

1 **"So that you may know"****Part 1****(1Jn 5:13-17)**

Truth Matters Church, Inc.

2  **Overview of our passage**

Theme: John's main purpose in penning this epistle is to assure us of our salvation (so that we know we have eternal life)

☞ 1Jn 5:13-21

Doctrine: God will grant our prayer requests when we pray according to His will and strengthen our faith and assurance

Application: Pray according to the will of God. Pray for believers weak in faith. Do not pray for those who oppose and rebel against the testimony of Scripture and enemies of the gospel

3  **Scripture Reading**

1 John 5:13-17 (NASB)

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

4  **Exposit: 1Jn 5:13**

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

☞ "these things" is a summary statement (John is wrapping up his letter)

☞ We have an Advocate

☞ We know the Old/New Commandments

☞ We have overcome the evil one

☞ We have union with God

☞ We have knowledge of the truth

☞ We know deception came and is coming (the spirit of antichrist; Antichrist)

☞ We believe the testimony of God

☞ "I have written to you who believe"

☞ The Bible is primarily written for believers (and future believers, the elect)

☞ "so that you may know" [more on this]

### 5 "so that you may know"

☞ "so that you may know (oida)" John's purpose in writing this letter is two fold:

- ☞i. To reaffirm the gospel
  - ☞ii. To establish our faith and assurance (we have eternal life now, not later)
- ☞TRUTH: Believers are to know (oida) without a shadow of doubt that we possess eternal life now and this is confirmed by the testimony of God in Scripture

### 6 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:14**

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

☞ "this" is referring to us asking (praying to) God

☞ Believers are to have confidence when presenting requests and petitions

☞ God hears us (will grant our prayers) on one condition:

- ☞ "if we ask according to His will"
- ☞ Our prayers should be God centered (not man centered)
  - ☞ God's will is revealed in Scripture
  - ☞ God's will is confirmed by the Holy Spirit in us
- ☞ Man's tendency is for us or our problems to be the center of our prayers
  - ☞ We tend to pray for our will to be done
  - ☞ However, we are to pray not our will, but thy will be done

### 7 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:14**

A few practical ways we can pray "according to His will":

- ☞ One practical way believers can pray according to God's will is to pray for the Holy Spirit to confirm the truth in our hearts
  - ☞ This is achieved and accomplished through reading/meditating/praying God's Word to God and to ourself
- ☞ Another practical way is to accept the truth that believers possess eternal life right now
  - ☞ If we're not assured of that, pray God's promises back to Him and request that by His Spirit He will confirm that truth in your heart
    - ☞ Promise in v. 14 is if we do that in full confidence and faith, God will grant our request!
- ☞ A third practical way is to pray for our sanctification and practice holy living
  - ☞ 1The 4:3

### 8 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:15**

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

☞ "And if we know (oida)" can be rendered "And since we know"

☞ The testimony of Scripture is God promises to hear us if we ask in faith AND according to His will

☞ TRUTH:

- ☞ The less we know the will of God and His promises revealed in Scripture, the less

confident we will be in our prayers and requests

☞ The more we know the will of God and His promises revealed in Scripture, the greater our confidence will be in our prayers and requests

☞

☞

### 9 ☐ **Exposit: 1Jn 5:16**

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

☞ v. 16 poses interpretive challenges

☞ "If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death" [more on this]

☞ "he shall ask and God will for him give life" [more on this]

☞ "there is a sin leading to death" [more on this]

☞

☞

### 10 ☐ **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

☞ I was guilty of interpreting this verse out of context

☞ Made sin general

☞ We are trying to live out our faith, but sin in the process

☞ Rationalized that certain sins do not lead to physical death

☞ Example: sinning in your mind

☞ However in context, what "sin" and "death" is John talking about?

☞ Let's begin to break this down and take into account what we've learned in our study of 1 John...

### 11 ☐ **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

☞ "sees" is 'horaō' which means to see with your eyes or to look and watch or observe

☞ "his brother" we know generally refers to a fellow believer

☞ It could also mean your family, race (i.e. Jews)

☞ "sin" we know is any failure on our part to obey God's commandments

☞ "death" is 'thanatos' has several meanings depending on context

☞ i. to die generally and of natural death or causes

☞ ii. to die by pestilence or plague (i.e. COVID)

☞ iii. to die by destruction, perdition, misery

☞ iv. a spiritual death

☞ So what "sin not leading to death" is John talking about?

