

**21S12** Part 10 study of 1 John 5:14-21

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are finishing our study of 1<sup>st</sup> John. Some say 1 John 5:14-21 can be summarized as True Fellowship.

Remember before we start reading the bible we need to remember the background of 1<sup>st</sup> John. The author is the Apostle John. Most scholars believe it was written in AD85-90. The main themes in 1st John are,

- True Teaching, True Living and True Loving
- Encourage Christian who are being persecuted (who/why it was written to and what was happening in History). Christians were being persecuted by the Romans, by the Jews and pretty much very other group.
- We can Trust “who Jesus is”
- Jesus is both man & God - ignore false teachers who deny
- Correct the wrong ideas about Jesus
- Correct idea about what is good and evil which lead to the lack of morality in the church

Today we are going to study 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:14-21.

John concludes his letter by showing how those who possess eternal life should live – lovingly and obediently. What matters most is living by simple trust in a great God.

Well I want you to ponder these questions as we read 1 John 5:14-21. I'm reading from the NKJV. *<sup>14</sup>Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him <sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. <sup>17</sup>All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. <sup>18</sup>We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one <sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

How can we be sure that God will answer our prayers? (v. 14-15) John says we have confidence that if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us. “according to God's will is the key part of this. IF we are acting outside of God's will then we can't expect God to do what we ask. God is not a cosmic Genie or Santa Claus. But if we

get to know Jesus and know the way He thinks, then when we ask He will hear our prayers.

Do your prayers for others make a difference? Simple answer is Yes. You are a child of God and God wants to talk with His children. But it is more complicated than just that. There are several different types of prayers. Those for us and those for others. I can speak from my personal experience, when people are praying for you it matters. When I was in the hospital with COVID, I could feel the power of the prayers people were praying for me. God was hearing those prayers. They made a difference for me. Now Selfish prayers maybe a different story. But John is trying to assure us that God cares about us. God wants us to care about what He cares about, then when we pray we can have confidence God hears us.

Why does God sometimes make us wait for our prayers to be answered? God wants our focus to be on Him not the things we want. So, waiting helps us to learn to focus on God, not the things we want.

What should we do when we see a Christian living in sin? John tells us to pray for them. Sometimes God might ask us to talk with them about what they are doing. But, God is clear we need to care about our fellow Christian and pray for them.

What is the only “sin that leads to eternal death?” John does not say exactly what he means, but we know that rejection of Jesus or Saying we don’t want Jesus to save us will result in “eternal death”. So it likely that is what John is talking about here.

V. 18 states, God’s children cannot be touched by the evil one. What about Christians who struggle with sin? I don’t think John is saying Christians won’t sin. I believe John is telling us that we have victory over the “evil one” because of Jesus. The devil can’t take our eternal destination away. So, we can face whatever happens with confidence.

Why the warning here about idols in v.21? Some translations use false gods instead of idols. An idol is anything that takes the place of God. What are the false gods or idols of today? Success, money, being popular, beautiful or what about social media. Even our families, kids or work can be idols if we put more importance in them than God. John wants to remind us that life is best when we put God first in everything we do.

Many things in this world want our attention, affection, and allegiance. What or who we give our time, energy and resources, that is what we worship. John reminds us God is the only one worthy. Nothing else matters. Watch out for teachings that diminish Christ’s glory. Beware of anything that tricks you to take your focus off Jesus.

I recommend reading the following passages about fellowship in your personal study this week,

- John 15:1-10
- Romans 7:4
- 1 Corinthians 6:15
- 2 Corinthians 11:2
- Ephesians 5:30
- 1 John 2:24

**Let's Pray.**

**Thank you Jesus for this letter from John. Help us to remember this teaching the next time the world offers us some great thing that takes our focus off of You Lord.**

**Thank you for blessing our time studying your word together and thank you God for everyone listening. May we keep your words in our hearts and minds so that the evil one cannot touch us. I pray this in your name, Jesus Amen**

Thank you for joining me for Students @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at [kip@punla.org](mailto:kip@punla.org). I appreciate your feedback.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.