

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 581, Brethren, we have met to worship
- 316, The Church's One Foundation
- God of Grace & God of Glory (tune of Here is Love)
- Show is Christ

Announcements and Prayer requests

Communion & Fellowship meal - Next Sunday

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #5

The encouragement of assurance

1 John 2:12-14

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

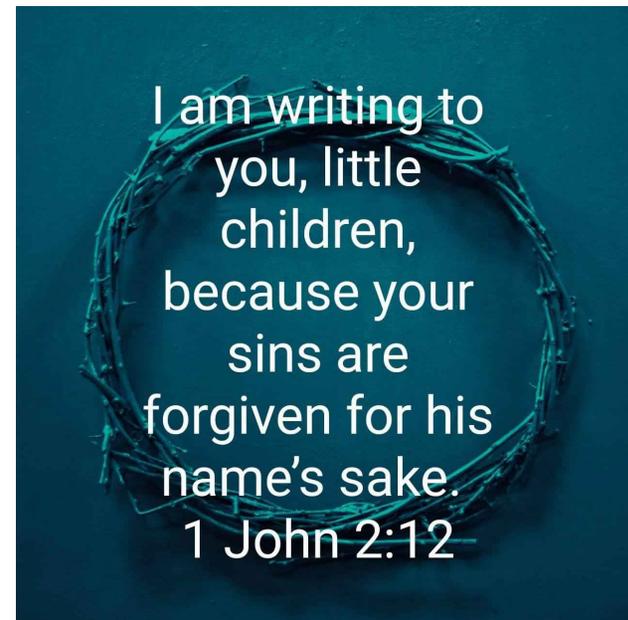
642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org



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love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #5

The encouragement of assurance

1 John 2:12-14

- Septemeber 4th, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #5

The encouragement of assurance

1 John 2:12-14

John launches into this vital section of the letter by surrounding and buoying his readers in the facts of their essential spiritual competence. He recalls their spiritual standing and further blessings in order to motivate them to cultivate ever more intimacy in fellowship with God. John has several purposes in writing but two stand out here: 1) He does this to plant their feet solidly on **assurance**, which is the best growth and good-works platform. In 5:13, These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know (*oida – certain, absolute knowledge, perfect tense*) that you have eternal life. 2) To warn them of the false teachers who would rob them, not of eternal life, but of their solid assurance of it 2:26 *These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.*

False teachers undermine God's intended assurance of salvation for his children by introducing fear and doubt, so as to make believers dependent on them and their special knowledge, teachings and group/followers

John writes here in two spirals, two coils. The first coil is firmly fixed to the spiritual and historical fact that their sins have been forgiven, and therefore they have every reason and right to the assurance, to know and feel the reality of their possession of eternal life. And therefore, entry in to the presence of God now spiritually (the Throne of Grace), and in the resurrection, to have entry physically in glorified bodies.



We might think of these coils as John's way of giving his readers the bounce and lift to spring onward and upward in faith.

The 1st coil is found in v12-13c.

The 2nd coil, as we will see, is solidly welded to the end of the first in an unbreakable connection.

The 2nd coil is found in 13d-14.

In the 1st Coil: "I am writing" *present tense, 3 times – intensity!*

"Because his readers are Christians and have in part experienced the power of their faith he moves them to nobler efforts; his object is that their 'joy may be fulfilled' (cf. 1. 4)." -Wescott

v12, Little children – *wee bairns* – The most basic thing that a Christian knows as a fact is that their sins before God the judge are forgiven, remitted, paid, gone, as far as eternal life and justification before God.

*Notice that there is no mention of experience here. It is stated as...objective fact. The forgiveness of sins here is not our experience, it is God's! This is not speaking of our sense of freedom from guilt. John is speaking of God's experience of our actual separation from guilt, on virtue of His Son bearing it. But we do very much enjoy the sense of it, but only as a fruit or result of God being propitiated (2:2). *John bolts the 1st coil to the solid foundation of the gospel.**

V13a, Fathers...known by experience (*ginosko, perfect tense*) God!

They have come to know God (the Son, and therefore the Father) at some real level, and that has continued to today! This assurance, in an increasing and maturing way, is both the goal and solid path of all believers.

V13b, The spiritually young men among the readers had known some victory over their spiritual adversary, Satan, the Pernicious One.

Now the 2nd Coil - In the 2nd Coil: "I have written" *perfect tense, 3x*

V13c, Children – *paidion – youth-in-training/tutelage*. Known the Father in experience now... to some degree. (Note the progression from babies/toddlers with sins forgiven to youth in training here.)

v14a, Fathers... known by experience (*ginosko, perfect tense*) God.

V14b, The spiritually young men among the readers have increased their maturity. Having first gained initial victory over their spiritual adversary, Satan, the Pernicious One, they now are acknowledge by John as *strong!*

The Word of God now abides in them. That is, having learned the Word more fully, and committed themselves not only to memory, but to following its ways in ever more enriching and empowering and enabling circles of application and walking it out in their lives.

The result is a more complete victory over the Pernicious One!

The ground of all real spiritual progress is not fear that I need to prove I am saved, but in the real knowledge, the assurance, that I *am* justified eternally by God Himself, and this is the fundamental foundation of all upward springing into greater spiritual endeavor. To be known by God, and then to grow in knowing Him in return, through His Son, this is the spiritual power and dynamic that spirals and springs upward into ever more intense, productive spirituality, in more lively fellowship with God and one another. Our enjoyment of assurance is our birthright as God's children.