

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

I JOHN 5:18-21

Lesson 18

REVIEW:

How have you been applying what you learned about prayer from 1 John 5:14-17?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study I John 5:18-21 inductively. See pages 5 and 6.

SECOND DAY: Read 1 John 5:18

1. The truth of 1 John 5:18 is reassuring or convicting depending on whether you are *born of God* or not. For clearer understanding, capitalize the word *he* and draw a line through the word *self* or *himself*. What are we to know - be assured of - from this verse? Answer by completing the following three phrases:
 - a. We know that whosoever _____
 - b. (we know) that He that is begotten of God _____
 - c. (we know) that wicked one _____
2. Observe the words *sinneth not* in 1 John 5:18. We know this does not mean that a Christian never sins. The verb tense used here indicates continuing action. We could paraphrase this as *does not continue in sin* or *habitually practice sin*. It is one thing to be overtaken by a fault. If the believer sins, he has an Advocate. It is quite another thing to be controlled by sin. Why does one *born of God* not habitually practice sin? Answer in your own words from the following Scriptures:
 - a. 1 John 5:18b
 - b. 1 John 5:18c
 - c. 1 John 3:6
 - d. 1 John 3:9
3. Behold the LORD'S incredible *keeping* power from Psalm 121:4-7. Meditate on these verses and write some of the key phrases.
 - a. What does the word *keepeth* mean to you?

4. Contemplate the phrase (1 John 5:18c) *and that wicked one toucheth him not*. *Toucheth* is defined as *does not lay hold on him or assault with the intention of severing the vital union between Christ and the believer*. Write the last phrase of 1 John 5:18 in your own words.

*O Protector of my soul. You will stand against the foe;
In the dark You'll be a light for me, O Protector of my soul.
-Anne Barbour*

THIRD DAY: Read 1 John 5:19

1. We know that we are children of God and that all the rest of the world around us is under *satan's power and control* (1 John 5:19 TLB). What do we know from this verse?
2. What does the phrase *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one* tell you about anyone who is not born of God?
3. How does understanding 1 John 5:19 help you to not in any way be conformed to the world?
4. Read Jesus' prayer for His disciples (and all believers) in John 17:13-21. Record some of the things He prayed for.
5. Read and comment on the following quote from Charles Spurgeon: "I believe that one reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 John 5:20

1. Review what *we know*, are assured of, from 1 John 5:18,19 with an attitude of deep appreciation. Now John completes the summary of the main themes in this letter. Write the third affirmation from 1 John 5:20a.

- a. What evidence does John give of this:
 - 1.) 1 John 1:1-4
 - 2.) 1 John 5:6-8
2. What has He given us?
 - a. Why has He *given us an understanding*?
3. *True* is a word John uses often in the Gospel of John and in 1 John. He was determined that the readers would know the *true* God and His Son. He uses the word *true* three times in 1 John 5:20. Define the word *true*, using synonyms if you desire.
4. *And now we are in God because we are in His Son, Jesus Christ* (1 John 5:20b NLT). We are united to Him; we belong to Him. We are *in Him Who is True*. To be *in the Son* is to share His very life. Consider this from Acts 17:28a and write your definition of *we are in Him*.
5. Contrast our being *in Him* with those of 1 John 5:19b. With what words would you describe them?

FIFTH DAY: Read 1 John 5:21

1. Record John's last command to his dear children in 1 John 5:21. Note that the word *keep* in verse 21 is translated elsewhere as *guard*.
 - a. Why do you think John's admonition to keep yourselves from idols was so urgently needed that he felt impressed to close the letter this way?
2. Christians in the 1990's might be apt to dismiss this Scripture with a shrug because they define an *idol* in terms of statues dedicated to gods. How does the following paraphrase make 1 John 5:21 relevant to all of us: *Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts* (1 John 5:21 TLB).

3. An *idol* is anything in this life which men worship instead of God, and which men allow to take the place of God. A man may make an idol of his money, career, status, appearance, possessions, intellect, or pleasure. Every believer must heed John's warning. What is God's command for this? Exodus 20:3-5

- a. What other things do we need to be aware of that can become idols in our lives?

4. How will adherence to Jude 1:21 help you to be obedient to 1 John 5:21?

SIXTH DAY: Review 1 John 5:18-21

1. Write the three assurances from 1 John 5:18-20.
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this study?
3. What steps do you take to *keep* (guard) yourself from idols?
 - a. If you recognize an idol in your life, what should you do?
4. Share something you have learned from studying this epistle of 1 John.

*To keep Your lovely face, ever before my eyes
This is my prayer, make it my strong desire
That in my secret heart, no other love competes
No rival throne survives and I serve only You.
- G. Kendrick*

I John 5:18-21

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?