

What Do You Know?

Part 1

December 8, 2013

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1 John 2:18-21

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Good morning, Lighthouse; what do you know this morning?

Isn't it funny sometimes the way we use phrases and colloquialisms; like "What do you know?" for example.

If we walk into a room and see someone we haven't seen for a long time; we say. "Well, what do you know, there's so and so."

Sometimes when we greet someone we know well we say; “Hey, John, what do you know?”

If the cookies are missing and ‘nobody’ ate them; sometimes we have to ask each child separately, “Ok, what do you know...and why does your breath smell like cookies?”

There was a time when believers did not have Bibles; but never a time that believers did not have the Word of God.

Before the Word of God was completely written, compiled, proven and approved, and then through the invention of the printing press, made available to the common man; there were variations of means through which the truths of God’s Word were passed along to man.

In the beginning, God Himself spoke face to face with man as He walked with Adam in the garden called Eden.

After man’s fall, God chose Holy men of God to whom He gave his Word for man.

2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

As these Words were recorded in writing and became scripture (the written Word); these scriptures ultimately became our Bible.

In the age of the New Testament after Jesus was sacrificed for our sins and rose from the dead; He gave us something; actually someone, called the Comforter; the actual indwelling of His Spirit in us. Because of the Holy Spirit in us, we have something called an “unction” from the Lord.

This is an interesting word but one that in and of itself is somewhat vague. It is the Greek word:

chrisma

khris'-mah

From [G5548](#); an *unguent* or *smearing*, that is, (figuratively) the special *endowment* (“chrism”) of the Holy Spirit: - anointing, unction.

This word appears again in verse 27 and is translated ‘anointing’ in this verse.

1John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Today this term is seized upon by opportunists claiming a special anointing from God that supposedly enables them to speak in tongues and lay on hands and heal and do other miraculous things. They take their name from

the Greek word calling themselves Charismatic.

As you can see from the context, the anointing; the unction that true believers have from God is something that abides on the inside that enables us to see and recognize truth.

It is this unction from God that enables me to bring you 'the' message of God week after week here from this pulpit; I am simply not wise enough or smart enough or skilled enough to do this on my own.

This unction enables you to identify with and recognize the truth when you hear the rightly divided Word of God from those called of God to preach and teach it.

The book of 1st John is of special value to believers: unlike some other parts of the New Testament, it is written exclusively to and about saved people.

Within this small 5 chapter book are two very important lists; one of those lists includes the reasons that John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to us this wonderful book.

The Reasons

1John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal

life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1John 2:26 These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. [Our unction obviously does not make us infallible.]

1John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. [Under this heading John, in verse 13, speaks of three maturity levels of those who are forgiven.]

1John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not...

1John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

The second, and more extensive list, is what the real believers John is writing to, because of their unction from God, actually do know; thus the title of today's message; "What Do You Know?"

So, 'what do you know' this morning?

The first on John's list of reasons says that we may know that we have eternal life.

Someone has asked, "Can a person be saved and not know it?"

The answer is no, not according to the Bible.

Barring some weird circumstance of a believer being in a coma or deteriorating with Alzheimer's or otherwise appearing to be unaware of things; the answer is no.

As far as all of us are concerned; if you do not know you are saved, then you simply are not.

On any given Sunday morning here at Lighthouse are several categories of attendees present:

1. Mostly there are our members;
2. Nearly always are some regulars who seem to belong but have not actually joined the Church yet;
3. There are usually some real believers who for some reason or another find themselves seeking a new Church home.
4. Others are being drawn to the Lord and may not know for sure that they are saved or perhaps think they are but in reality are not.
5. And then, every once in a while the Devil sends one of his in just to cause us trouble. If that is you this morning, our invitation to you is to switch sides and put your trust in Jesus today; your old boss will just have to get over it.

Today is one of those messages that make it easy to see where you really stand: if you are not saved, you will likely see it today. If that is the case, please take proper steps to do something about it.

OK, so what **do** real Christians know?

First of all: **We know we are saved.**

In the book of 1st John we are given at least three means by which we believers know we are saved.

I. The first and most certifying of them all is by the Word;

A. You can actually have it in writing from God that you are saved.

1. **1John 5:13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,...

