

JOHN ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS; 1 JN. 2:12-13 (Ed O'Leary)

INTRODUCTION.

AS WE COME TO GOD'S WORD THIS MORNING FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, ~ I WANT TO begin by mentioning two things.

▶▶1st, ~ as many of us know, ~ many Sundays during our praise and thanksgiving time Wayne would encourage us from Scripture

▶▶And the 2nd thing I want to mention as we begin, //~~ the letter of 1 John was Wayne's favorite book of the Bible.

▶▶So this a.m., ~ in honor of our brother Wayne, ~ I want to combine these two things, ~ and look at a word of encouragement from the apostle John in his first epistle, ~ **specifically 1 Jn. 2:12-13.** ~~ **Two of the verses Luke just read.**

NOW, ~ OBVIOUSLY, ~ WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOOK AT ALL OF THE INTRICATE details of these verses.

▶▶But, ~ very briefly and in passing . . . ~ Simply three ways of referring to believers. ~~ So John is speaking of all believers.

IN 1 JN. 2:12-13 WE FIND A REMINDER TO BELIEVERS OF FOUR IMPORTANT TRUTHS about our salvation.

▶▶Briefly, ~ the four important truths are: ~~ believers' sins are forgiven, ~ we know Jesus, ~ we "have overcome the evil one,"~ and we know the Father.

▶▶No doubt part of the reason John reminds us of these facts is to encourage us in the midst of our spiritual battles and as we journey through this life.

▷▷Sometimes we can get dragged down and become discouraged. ~~ Begin to ask

↪↪Yes!! ~~ Indeed ~ And will always be true

OK, ~ NOW LET'S EXAMINE THE FOUR IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT OUR SALVATION.

(Display 1 Jn. 2:12-13) THE FIRST IMPORTANT FACT THAT JOHN REMINDS US ABOUT.

BELIEVERS' SINS ARE FORGIVEN.

▶▶This is good news indeed, ~ the announcement that our sins are forgiven. **11 1/6**

▷▷ The paralytic carried by four of his friends to the house where Jesus stayed heard Jesus say, ~ "your sins are forgiven" {Mk. 2:5}.

▷▷ At our conversion, ~ Jesus spoke those words about us. ~ "your sins are forgiven."

▶▶ But not only forgiven.

▷▷ Ps. 103:12 tells us, ~ "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

↳↳ I.e., ~ placed our sins an immeasurable distance from us.

▷▷ Cast behind His back. ~ Blotted out our transgressions. ~ Not remember sins. ~

↳↳ Treaded our iniquities under His foot. ~ Cast sins into the depths of the sea.

▶▶ And as believers, ~ when we confess our sins, ~ be assured, ~ our sins are forgiven.

▷▷ 1 Jn. 1:9 says, ~ "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." ~ And this will never change.

↳↳ Every time we sin and approach the throne of grace for forgiveness and cleansing we will be forgiven. ~ Enemy tries

(Display 1 Jn. 2:12-13) BELIEVERS' SINS ARE FORGIVEN, ~ JOHN SAYS.

▶▶ But before anyone can make the erroneous conclusion that we somehow earned forgiveness, ~ John adds the words in verse 12b, ~ "for his name's sake."

▷▷ "your sins are forgiven for his name's sake" John says.

▷▷ "name" here is shorthand for the person and work of Jesus.

↳↳ John is saying that God forgives our sins because of His Beloved Son, ~ not because of us or anything that we've done.

▷▷ We must never make the terrible mistake of thinking that we somehow earned our salvation and God's forgiveness.

▷▷ John is saying the same thing Paul tells us. ~ Eph. 2:8-9, ~ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." ↴ 2/6

▷▷ Paul and John make it quite clear.

▷▷ The grace of God is the source of our salvation ~ our salvation originates with God alone. ~ Grace means undeserved favor.

▷▷ And this undeserved favor was a free gift bestowed on us by God only through His beloved Son.

↪↪ As Acts 4:12 says, ~ speaking of Jesus, ~ "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

MY . . . ~ OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US. ~
So be greatly encouraged!

(Display 1 Jn. 2:12-13) THE SECOND IMPORTANT TRUTH THAT JOHN RECALLS TO OUR attention is that believers know Jesus. ~ Simply put, ~ "he who is from the beginning" = Jesus.

LET'S BRIEFLY CONSIDER TWO WAYS THAT WE KNOW JESUS.

