

## *A Know-so Salvation*

*1 John 5:13*

We will be looking tonight at possibly the greatest verse in the scripture that, to some, assures the believer of the salvation that was given to them through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. John settles the issue with the previous verses. The Father, Son and Holy Ghost are Living Testaments to the life that's within us because of what Christ did on the cross. Their testimony extends from heaven to earth and that testimony is greater than the witness of any man. Belief in the Son places that witness within us and is given to us by the Father and our eternal life is bound in the Son. At the moment of salvation, the new convert has all the confidence in the world concerning their new birth experience. But after a while, Satan plants the seed of doubt within their minds and the renewed struggle for the heart begins. There can be no struggle for the soul because the soul is safe in Jesus, but the mind is Satan's battlefield. The greatest reason for this doubt is the sin nature that lies within us all because we still sin, and Satan exploits it to the fullest. He begins to tell you that a REAL Christian would not do or say the things that were just done. He begins to tell you that there is no way that you can live the Christian life, that it is just too hard. Before long, discouragement sets in and defeat is not far behind. The only way to get victory over Satan personally is to settle the argument within our minds once and for all; "*know that ye have eternal life.*"

### **I. THESE THINGS HAVE I WRITTEN...**

(a) **Written Things**: What things? Confident things! One of the saddest things within Christendom is a believer that lacks confidence concerning eternal life. God's Word is not written to instill doubt within the heart but confidence in mind AND body so that we can think AND live like folks that have victory in this life and the one to come.

1. There are the excellent things of knowledge and truth.

*Proverbs 22:20-21* *Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, 21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?*

2. The personal things of truth that I have already written.

1 John 2:12-14, 21

John 20:30-31 *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which **are not** written in this book: 30 But **these are written**, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

a. Why didn't John write all things? It's because if you can't have confidence in the powerful evidence already given, more evidence won't make a difference; these are written because they're enough.

Confidence in the natural world is self-reliance, in the spiritual world it is God-reliance.

Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

(b) **Engraved Things**: The word 'written' comes from the Greek word '*grapho*' and implies something that is unchangeable once it is written; engraved. In the Old Testament, you find the Hebrew form of this word speaking of the Law that was engraved upon tablets of stone. But in the New Testament, engraving left the medium of stone (symbolic of hardened hearts) and moved it to the tablet of the heart.

2 Corinthians 3:3 *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in **tables of stone**, but in fleshy **tables of the heart**.*

1. The tablets of stone are seen with the eyes to be a physical confirmation of what God gave Moses on Mt. Sinai AND symbolic of the covenant that Jehovah made with Israel in the wilderness on their journey towards Canaan. Keep this in mind for the next few moments.

a. God gave Israel the tablets of stone in or about 1446 BC. All of Israel saw Moses descend from Mt. Sinai with the tablets in his hands on BOTH occasions. (Exodus 19-24)

b. When the Ark of the Covenant was completed about 2 years later (1444-1445 BC), the tablets were moved into the ark (Exodus 25:16; Deuteronomy 31:25-26). From that point on, only the priests could see it. It is now no longer visible to Israel as a whole. As long as Israel possessed the Ark, they possessed the visible tablets.

c. But in 586 BC, Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar and that is the last time that you see the Ark of the Covenant (2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 52). So, for 860 years Israel (as a nation or priesthood) could visibly SEE the engraved tablets upon which God had written or ‘graved’ upon. Again, keep this in mind.

## **II. ...UNTO YOU THAT BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD...**

(a) **Specifically**: Now John is speaking directly to the individual believer. Here is where our faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ or not.

John 6:35, 47 *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst... 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

1. You either believe or you don’t; there is no middle ground. I’ve explained it like this before. A woman is either pregnant or she’s not; you are never ‘sort of’ pregnant or ‘a little’ pregnant; you are or you ain’t.

a. The same is true with belief in Jesus; you’re a believer or you ain’t.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.*

(b) **Powerfully**: There is power and salvation through that name of Jesus. The power of the early Church was not found in denominational numbers or profiles. The power of the early Church was not found in documentation written by man that could also be rescinded by man. The power was not found in bank accounts. The power of the early Church (and should be today) was found in the Name of Jesus Christ.

#### Acts 4:7-12

(c) **Centrally**: In this one Name we have no confusion about where we are to go to get help. IF Heaven were like the state or federal governments, it would be just as compartmentalized and confusing about where we should go when we have questions or concerns. In Jesus we have just one place to get help; in Jesus' Name.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

### III. ...THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...

(a) **Intellectually**: There was never any intention coming from the Godhead that we should be in the dark about knowing who and what we are in Jesus. For every believer that is in Jesus, there is also a Spirit of discernment there too that reinforces that knowledge; “*that you may know.*”

1. This is now where I told you to remember the tablets of stone that are visibly seen. It is now 90 AD. Now, this word ‘know’ is the Greek word ‘*eido*’ and it means ‘*to perceive, to see; to behold and understand*’. (Luke 2:10 *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold**, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*) But it doesn’t stop there. The word ‘*eido*’ comes from two root words that takes ‘know’ing to a different level. Here are those two words.

a. “Optomai”- ‘To behold with great wonder as at an amazing sight’. In short, “I can’t believe what I’m seeing! This is amazing!” (Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God*) (Matthew 24:30 *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*)

b. “Horao” – ‘To understand and discern clearly, to experience’. In short, “I’ve stared at it so I could understand what it is that I have experienced.” (James 2:24 *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*) Now, upon this new medium of engraving upon the heart instead of stone, EVERYONE can see what God writes within the heart once a person is born again.

2. Jesus said that this visible knowledge was available to **all** who would look upon it when He told the Jews about it.

John 10:27-30 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one.*

3. Paul assured Timothy of that same great truth.

2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

4. Paul told the Roman Christians that it is so.

Romans 8:33-39

5. Now the Apostle John is telling you that it is so here in verse 13.

#### **IV. ...AND THAT YE MAY BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD.**

(a) **Permission**: This is, in a way, ‘permission’ given to believe what you are seeing in the transformed lives of God’s people (Romans 12:1-3). However, it is also a warning that this will not be like the Ark of the Covenant that hasn’t been seen in almost 700 years. If the world doesn’t see God’s graven works of His Word on our hearts, it isn’t because of what the Babylonians did in 586 BC, but what we are failing to do in our present day.

**Conclusion**: In “Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible”, The English Baptist pastor wrote “...and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God; which they had done already, and still did; the sense is, the above things were written to them concerning the Son of God, that they might be encouraged to continue believing in him, as such; to hold fast the faith of him and go on believing in him to the end; and that their faith in him might be increased; for faith is imperfect and is capable of increasing, and growing exceedingly: and nothing more tends unto, or is a more proper means of it, than the sacred writings, the reading and hearing them explained, and especially that part of them which respects the person, office, and grace of Christ.”