

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 53 – 1John 5:13)

**Text:** 1John 5:13-15 (ESV), *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

### I. Review:

#### A. 1John 5:9-12

1. We often receive and trust the testimony of men (doctors, witnesses, family, friends, etc)
2. But God’s testimony is greater
  - a. He gave external testimony concerning Jesus Christ as His Son:
    - i. The water – Jesus’ baptism (Matt. 3:16-17)
    - ii. The blood – Jesus’ death (the amazing scenes that took place at His death)
    - iii. The Spirit – The working of miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
  - b. Just as a man’s thoughts and actions are impacted when he receives another man’s testimony, those who have God’s testimony in them:
    - i. Obey God’s word (1John 2:5)
    - ii. Practice righteousness (cf. 1John 3:7-10)
    - iii. Love the brotherhood (cf. 1John 4:7)
    - iv. Have the assurance of eternal life (cf. 1John 5:11-12)...

### II. Continuation

#### A. 1John 5:13, *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

1. **Question: What does ‘believe in the name of the Son of God’ mean?**
  - a. A person’s name represents everything about that person
  - b. To believe in the name of the Son means to believe everything about Him:
    - i. He is the Christ – which means, the Messiah or the Anointed One (1John 5:1)
    - ii. He is the Son of God (1John 5:5)
      1. This implies His being equal to God (John 5:18)
    - iii. He is the Righteous Advocate (1John 2:1)
    - iv. He is the propitiation of our sins (1John 2:2)
    - v. He came in the flesh (1John 4:2)
2. John wrote this epistle so that the Christian may know that he/she has eternal life:
  - a. He also concluded his gospel with this same assurance:
    - i. John 20:31, *“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*
  - b. Paul began his letter to the Ephesians with these words:
    - i. Ephesians 1:13-14, *“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”*

- c. At the end of his life, Paul wrote:
  - i. 2Timothy 4:7-8, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”*
- d. All these verses lead us to believe that we can know that we are headed for Heaven!
- e. John does not want us to *hope so* but to *know so*: We have eternal life in Christ!
- 3. Life in Christ:
  - a. Is a gift:
    - i. It is not something you try to earn (Eph. 2:8)
    - ii. Like any gift, it must be received (cf. Acts 2:38)
    - iii. And once received, we grow up in our salvation (1Peter 2:2), not “in order to receive” salvation.
      - 1. Like humans who go from being infants to adults, so the saved go from being an infants in Christ to adults in Christ.
  - b. Is eternal:
    - i. Physical death does not rob us of eternal life with God (John 11:25-26)
- 4. Assurance of eternal life:
  - a. It does not come by emotions
    - i. Many think they are saved because they say they “feel” saved.
      - 1. Emotions are unreliable and often misguided
      - 2. A person may “feel” they are a good singer but they may be wrong.
  - b. It does not come by experience
    - i. Many think they are saved because they experienced something (saw something, felt something, had a near-death experience, etc.)
    - ii. Cornelius saw an angel which spoke to him, yet he was not saved until he heard and responded to the gospel (Acts 10, 11)
  - c. **Question: So where does our assurance come from?**
    - i. The Word of God!
  - d. It is easy to get disoriented in life
    - i. Like a pilot who flies into a cloud and drifts far off course, it is easy for us to become discouraged and disoriented when life gets challenging!
    - ii. An experienced pilot relies on his flight instruments rather than his senses
    - iii. In the same way, a Christian relies on what the word of God says.
    - iv. We have assurance because we believe God!
  - e. Rhetorical Question: So how do we know if we truly believe in the Son of God?
    - i. Keep in mind the three tests John addressed throughout this epistle:
      - 1. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1John 5:1)
      - 2. We love the brothers (1John 3:14)
      - 3. We love God (expressed by obedience – 1John 5:3)