

That You May Know – 1 John 3:19-24

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word**.”*

John points out in this text that we can know and have confidence that we are truly saved. We saw last week that we know that we are of God if we love one another with a sacrificial love like Christ loved us and we obey His commandments. What happens when we fail at this and don't love the way we are loved? Or maybe we don't keep His commandments will we lose our salvation? We see in this text that we can have assurance of salvation even in the midst of failures.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. John points out in this text that “we may know” that we are of the truth and have assurance before God. When our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart. This is not saying “if” this ever happens but “when” it happens. It will happen to all believers. What are some reasons that a Christian might experience a condemning conscience or hurting heart? Describe a time this happened to you. Is there a recurring condemnation you have to wrestle through? How do you deal with it?
2. The condemnation in our heart may very well be a work of the evil one, the accuser, to bring fear and doubt to our relationship we have with God. It may be an unjustified condemnation, or it could also be justified. Maybe we have failed and sinned before God. Either way we are reminded that “God is greater than our heart.” He knows everything. This condemnation can lead us to doubt our salvation at times. However, this doubt and guilt actually can help us be assured of God's presence in our lives. Explain why this can be the case. Why should we look to God for our assurance and not to our hearts and conscience? (Jeremiah 17:9). What aspects of our heart and conscience can be untrustworthy?
3. We are reminded that we are called to be like Christ in a “sacrificial” love towards others. Not to love to be saved but to love because we are saved. This love for others will give us assurance of salvation. Why is this the case? How can love for others help increase our assurance and lessen our doubts?
4. John points out that we can have confidence before God in prayer and whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases Him. This is definitely not leading us to the “prosperity gospel” and

“name it and claim it” theology. There is no “believe hard enough or speak it into existence” found in this verse. It is pointing out that when we are in fellowship with God and following His commandments then we will be desiring to do His will. As we pray, we will be praying in a way that will be seeking to honor Him by seeking His will. Why can we be confident that God will answer our prayers? How should this bring confidence in our prayer life with God?

5. John closes this section by pointing out that “we may know” that we are saved by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us and who dwells within us. Why is the Holy Spirit such an immeasurable gift to Christ followers? How do we receive assurance of salvation from the Spirit’s presence? How do we grieve the Spirit when we are disobedient to what God commands? How does the Spirit help us to be obedient to what God calls us to do and be?