

Title: Knowledge is Power!

Text: 1 John 5:13-21

Target: Our hope in Jesus Christ is not the sentiment of wishful thinking but convictional living.

- I. **No Longer Defeated by Doubt:** *“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.”* (Vs.13)
 - A. **Confidence in His Presence:** *“this is the confidence that we have toward him...”* (Vs. 14a)
 - B. **Confidence in our Prayers:** *“if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”* (Vs. 14b)
- II. **No Longer Crippled by Confusion:** *“If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.”* (Vs. 16-17)
 - A. **Forgivable Sin:** *“committing a sin not leading to death”*
 - B. **Unforgivable Sin:** *“there is a sin that leads to death”*
 1. **Blasphemy of the Spirit:** *“whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”* (Mark 3:29)
 2. **Rejection of Jesus Christ:** (1 John 5:12)
- III. **No Longer Slaves to Sin:** *“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.”* (Vs. 18)
 - A. **Power of God in You:** *“does not keep on sinning”*
 - B. **Protection of God over You:** *“God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.”*
 - C. **Provision of God:** *“We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”* (Vs. 19)
- IV. **No Longer Forsaken but have Freedom:** *“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.”* (Vs. 20)

Target: *“Keep yourselves from idols”* (Vs. 21) because they will keep you from what God has for you.

Sermon Discussion Questions: Read Galatians 5:1. Freedom. That is what we have been given and what Paul reminds us of in Galatians. But freedom from what?

Now read John 10:10. Here Jesus tells us not only that we have been freed, but also that we have been given access to an abundant life. How do these two gifts work together?

Have you ever had a family member or friend make the same mistakes repeatedly even though they have been given opportunities to make better choices that would be beneficial? This is the picture of freedom and abundant life working together. You and I have been set free from our old sinful ways. Not merely to keep from “doing the things we shouldn’t,” but also to live in abundance. Yet when we continue to make choices that place our selfish wants and desires on the throne of our lives (idols), we fail to live the abundant life Jesus has for us and we return to the bondage of our sin nature.

Are there areas in your life that you have yet to accept the liberating freedom afforded you by Jesus? If so, what prevents you from walking in the abundant life that He offers?

Are there idols that you can identify in your own life that need to be addressed? What steps can you take this week to replace them with the freedom that Jesus offers?

One final note: As we wrap up Thanksgiving, it’s important reflect upon the things for which we are thankful. Take a moment to share with others the things/areas of your life for which you are grateful. This will also help remind us to walk in the freedom and abundance Jesus gives!