

# THE BLESSED ASSURANCE OF THE ONE TRUE GOD

Easter Sunday 2022 -- 1<sup>st</sup> JOHN series -- Msg 33 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

## 1<sup>st</sup> JOHN 5:18-21

English Standard Version (ESV)

18 **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.

19 **We know** that we are from God, and 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. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

## REVIEW of the little letter of FIRST JOHN:

1<sup>st</sup> John was written to call believers back to three things:

- True doctrine
- Obedient living
- Fervent devotion

1<sup>st</sup> John gives some **TESTS** to help you evaluate if your faith is GENUINE and TRUE:

- Do you believe in Jesus as the Messiah?
- Do you love God's people?
- Do you love God?
- Do you obey God?

1<sup>st</sup> John is a call to **repent** and **receive** the true Gospel of Christ.

- by revealing false doctrine
- by revealing hypocrisy (inconsistency, pretense, blame, and complacency)
- by revealing rebellion

1<sup>st</sup> John is a **MASSIVE ENCOURAGEMENT** for those who rightly trust and live in Christ.

## JOHN ASSURES TRUE BELIEVERS...

**vs 13** -- True Believers can know that they have eternal life.

**vs 15** -- True Believers can know that God hears them.

**vs 15** -- True Believers can know that God answers prayer.

**vs 18** -- True Believers can know that God has delivered them from sin & Satan.

**vs 19** -- True Believers can know 'whose kingdom they are in'.

**vs 20** -- True Believers can know the one true God.

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. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

**KNOWING GOD and being KNOWN BY GOD is the greatest fulfillment all of human life. John wants you to know God.**

**Westminster Shorter Catechism** (1646 England/Scotland -- 107 simple questions and answers)

Question 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**The modern missions movement motto:** *"To know Christ and make Him known."*

**JOHN 17:3** [Jesus prays to the Father just before going the Cross]  
*And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God,  
 and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

**We can have confidence in knowing the God who is true because of Jesus Christ.**

vs 20 *so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ.  
 He is the true God and eternal life.*

It was Jesus Christ who was promised by God.

It was Jesus Christ who came in the flesh.

It was Jesus Christ who came proclaiming the Word of God.

It was Jesus Christ who came proving the power of God.

It was Jesus Christ who came revealing the love of God.

JOHN 3:16

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that  
 whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.*

ROMANS 1:1-6

*1 **Paul**, a servant of **Christ Jesus**, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, 5 Jesus Christ our Lord, 6 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,*

Also go read Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and Paul's sermon in Acts 13. Notice the prominence of resurrection! It proved he was the life-giving true God.

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

- 1) *How does your faith measure up to the tests in 1<sup>st</sup> John? Is there concern? Is there encouragement?*
- 2) *How does the last command (1 John 5:21) fit with the last section? With the whole letter?*