



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“KNOWING THAT WE KNOW HIM”
I JOHN 2: 3-6

IN OUR PASSAGE THIS MORNING THE APOSTLE JOHN PROCEEDS TO APPLY THE DOCTRINE WHICH HE HAS BEEN SPEAKING OF FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS LETTER. THE GREAT THEME IS THAT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THAT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN AND THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PERFECT WORK. JOHN HAS REMINDED US THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD IS BASED ON JESUS' BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THAT IT IS IN HIM AND HIM ALONE THAT WE HAVE ANY HOPE WHATSOEVER.

THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS WHICH WILL INTERRUPT OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, AND IN THESE VERSES JOHN DEALS WITH ONE OF THOSE THINGS. JOHN SAYS THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE TO KNOW SOMETHING. HERE, AS WELL AS ALL THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE FIND THE DOCTRINE OF ASSURANCE. CHRISTIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW.

I. WE ARE TO KNOW CHRIST

“HEREBY WE DO KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM”(V.3).

JOHN DOES NOT SAY THAT WE ARE TO KNOW CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT HIM; RATHER, HE SAYS, WE ARE TO KNOW HIM. “WE DO KNOW” IS A PRESENT TENSE VERB IN THE GREEK WHICH DENOTES A PROGRESSIVE KNOWLEDGE GAINED BY EXPERIENCE. THE FULL THOUGHT OF THIS VERSE IS THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM AND KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM. CAN WE HONESTLY SAY THAT? DO WE KNOW THE LORD JESUS, AND DO WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT WE KNOW HIM?

II. WE ARE TO KNOW THAT WE ARE “IN HIM”

“HEREBY KNOW THAT WE ARE IN HIM”(V.5).

WE ARE NOT TO STOP AT A KNOWLEDGE OF HIM IN A SENSE OF A PERSONAL, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE TO GO A STEP FURTHER AND BECOME AWARE OF A UNION WITH HIM. WE ARE TO BE “IN CHRIST.”

SO, THE CHRISTIAN IS “IN CHRIST.” THAT ANALOGY WHICH IS USED IN JOHN 15 PUTS THIS PERFECTLY, THE REFERENCE TO THE BRANCH AND THE VINE. IT IS A VITAL, LIVING RELATIONSHIP--NOT A MECHANICAL ATTACHMENT. IT IS SHARING THE LIFE OF THE VINE ITSELF. THAT IS A PERFECT PICTURE OF THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP A CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO BE HAVING EACH DAY WITH THE LORD JESUS. WE SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE IN HIM AND THAT HE IS IN US AND THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED HIS LIFE.

DO WE REALLY KNOW THESE THINGS?

III. THIS ASSURANCE OF KNOWING HIM COMES THROUGH OBEDIENCE

“BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS”(V.3).

WITH THE WORDS, “BY THIS” JOHN INTRODUCES A NEW SET OF TESTS WHICH VERIFY SALVATION AND ENCOURAGE ASSURANCE. JOHN SAYS WE CAN HAVE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION, OF “KNOWING THAT WE KNOW HIM” BY APPLYING A SIMPLE TEST---BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS. THAT IS A TEST WHICH JOHN EQUATES WITH “WALKING IN THE LIGHT”(1:7), AND NOT HABITUALLY LIVING A LIFE OF SIN(2:1). “KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS” SPEAKS OF A PRACTICAL CONFORMITY---BOTH IN OUTWARD CONDUCT AND IN INWARD DISPOSITION.

THE USE OF THE PRESENT TENSE SUGGESTS THAT KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS IS THE PATTERN OF LIFE FOR THE PERSON WHO TRULY KNOWS THE LORD JESUS. ALSO, THE

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

WORD "KEEP" SUGGESTS A CONTINUAL SAFEGUARDING OF THESE COMMANDMENTS, REGARDING THEM AS SOMETHING THAT IS PRECIOUS AND DEAR. JOHN GOES ON TO SAY THAT ANY PERSON WHOSE CLAIM TO KNOW GOD IS NOT SUPPORTED BY A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE IS *A LIAR*. IT IS PROOF THAT "*THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.*"

DOES OUR DAILY LIFE PROVE THAT WE TRULY "*KNOW*" HIM?