### 12 ☐ **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

☞ To answer this we'll take into consideration:

- ☞ When did John speak on or refer to a specific sin and death in this letter?
- ☞ The immediate context and flow (John is wrapping up his letter)

☞

### 13 **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

Q: When did John speak on or refer to a specific "sin" in this letter?

- ☞ "if we say we have no sin" – 1Jn 1:8
  - ☞ TRUTH: Denying we have sin is sin! If we deny sin we are calling God a liar!
- ☞ But "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness" – 1Jn 1:9
  - ☞ TRUTH: In order to be saved, we first need to agree with God that we're sinners, trust that He'll help us repent
    - ☞ When we do, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness!

### 14 **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

Earlier in this letter John also talks about those who "practices sin":

- ☞ "Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness" – 1Jn 3:5
  - ☞ As we covered on "Why He Appeared" study, everyone who refuses to repent and view God's commandments as God's righteous standards, is "practicing sin [and] practices lawlessness (lawless deeds)"
- ☞ "the one who practices sin (lawless deeds) is of the devil" – 1Jn 3:8

### 15 **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

Now let's look at when John talked about "death" in this letter...

- ☞ Only one other time John used 'thanatos' in this letter:
    - ☞ "we have passed out of death (thanatos) into life" - 1Jn 3:14
      - ☞ John used "death" there to describe a spiritual reality we cannot see
      - ☞ TRUTH: Believers are no longer eternally condemned, but instead possess eternal life!
        - ☞ This will come to pass when we are glorified!
- ☞

### 16 **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death"**

Now let's pull this all together...

- ☞ When John says "If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death" and we take into account the context of this letter...
- ☞ This would include, seeing a fellow believer (who accepts God's Word):
  - ☞ Ignorant of his sinfulness
  - ☞ Ignorant of the importance of obeying God's commandments
  - ☞ Ignorant of the importance to kill (lawless deeds) in his life

- ☞ Such sins do not lead to death (spiritually or physically – generally speaking)
  - ☞ Lack of maturity and understanding of God’s truth (in light of false teaching)
- ☞ If we see a fellow believer struggling with truth in light of false teaching...

#### 17 “he shall ask and God will for him give life”

John says we are to...

- ☞ Pray and ask God on his behalf! We are to pray an intercessory prayer!
- ☞ This is where it gets real practical...
- ☞ If a fellow believer is struggling with truth, ignorant of the seriousness of sin, of obedience, and lack of pursuing righteous living, we are to pray on his behalf!
- ☞ The primary purpose of the church (Great Commission) is to:
  - ☞ Make disciples
  - ☞ Baptize disciples
  - ☞ And teach them all of Christ’s commands!
    - ☞ Love God
    - ☞ Love one another
    - ☞ Meet regularly as we see that Day drawing near
    - ☞ Pray for one another

#### 18 “he shall ask and God will for him give life”

When we pray on another believer’s behalf, John says...

- ☞ “God will for him (the one praying) give \*life (the one being prayed for)”
  - ☞ “life” is ‘zōē’ which John used to describe Jesus
  - Jn 1:4
  - “In Him (Jesus) was life (zōē) and the life (zōē) was the Light of men”

1 John 1:1-2

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life (zōē)— 2 and the life (zōē) was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life (zōē), which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

- ☞ How can a believer (who possesses eternal zōē) be given zōē?
  - ☞ We know biblically once saved, always saved
  - ☞ Once you received eternal life, you’ll always have eternal life
- ☞ So what gives...
  - ☞
  - ☞

#### 19 “he shall ask and God will for him give life”

The way to reconcile this is to take what we’ve learned...

- ☞ John consistently throughout this letter makes a contrast
  - ☞ Light vs. darkness, children of God vs. children of Satan, life vs. death
- ☞ A fellow believer can be ignorant of the reality and severity of sin

- ☞ A fellow believer can be ignorant of the importance of solid doctrine
- ☞ A fellow believer can be ignorant of the importance of holy living

As a result of such things:

- ☞ A believer can struggle with assurance
- ☞ A believer can struggle with the truth that they possess eternal life
- ☞ A believer can struggle in having full confidence of his salvation

☞ Heart of v. 16: A brother may be struggling with truth (which may be under attack) and therefore may be weak or immature in his faith... Paul touches on this principal...