2. What John wrote appears here and dozens of other places in the New Testament;

1John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:...

B. Have you believed and been born again?

1. There is an accurate way to tell;

1John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself:

2. You simply compare what you did to be saved with what the Bible says you must do to be saved and see if they match.

3. We can show you how and help you to do this.

C. Is it common for people to think they are saved but are not?

1. In February, I will have been saved 37 years. For at least 33 of those I have been teaching our signature classes called Basic Bible Truths.

2. Just one of the things you will see in Basic Bible Truths is how to have it in writing from God that you are saved.

3. Having taught hundreds of these personal one-on-one classes, the results are eye opening.

4. About 98 out of every 100 people from Catholic and various protestant backgrounds see in the Scriptures that they are lost and immediately get saved in the classes.

5. The biggest surprise is that about six out of ten Baptist Church members see that they are really lost and then get saved in the classes!

6. The most common reason that would-be believers miss it is because of praying some magic word so-called 'sinner's prayer' they were told to pray; often as a child without first understanding the gospel at all.

II. The second way we have of knowing we are saved is by our new-found willingness to obey the Lord.

A. When Jesus saves us, we want to obey Him; that is just who the New Man is.

1. **1John 2:3-5**

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

2. There are a couple of key things you should understand about these verses:

a. These commandments are the New Testament commands of our Lord Jesus, (the command to love each other, to be baptized and be a part of the Church, to worship and to serve); they are not the Old Testament commandments of the law.

b. Secondly, the keeping of them doesn't mean never break one or never sin; just 5 verses and 3 verses earlier John wrote this:

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

3. The keeping of His commandments and the keeping of His Word are as the keeping of the course the Lord has laid out for your life; when we sin and get off course, we immediately practice

1John 1:9 which says: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; and God's forgiveness puts us right back on course.

4. How would you describe the level of your desire to walk with the Lord and serve Him this morning?

5. Did a powerful new desire to serve the Lord show up after your salvation experience?

III. The third means of knowing we are saved is our sudden new love for God's people.

A. The greatest command of all from our Lord is that we love one another like He loves us.

1. **John 13:34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

2. **1John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the

brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

3. **1John 5:1-3**

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4. There are a lot of people out there who claim to be and maybe even think they are Christians who say, "I love God but I don't want anything to do with those Church people."

5. Those Church people are the Bride of Christ who Jesus died for and loves with all His heart!

6. That's like saying, "Pastor, I love you, but I don't want anything to do with Lisa."

7. Well I've got news for you, if you don't love Lisa, you don't love me; we are one!

B. Besides all that; loving each other is really the only way we even have of loving God;

1. **1John 4:12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

2. **1John 4:19-21**

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

3. So, did a powerful new love for God's people show up after your salvation experience?

So what do you know this morning?

In Conclusion:

Our job as members of the Body in reaching the lost, training and equipping the saved and each contributing our individual gifts and talents is to build up this Body to and for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When we see people come and go and come and go; they are on and off; they try and then give up: the back door of the Church where people leave it is almost as busy as the front door; they clearly do not love us and they certainly are not keeping the Lord's New Testament commands.

This is heartbreaking for the steady, committed and faithful because we truly do love them.

We see them leave and we don't understand why; why would anyone who has what we have; who is what we are; ever walk away from an opportunity to genuinely be a part of what Jesus is doing in this place?

After nearly 37 years of walking with the Lord and ministering to God's people I believe I know the most common reason.

Frustration; there is nothing more frustrating that trying to live like a Christian when you have not been born again.

Where do you stand this morning? If there are question marks on your salvation; or perhaps you simply know that you really are not saved, here is what I want you to do.

Don't come down here; there is not time to properly deal with it now. When Brother Tim gives the announcements in just a few minutes, the first slide on the screen will be promoting Basic Bible Truths. Write down one of the phone numbers on that slide and call us later. We will arrange your classes privately and confidentially and you will be able to make sure of every aspect of where you stand with the Lord.

Even if you just need a few specific answers; call me and we will set up a meeting.

Jesus would not have you go through your life deceived and lost; that is why you are hearing this message today.