27; from idols - 1Jo 5:21; in the love of God - Jd 21
 - ii. John sees God’s work of supernaturally preserving His people with guarantees - Ro 8:31-39
 - the promises of God
 - Phil 1:6 He will finish His work in us
 - 1 Th 5:23-24 be preserved complete
 - 2 Ti 4:18 the Lord will rescue me and bring me safety to His heavenly Kingdom
 - the power of God - Ro 5:10
 - God’s eternal unchangeable purposes of salvation - Mt 25:34; Eph 1:4; 2 Th 2:13; 2 Tim 1:9; Rev 13:8; 17:8
 - iv. the prayer of Christ - Jo 17:11a - keep them in your name
 - v. our inseparable union with Christ - Ro 6:3-5
 - vi. The high cost paid to redeem God’s elect - Ac 20:28; Heb 9:12
- b. and the wicked one does not touch him. - lit. lay hold or fasten his grip on

D. We Belong to God - vs 19 - only two possibilities

1. We know that we are of God, - Ga 1:4

a. we know - 2:3,4,5,18,20,21,29; 3:2,5,14,15,19,24; 4:2,6,13; 5:2,13,15,18,19,20

b. though we live in the world, we are not of the world - Jo 5:19; 17:14

2. and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

a. the whole world - politics, economics, education, entertainment, and religion

b. a system

i. under Satan's power - Jo 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph 2:2; 6:12;

ii. hostile toward God and His followers - Jo 1:18-19

E. Christ is the True God - vs 20-21

1. And we know that the Son of God has come

a. closing as he began - 1 Jo 1:1-4

b. has come - Pres. Tense indicating has come and is still present

2. and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true;

a. not just a knowledge, but in union with Him

i. and we are in Him who is true,

ii. in His Son Jesus Christ.

b. This is the true God and eternal life. - Jo 17:3;

3. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

a. since we know Him and are in union with Him - there is no other

b. 1Co 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry

c. 1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.