**He Who Does the Will of God Abides Forever**

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**1 John 2:12-17**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 30, 2023**

**1 John 2:12-17**

12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one. 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.**

Saints, the next three verses contain two sets of triplets that describe John’s readers as children, mature ones Saints, and young Saints.

The term dear children refers not to age, but was a term of endearment that John used for all those to whom he was writing.

Christ used the same words when speaking to his disciples.

**John 13:33**

“Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you”

Many had come to Jesus through John’s ministry, so he called them his own “children.”

These true followers had in common the fact that their sins were forgiven because of Jesus. They had accepted the fact of their sinfulness, had confessed their sins, and had been forgiven because of Jesus’ death on the cross.

**Hebrews 8:12**

“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

**Isaiah 43:25**

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins”

**Psalm 103:11-12**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.**

Saints, described as mature in their faith, these believers know Christ, the one who is from the beginning.

They have longtime experience with their faith and have knowledge befitting their maturity. Described as young people, the term pictures action: you have won your battle with Satan.

Christians must understand that they are in a war zone and that they are constantly at battle with the forces of Satan.

In conquering the false teachers, they had defeated Satan. Paul’s view on how Satan enters into false teaching is found in

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Saints, the use of the past tense, “have won,” shows a battle won, although the war will not end until Jesus Christ returns.

Because Christ has already defeated Satan, all Christians can go into the battle knowing that they are on the winning side! (see Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 6:10-18; Colossians 2:15).

**Romans 8:31-39**

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

**Colossians 2:14-15**

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.**

Saints, this verse repeats the message to fathers and then amplifies the message to young people.

The overlap of the advice can be seen here where John wrote to you, children, because you have known the Father. The phrase refers to experiential knowledge.

Saints, all Christians ought to have personal knowledge of God the Father through Jesus Christ his Son;

otherwise, they cannot be believers. The mature believers know Christ, the one who is from the beginning.

They have grasped that Christ is eternal, thus are not swayed by the false teachers. To the young people, John wrote that they are strong with God’s word living in them, and he repeated that they have won their battle with Satan.

This strength is not the natural physical vigor of young people but the power of God’s Word in them through the Holy Spirit.

**15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Saints, believers must love God and love their brothers and sisters in Christ, but they must stop loving this evil world and all that it offers.

John was writing to those in the church who had remained true to their faith. They had withstood false teaching and had remained unified together with other believers.

But John warned against a secret spiritual danger that could still threaten them. The “world,” as used here, refers to the realm of Satan’s influence, the system made up of those who hate God and his will.

Believers should love the people of the world enough to share God’s message with them, but they should not love the morally corrupt system in place in the world.

Satan controls this evil world. His world opposes God and his followers and tempts those followers away from God and into sin.

**James 4:4-8**

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Saints, John wanted to show his readers that to attempt to love both God and the world would be as impossible as trying to combine light and darkness.

Therefore, when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. These words do not mean that believers are to remove themselves from all contact with the sinful world (that would be virtually impossible),

nor are they to stoically refrain from anything pleasurable. They do mean that when contact with the sinful world and its worldly pleasures specifically disagrees with God’s word, then Christians are to turn away from “the world” in order to obey God.

**16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.**

Saints, John warned his readers against loving the world and all that it offers because what the world offers is not from the Father.

Jesus made clear this tension when he said, The “world” here, as in 2:15, is the present evil system that is ruled by Satan and opposed to God.

This “world” has rebelled and fallen into sin. Nothing in this world system loves the Father or finds its source in him.

John placed what the world offers into three basic categories. These three categories are subjective, for they speak of attitudes of the heart.

Saints, believers may look perfectly clean and serene on the outside but harbor any or all of these attitudes inside.

John feared that this might happen, so he was warning the believers to restrain such desires.

**1. The Lust for Physical Pleasure**

Saints, Jesus spoke of how adultery begins not with the act, but with the desire.

**Matthew 5:28**

“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart”

Saints, these words picture any kind of desire but especially the craze for sex. No doubt the people of ancient Ephesus understood this—the pagan religions of their city glorified sex.

Saints, the world today has many similarities. Sex in all of its immoral and grotesque forms is splashed throughout movies, television, magazines, and computer screens.

This appeals to the sinful nature. While this category seems to refer mostly to sexual lust, it could include any sort of selfish or greedy cravings simply to satisfy one’s physical desires in rebellion against God.

**2. The Lust for Everything We See**

Sins of craving and accumulating possessions (bowing to the god of materialism) could be placed in this category.

While sex may also be included here, people’s “eyes” can lust after many things. Believers must not become obsessed with what they see.

**Hebrews 13:14**

“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come”

**1 Peter 2:11 (The Living Bible Version)**

“Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven, I beg you to keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls”

**3. Pride in Our Possessions**

Saints, this refers to both the inward attitude and the outward boasting because of an obsession with one’s status or possessions.

All three categories show selfishness and greed. Yet these sins, so subtle as to begin almost unnoticed within the heart, become the temptations that lead to the sins of the out-workings in people’s lives.

**17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

Saints, the people who live in rebellion to God with their transient, unfulfilling desires are focusing on a world that is already fading away.

The workaholic will die unfulfilled. The greedy politician will die in despair.

The pleasure-mad partygoers will find their lives ruined by drugs or alcohol.

Indulgence never satisfies; it only whets the appetite for more. Christians, however, understand that the world will not last forever and that no one lives on this planet forever.

Because they are believers who do the will of God, however, they will live forever. To turn away from the sinful world and hold on to God means to hold on to the eternal. Those who trust in God have already begun a life everlasting.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**