

# Genuine Jesus

# “Confidence”

1 John 5:13-15

\*Baptism - next week!

INTRO:

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward 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 that we have asked of him.

## OUR PRESENT POSSESSION

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

>Eternal life is not something we hope to get or are we're waiting to possess:

- It's something we possess now.

- This is crucial knowledge to have.

- This is the fine point of John's epistle.

- It is important that we KNOW that we HAVE eternal life.

\*(This was a big deal to John.

- Remember John is also the writer of the most famous verse in the Bible.....

- What does the most famous verse in the Bible say?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- I think a lot of Christians read John 3:16 like this.....

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but when they die they'll receive eternal life.

>That is never the way John views eternal life—as something we're waiting to receive.

-He thinks of it as present possession for all who have the Son.

-‘...would not perish, but HAVE eternal life...’

John 20:31 ‘...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may **have life in his name**....’)

\*(We sing that song that ‘As It Is In Heaven’:....it kind captures what John is saying pretty welll.....

-I will sing like a man

With no sickness in my body

Like no prison walls can hold me

I will sing like I am free

‘Cause I know You love me

I know You found me

I know You saved me

And Your grace will never fail me

And while I'm waiting

I'm not waiting

I know Heaven lives in me)

>That's the key.....I'm not waiting for eternal life.....I have it.....so I'm going to endeavor to live according to it.....and to live my life from it.

-So the question becomes, ‘How do I know I have it?’

-That can be answered by answering this question: Do you have the Son?

1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life....

>If that doesn't clarify things for you, the Bible gives us 2 sure ways that we can be certain about this issue:

### **The witness of the Holy Spirit**

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

>This is an internal connection with God.

-The Holy Spirit lives inside of God's true people witnessing to us that we are God's kids.

-It's an internal witness.

## B. The witness of the God's Word

>If we go through doubts and our feelings betray us and the devil piles on, condemning us...we simply pull out the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

1 John 5:13 **I write these things** to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **that you may know that you have eternal life.**

>Knowing that we have eternal life frees us from the tyranny of death and enables us to live up to who we actually are in Christ.

-There are things that are more important than our earthly life.

\*(Years ago, when our kids were little, we were having family devotions and we were going through the book of Philippians together:

-Paul is in custody and declares that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ and that his chains are actually for the furtherance of the gospel....and

Paul is ready to die for Jesus if needed.

-And so I pointed out to the children that we need to be willing to go to prison for the Lord, or---even die for Him if we need to.

-And I said, 'What if a bunch of men with guns came rushing through our front door right now and they shoved us all to the ground and said,

'Deny Jesus Christ or die!'

-I traumatized our children fairly regularly.....I'm not recommending this as a parenting technique.....I pretty much advise against it actually.

-But I could see that this scenario had gripped their hearts..... and the kids were thinking deeply about it.

-Great Dad that I was, I then made it even heavier: I said, 'What if they put a gun to my head and said to you, 'Deny Jesus Christ or your dad will die.'?

-And with tears in his eyes, Ian says, 'I'd ask them to take me.'

.....And then Kelsi says, 'I'd shoot their faces off!'

-....that works....)

>But that's exactly what the eternal life of God does: It enables us to give our lives away!

-It enables us to slay the dragon.

-What do you mean?

-Our life is eternal...our values are eternal.

-We've freed from the tyranny of death.

-Death does us a favor.

-In fact, death goes from being a tyrant over us to our servant.

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,  
15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

>The writer uses the metaphor of slavery to typify our condition as humans, specifically the Egyptian slavery of Egypt recorded in Exodus.

-The power of death was wielded by Pharaoh as a weapon to enslave the people to build his world for him.

-Pharaoh threatened the people with death.

-“Keep working....keep moving.....keep building my world for me....or you die.....your purpose, your meaning and your identity is all connected to me and my world.....so keep making those bricks.....or die.’

>So too, Satan, the cosmic Pharaoh who rules over this world, wields the weapon of death to enslave people to build his world for him.

-There is a whole planet full of people that are toiling day in and day out trying to make sense of life under the sun.

-But you do the math and it doesn't add up.

-We spend our lives making bricks.....in this career or that pursuit.... working to build something we ultimately leave behind.

Ecclesiastes 1:3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

>Solomon goes on to say that because of this fact.....

Ecclesiastes 1:8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

>The eye and the ear are 2 of Satan the Pharaoh's most brutal taskmasters.

-They're never satisfied.

-No matter how much our eyes see or how much our ears hear.....they will never say, 'That's it. I'm good. I'm satisfied. You're free. I won't boss you around any more.'

-Ain't gonna happen.

-Might as well keep making bricks.....

>Some people feel the despair and others keep it at bay and just whistle their way to the grave...thinking maybe true satisfaction, meaning and purpose are around the next corner.

-So maybe they'll change careers or change their appearance or change their spouse or change their religion.

- >Satan wields the weapon of death with great skill.
  - People keep on making bricks.....chasing empty dreams.....getting more surgery.....taking more trips....and death just keeps coming.
  - No amount of brick-making will stop it.
- >But the great news is Jesus, our Big Brother, disarmed the devil.
  - He took the weapon, death, out of his hands and delivered the slaves to true freedom through His incarnation and death.
  - We have eternal life...now.
  - That's what John has in mind when he says....

1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Revelation 12:10 And they have conquered (the Dragon) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, **for they loved not their lives even unto death.**

- >Death does us a favor.....that's freedom.
  - We have eternal life now.

## 2. OUR FEARLESS CONFIDENCE

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

- >The word 'confidence' is translated from the Greek word 'parrasea'.....and it means '..free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance...'
  - '...without ambiguity or circumlocution...'
  - In other words....don't ramble and meander be verbose in your praying.....you have the freedom to get right to it.
  - God likes that.
  - We have eternal life.
  - We are part of God's eternal Kingdom.
  - Prayer is not getting our will done in heaven; it's getting God's will done on earth.
  - It's not overcoming God's reluctance....it's laying hold of His willingness.
  - '...if we ask anything according to his will he hears us....'

John 15:7 If you abide in me, **and my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- >'...if my words abide in you....'

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### **3. OUR PRESENT POSSESSION (THE SEQUEL)**

1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

\*(Greg's truck route.....

-A good brother.....he's a Green Bay Packers fan.....that bothers me  
`some....but other than that.....)