▶▶ We know Him as our Savior, ~ the One who bore all of our sins in His body on the cross.

▷▷ The One who took the full wrath of God upon Himself so we wouldn't have to.

↪↪ Is. 53:6, ~ "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

▶▶ And we know Jesus as our High Priest.

▷▷ As our High Priest, ~ our ascended Lord sympathizes, ~ helps, ~ and gives grace to us.

↪↪ Heb. 4:15-16, ~ ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

▷▷ As our High Priest, ~ our Lord intercedes for us.

↪↪ Heb. 7:25, ~ "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

↪↪ When Satan accuses us before the Father, ~ Jesus successfully speaks on our behalf. ~ Perhaps goes something like this ↯ 3/6

↪↪ Notice that [Heb. 7:25](#) says that Jesus "always lives to make intercession for" us.

→→ Never quit, ~ retire, ~ fired, ~ change His mind

→→ He will never die. ~ [Rom. 6:9](#), ~ "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

▷▷ And as our High Priest, ~ Jesus serves as a Forerunner, ~ assuring us that we will eventually have an entrance into heaven as He already has had.

↪↪ [Heb. 6:19-20](#), ~ "¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

↪↪ The word "forerunner" implies that others are to follow.

→→ Jesus is now in heaven as our High Priest. ~ This assures us that we will follow Him there someday.

MY . . . ~ WE KNOW JESUS. ~ SO BE GREATLY ENCOURAGED!

(Display 1 [Jn. 2:12-13](#)) [THE THIRD IMPORTANT FACT THAT JOHN RECALLS TO OUR attention is that we "have overcome the evil one."](#)

JOHN IS HERE NOT SO MUCH REFERRING TO ONGOING VICTORIES OVER SATAN'S temptations but to the once-for-all victory at conversion.

▶▶ The once-for-all victory won for us by Jesus on the cross ~ & applied to us at conversion.

▶▶ At our conversion we were moved to repent of our sins and put our faith in Christ alone, ~ and so were removed from the dominion of Satan to that of Jesus.

▶▶ Paul tells us this in [Col. 1:13](#), ~ "He [i.e., ~ Father] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."

▶▶ And all the powers and attacks of "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" cannot dislodge us from our position in the kingdom of Jesus.

▶▶ In [1 Jn. 5:18](#), ~ John writes, ~ "We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." ↴↴ 4/6

▷▷ The word "touch" conveys the picture of Satan persistently seeking to fasten his grip on the believer.

▷▷ The words "does not touch him" declare the comforting assurance that Satan will fail in his efforts to recapture the believer.

▷▷ "the evil one" will assault the genuine believer but will never regain an abiding grip on the redeemed soul.

▶▶ Jn. 10:27-30

MY . . . ~ THE FATHER HAS FOREVER DELIVERED US FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS and transferred us forever to the kingdom of his beloved Son." ~~ So be greatly encouraged!

(Display 1 Jn. 2:12-13) THE FINAL IMPORTANT TRUTH THAT JOHN REMINDS US about is that believers know the Father.

I.E., ~ WE HAVE COME TO KNOW GOD AS FATHER.

▶▶ In Eph. 1:5, ~ Paul writes, ~ "he ~ [i.e., ~ God the Father] ~ predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, ~ according to the purpose of his will."

▷▷ Here Paul is telling us that God the Father predetermined that believers would be adopted as His full-fledged children.

▷▷ And Paul states that adopting us was "according to the purpose of [God's] will." ~~ This means that God wanted to adopt us ~ and it gave Him great pleasure.

▶▶ Not just saved, ~ adopted.

▶▶ Over in Eph. Paul tells believers that we are "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."

▶▶ Jn. 1:12 says, ~ "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

▷▷ No such thing as "the universal fatherhood of God."

↪↪ Only those who have confessed with the mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead are children of God.

MY . . . ~ WE KNOW GOD THE FATHER AS OUR FATHER. ~~ SO BE GREATLY encouraged!

CONCLUSION.

WOW, ~ WHAT AWESOME TRUTHS. (Display 1 Jn. 2:12-13)

▶▶ My fellow believers, ~ our sins are forgiven, ~ we know Jesus, ~ we "have overcome the evil one," ~ and we know the Father.

▶▶ No wonder 1 John was special to Wayne.

▶▶ Let's remind ourselves often of these truths, ~ be greatly encouraged by them, ~ 77

▷▷ and beyond that let us be extremely grateful for them.

LET'S PRAY 6/6