

1 **"So that you may know"****Part 2****(1Jn 5:18-21)**

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 according to the will of God. As for those who are enemies of the gospel (false teachers), pray for God's will to be done (either in mercy or judgment).

3 **Scripture Reading**

1 John 5:18-21 (NASB)

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

4 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:18**

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

☞ "know" is oida

☞ "no one who is born of God sins"

☞ This does NOT mean being an imperfect believer

☞ As we covered in "Why He Appeared" study, John said the same thing back in:

1Jn 3:6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

☞ As we learned then, John is contrasting believers (who accept the full testimony of Scripture) vs. those who refuse to accept the full testimony of Scripture

☞ Thus, "no one who is born of God sins" is addressing the truth that believers (although imperfect sinners) have lives characterized as accepting the whole testimony of Scripture and relying on faith in the Son of God for salvation

☞ "but He who was born of God keeps him" [more on this]

☞ "and the evil one does not touch him" [more on this]

5 **“but He who was born of God keeps him”**

- ☞ Depending on your translation “He” is capitalized
 - ☞ NASB/NKJV has “he” capitalized
 - ☞ ESV/KJV does not have “he” capitalized
 - ☞ I agree with capitalizing for Jesus is clearly the subject
- ☞ “him” is referring to a believer
- ☞ ‘keeps’ is tēreō which means to guard, watch over
- ☞ Who will Jesus guard, watch over? A believer. Which ones?
- ☞ Guess what... the ending of this epistle is prophetic again!
- ☞ How can we know that... latter part of v. 18...

6 **“and the evil one does not touch him”**

- ☞ I assumed ‘evil one’ is Satan himself
- ☞ But as we learned through this study, ‘evil one’ is Antichrist who is to come!
- ☞ ‘touched’ is haptō which means to fasten, cling, lay hold of, apprehend
- ☞ If “him” is ALL believers, then how do we reconcile...
- ☞ The great slaughter in
 - ☞ The Great Tribulation
 - ☞ 4th Seal of Revelation
 - ☞ The apostles themselves who were beheaded and killed
- ☞ We can certainly say that the evil one “touched” these groups
- ☞ So this cannot mean that Antichrist/Satan cannot touch (seize) all believers
- ☞ So what does John mean by this statement?
- ☞ We need to look for Scripture for a group that has been miraculously persevered by God Himself... whom Antichrist cannot touch... and what group is that?...

7 **“and the evil one does not touch him”**

- ☞ The 144K sealed Jews!
- ☞ After the 6th seal, John records for us:
 - Revelation 7:1-4
 - 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”
 - 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel...
 - ☞ Note: “the bond-servants” in Revelation = 144K sealed Jews

8 **“and the evil one does not touch him”**

- ☞ Also after the 7th trumpet, John records for us concerning the 144K:
 - Revelation 12:13-17
 - 13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the

woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she *was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

☞ "the woman" is Israel generally

☞ In Rev 12 "the woman" are the 144K Jews supernaturally preserved by God in the wilderness

☞ "the rest of her (the woman Israel's) children" → Christians

9 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:18**

Back to v18, when John says:

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

☞ This can also be prophetic and is a promise that God will supernaturally preserve the 144K elect Jews from the Antichrist at the end of the age!

☞ NOTE: It can also be said that believers who are killed by Antichrist the evil one does not "touch" (lay hold of) his soul which is supernaturally preserved by God

☞ And I don't want to get too bogged down, but when John says "no one who is born of God sins" in the beginning of this verse, although can mean not rejecting the testimony of Scripture, can also be prophetic in that the elect who are here when Antichrist arrives will heed the angel's warning (when eternal gospel is preached) and refuse to take the mark of the beast

☞ This angle flows into v. 19...

10 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:19**

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

☞ "know" again is "oida"

☞ "we are of God" can be rendered "we belong to God"

☞ "the whole world" are the non elect

☞ "lies in the power of the evil one" keeping end times prophecy in mind speaks to when Antichrist is given all authority and power over all nations for 3 ½ years:

Revelation 13:5-7

5 There was given to him (the beast; Antichrist) a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him (the beast; Antichrist). 6 And he (the beast; Antichrist) opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven (believers).

7 It was also given to him (the beast; Antichrist) to make war with the saints (Christians) and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him (the beast; Antichrist).

☞ Thus, v. 19 can certainly have end times prophecy in view when Antichrist rules the world

11 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:20**

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

☞ "given us understanding" – God has revealed the beginning and end in Scripture! From Genesis to Revelation!

☞ As believers we know how history started and how it ends!

☞ Christ is victorious and we'll be glorified with Him!

☞ The true God has spoken in His Word and granted eternal life to those who accept the testimony of Scripture!

☞ This includes that we possess eternal life now and it will be confirmed when we're glorified!

☞ With this in mind, the last verse 21 is no longer a mystery (at least for me)...

12 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:21**

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

☞ Keeping prophecy in mind, the only time John talks about idols in Revelation is in:

Revelation 9:20-21 (After the 6th Trumpet)

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues (1/3 mankind killed by the 4 angels who unleashed fire/smoke/brimstone plagues) , (the 2/3 mankind who survived) did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

☞ We also know that the mark of the beast includes the making of an idol...

13 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:21**

Revelation 13:14

14 And he (the Beast from the Sea; false Jesus) deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast (the Beast from the Earth; Antichrist), telling those who dwell on the earth (non elect) to make an image to the beast (Antichrist) who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

Back to v. 21...

14 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:21**

☞ When John says "Little children, guard yourselves from idols", he could very well be prophesying concerning the end times!

☞ The end times will be characterized by, among other things, a world full of idol worshippers

☞ When Antichrist rises to power and given all authority, the end times will further be

characterized by, among other things, those who make an image to Antichrist and take his mark and worship his image!

☞ Thus, John in ending his letter warning against worshipping such idols and Antichrist who is to come!

☞ And because we know Him who is true (the Son of God) we can be assured that He will not only rescue us from the coming wrath, but from Antichrist himself!

☞ We can be assured that since Jesus is victorious over sin, death, Satan...

☞ We too share in Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan incarnate, Antichrist!

☞ APPLICATION: So let's not worship idols or Antichrist, or receive the mark of the beast or worship Antichrist's image, but instead worship the True and Living God, the Son of God!

AMEN! Come Lord Jesus!

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