☞

☞

20  **“he shall ask and God will for him give life”**

Romans 14:1-4

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

☞ TAKEAWAY: Instead of passing judgment on a fellow believer because his religious convictions are different from yours, we are to pray on his behalf!

☞

21  **“he shall ask and God will for him give life”**

Back to 1Jn 5:16...

☞ When John says “he shall ask and God will for him give life” can be understood to mean...

☞ When a fellow believer is struggling with truth and weak in faith, that sin will not lead to death (physically or spiritually – generally speaking)

☞ In such cases, we are to pray and ask God (according to His will) that God’s truth will prevail in his heart and restore his assurance and reality that he possesses eternal life!

☞ Paul again touches on this...

22  **“he shall ask and God will for him give life”**

Ephesians 1:18-19

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

☞ Paul prayed that believers “will know what is the hope of His calling”

☞ John is saying the same thing, pray for believers struggling or weak in faith that God grant Him enlightenment through truth revealed in Scripture and the Holy Spirit in him and God” will for him give life”

☞ NOTE: sin can rob a believer of assurance (eternal life) – David/Bathsheba

- ☞ Ps 51 example (restore to me the joy of my salvation)
- ☞ When we pray an intercessory prayer, we can pray for that believer to repent of his sins and seek forgiveness and God will in turn restore his assurance!
- ☞ Then John makes a contrast with the latter part of v. 16...

### 23 **“there is a sin leading to death”**

- ☞ Well we just went over the “sin NOT leading to death”:
  - ☞ Ignorant of the severity of sin, lack of solid doctrine, lack of holy living, struggling with assurance, etc.
  - ☞ In such instances, we are to pray for them
- ☞ So to understand what “sin leading to death” John is referring to, is the opposite!
- ☞ If someone is not ignorant, but instead is
  - ☞ In open rebellion or opposition to Scripture:
    - ☞ “I don’t have sin”
    - ☞ “I’m a good (holy) person”, “I’m not that bad of a person”, “I’m more good and evil”, etc.
    - ☞ “Matter is evil (my body), but since my soul is good if I were to sin it doesn’t count”
  - ☞ Does not confess “Jesus is the Son of God” (perhaps a prophet or good teacher)
  - ☞ Does not view Scripture of the sole authority as it pertains to life and training in righteousness (2Ti 3:16)
- ☞

### 24 **“there is a sin leading to death”**

- ☞ Such a person is not a child of God, but a child of the devil!
  - ☞ 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.
  - ☞ As we learned in prior studies, this is prophetic as well (speaking of the apostasy)
  - ☞ The truth principle is universal... those who reject Scripture (the biblical Jesus) is proof they were never really part of the family of God
  - ☞ For such persons who defect from the faith and apostate, we are not to pray for them!
  - ☞ For such persons are doing their father’s work (the devil)
- ☞ So the sin that leads to death is abandoning the faith once and for all entrusted to the saints
- ☞ This helps explain what John means when he says “there is a sin leading to death, I do not say that he should make a request for this”
- ☞ This contrast flows nicely into v. 17
- ☞

### 25 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:17**

- 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

- ☞ Sin not leading to death is acknowledging we are unrighteous sinners and submitting to the testimony of Scripture
- ☞ Sin leading to death is failure to acknowledge we're unrighteous sinners and rejecting the testimony of Scripture
  - ☞ Faith in the Son of God
- ☞ So for believers it's one thing to be ignorant, immature, imperfect
  - ☞ Such "unrighteousness" is covered by the sacrifice of Christ
- ☞ However, for unbelievers (enemies) of the gospel truth, this unrighteousness we are not to pray, for such persons are showing themselves to be children of the devil
  - ☞ The Jewish authorities (High Priest, Pharisees, Sadducees, Elders) are perfect examples of this. Jesus never prayed for them! But instead rebuked them for their hypocrisy and desire to kill Jesus and doing the works of their father, the devil
- ☞