



## LIVING IN LIGHT OF CHRIST

### 1 JOHN 5:13-21

#### Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5:13-21 ESV

#### Live with Assurance and Presence by Dealing with Doubts

(vv.13-15)

#### Live with Purity and Compassion by Dealing with Sin (vv.16-17)

#### Live with Freedom and Joy by Dealing with Distractions (v.18-21)

#### Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 5:13-21. What does John say is his purpose for writing 1 John?
2. Read John 17:3. What does it mean to have eternal life? How would you describe the difference between knowing about someone and knowing someone?
3. John links our experience of assurance of eternal life with three areas—objective truth (Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God), love (to God and neighbor) and righteous living (obedience). If you, or someone you know, is struggling with assurance, how can knowing these three areas help you guide them to assurance?
4. Idolatry is usually understood as worshiping figurines. Yet, idolatry is having your heart captured by something in creation rather than the creator. Idolatry is looking to find life in something God made not in God, leading to death not life. Where do you see idolatry in our culture? What are the affects of idolatry? How could you identify idolatry in your life or another Christian's?
5. In this passage John commands us to do something (5:21) and tells us that Jesus is doing something (5:18). What does this teach you?

Spiritual Exercise: John calls us to action in two ways in this passage. 1) Pray for those whom you know are struggling in sin—who do you need to pray for? 2) Keep yourself from idols—what do you need to do to obey this command this week?