

v3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. v4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. v5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: v6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 John 2:3-6

Many Christians struggle with the matter of "Assurance of Salvation". There are many reasons why people struggle with his question.

1. Many have been let down by so many people through their life that they have major TRUST issues.
2. Many struggle with the wonder of Grace and Mercy. So much of life is about working hard to achieve a goal, they never quite feel as if they have done enough to deserve salvation.
3. Many feel that some specific "sins" make it impossible for them to get to heaven. The FALSE Roman Catholic and Lutheran teaching about "Mortal" and "Venial" sins has led many to believe that God cannot forgive them unless they do something about those specific sins.
4. Your "faith" is based on emotion and not truth. If you are driven by your emotions rather than the solid foundation of God's Word, you will feel shaky about your standing with God.
5. The attack on the Authority of the Bible in Post-Modern thinking, has led to many doubting the truth of Promises contained in God's Word.

In today's text WE WILL SEE that:

YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS

Remember the background to this passage. A man called Cerinthus was sowing seeds of doubt among the early believers. John is writing to counteract this false teaching and reminding the believers of the "Basics" of Christianity.

YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS

I BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THAT YOU KNOW

v3 We know that we have come to know him.

Cerinthus belonged to a group of people known as Gnostics. Gnostics taught that in order to belong to the "TRUE FAITH" you needed to have some "SECRET KNOWLEDGE" to be let into the "INNER CIRCLE". This false teaching plays into the sinful pride of humans that "SOME ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS".

Modern examples of this teaching are: Mormons, JW's, the Illuminati, Freemasons. In all of these organisations, you have to follow some "code" to get into the deeper "Truth" of the organisation.

Whenever you find some "Secret Code" or "Special Experience", NOT FOUND IN THE BIBLE THROUGH NORMAL INTERPRETATION, in an organisation, it is most likely a sect or cult.

The FIRST test of true faith is, “ARE YOU FOCUSING ON THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS?”.

Being a Christian is not some rocket science or mathematical calculus or physics formula.

Being a Christian is KNOWING YOU KNOW JESUS

JESUS SAID IN *John 11:25* "I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;**"

JESUS ALSO SAID IN *John 8:31* "**If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.**

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN CHRIST IS OUR FOCUS.

YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS

II WHEN YOU SEEK TO OBEY WHAT JESUS TAUGHT!

*v3 We know that we have come to know him **if we obey his commands** v4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

If the FIRST test of true faith is, “ARE YOU FOCUSING ON THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS?”.

The SECOND test of true faith is, “ARE YOU OBEYING THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS?”.

The focus in v4 is on the person who is full of “HOT AIR”! They can be very eloquent orators, or excellent debaters, but if their “WALK DOES NOT MATCH THEIR TALK”, they are frauds.

Being a Christian is KNOWING YOU KNOW JESUS AND TRYING EVERY DAY TO BE MORE LIKE HIM.

It is not “BEING BETTER THAN OTHERS”, it is trying to be “BETTER THAN YOU WERE YESTERDAY”!

JESUS SAID IN *Matthew 19:17* “**If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.**”

PAUL WRITE IN *1 Corinthians 7:19* “**Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts.**

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN CHRIST IS OUR FOCUS.

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR talking or actions?

YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS

III WHEN YOUR TRUST HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

v5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:

The International Standard Version of the Bible translates this verse like this:

But whoever continually keeps his word is the kind of person in whom God's love has truly been perfected. This is how we can be sure that we are in union with him:

The word translated “obeys” has a number of meanings:

to keep watch upon, guard, to watch over protectively; to mark attentively, to heed, obey; to observe practically, keep strictly; to preserve, shield; to store up, reserve; to keep in custody; to maintain; to keep in a condition

God's love is truly made complete in him

YOU BECOME “TELEIOSed”

Many of life’s prized possessions are things that have stood “THE TEST OF TIME”.

Fine Wine or Aged Spirits

Vintage Cars

Cheese

Art

Property

MY WIFE of course

A WISE CHRISTIAN PERSON.

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN CHRIST IS OUR FOCUS.

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ACTIONS

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ENDURANCE

YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS IV WHEN YOU WANT TO BE MORE LIKE HIM

v6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

The best illustration of this point is found in.

*Philippians 3:7-14 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. v8 **What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ v9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. v10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, v11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.***

*v12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. v13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.***

*But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, v14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN CHRIST IS OUR FOCUS.

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ACTIONS

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ENDURANCE

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN PEOPLE SEE JESUS IN US

CONCLUSION

SO!!!

DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS?