

1Jn 5:16 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.

5:17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

5:18 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.

5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

5:20 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.

5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

[From today's sermon.

At last we come to the end of 1 John's letter. The words "sin unto death" and "sin unto death" loom fearfully over us. I am anxious. I am terrified, wondering if I will be okay. But let us remember what this book was trying to tell us.

It was written "that you who believe in the name of the Son of God may know that you have eternal life...that God has given us eternal life, and that this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life..."

And notice these words.

We know that all who are born of God do not sin. He who is born of God protects him, so that the wicked will not touch him.

He does not sin. This also means not to continue sinning.

The best part is the four times repeated "We know. What do we know? We know that we cannot continue to sin, that the wicked cannot touch us because Jesus is protecting us, that He has given us the knowledge to know the One who is true, and that we are with the One who is true.

And the word "truth" three times. The word "truth" is used three times: "the knowledge of the truthful One," "we are in the truthful One," and "this One is the true God and eternal life. Let us rejoice that we are born of God and separated from sin and death.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to all of you for the lingering summer heat. Obon has passed and we are approaching the end of August. The mornings and evenings will be getting easier to bear.

Today is the last day of John's first letter. We were encouraged by the love letter. We have felt

the Lord's practical protection. Now let us continue reading.

In last week's passage, we were taught to hope and believe that we will be fulfilled.

5:13 I have written these things to you so that you may realize that you who believe in the name of the Son of God have eternal life.

5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in God, that we shall not be in any way wronged by anything that he does. 5:14 For we have this confidence in God, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

5:15 And if we know that whatever we ask, He hears us, we know that what we have asked of Him has already been granted.

And in today's passage, it says to ask for this. This is what God wills.

5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin that does not lead to death, let him ask God, and God will grant him a remission of his sins. Then God will give life to those who are committing the sin that does not lead to death. There are sins that lead to death. For this I do not say, "Ask and it shall be given.

Pray that those who are committing sins that do not lead to death may turn from their sins. And may God give him life. May he be in sin and not reap death, the wages that sin pays.

James 1:13 When anyone meets with temptation, he should not say, "This temptation is from God. For God is not a tempter of iniquity, neither does he willingly tempt any man.

1:14 For each man is tempted because of his own lusts and enticements.

1:15 For lust poureth out, and bringeth forth sin: and sin ripeneth, and bringeth forth death.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not that ye yourselves know not whom ye are? For if ye yourselves be servants, being subject to whom ye are subject, ye are the servants of him to whom ye are subject; and ye are the servants of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.

6:17 But should God be thankful? For you were servants of sin, but you obeyed with all your heart the standard of teaching that was preached to you,

6:18 And having been freed from sin, you have become servants of righteousness.

6:19 I speak humanly, but it is because of the weakness of your flesh. 6:19 For as in times past you offered your body as a servant of uncleanness and trespasses, and fell into iniquity, even so now must you offer your body as a servant of righteousness, and be justified.

6:20 For when ye were servants of sin, ye were not partakers of righteousness: but when ye were servants of iniquity, ye were not partakers of righteousness.

6:21 What fruit did you bear then? 6:22 And what fruit did ye bear then, that now ye would be ashamed? The end of those things is death.

6:22 But now ye are free from sin, and serve God, and bear fruit unto holiness. The end of it is eternal life.

6:23 For the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So how can we distinguish between sin that leads to death and sin that does not lead to death?

Hebrews 6:1 Let us therefore leave the rudiments of the doctrine of Christ behind us, and let us go on with a view to perfection. Now more than ever, repentance of dead works and faith in God,

6:2 Let us not learn again and again the basic doctrines of the washing, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment, 6:3 but let us learn the forgiveness of God, and the forgiveness of sins, and the forgiveness of sins.

6:3 With God's permission let us do so.

6:4 And once we have received the light, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and are partakers of the Holy Ghost, 6:5 And have received the goodness of God, and have received the Holy Ghost, and are partakers of the Holy Spirit,

6:5 And they that have tasted the good word of God, and the power of the world to come,

6:6 And if they fall away after that, it is impossible for them to return to repentance again, since they will again crucify the Son of God and expose Him to the world.

6:7 For if, for example, the land sucks up the rain that often falls on it and grows crops that are useful to those who cultivate it, it will be blessed by God.

6:8 But if it produces thorns and thistles, it becomes useless, and is soon cursed and finally burned up.

6:9 But, beloved, we say, "But if we let thorns and thistles grow up, they will be of no use.

6:9 But, beloved, though we say this, we are persuaded of you that there are better things pertaining to salvation.

6:10 For God is not ungodly, and will not forget your works, nor the love that you once served and still serve the saints, and have shown for His name's sake.

6:11 We show the same zeal, even to the end that every one of you may hold out hope to the end,

6:12 And that you may not be slothful, but that you may be imitators of those who inherit

the promises with faith and patience.

6:13 Now when God made a promise to Abraham, swearing by Himself, because there is none higher than He,

6:14 "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your descendants," He said.

6:15 Thus Abraham waited patiently and obtained what was promised.

6:16 "For if those who have received light and tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the power of the world to come, and then fall away, they will again crucify the Son of God and expose Him to death, and it will be impossible for them to return to repentance again. It is impossible for them to return to repentance. What a terrible thing to say. I wonder if I myself will be okay. I am also searching my heart to see if I am not inviting God's wrath by thinking that I can handle this much, or if I am at a point where there is no turning back now.

Matthew 12:1 In those days, one Sabbath day, Jesus passed through a wheat field. And His disciples, being hungry, began to pluck the ears and to eat.

12:2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Jesus, "See, your disciples are doing what they should not do on the Sabbath.

12:3 Then Jesus said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his servants were hungry?

12:4 That is, he went into the house of God and ate the bread of the offering, which neither he nor his servants should eat, except the priests.

12:5 And have you not read in the law that the priests who serve in the temple on the Sabbath are not guilty of breaking the Sabbath?

12:6 I say unto you. Greater is He here than the Temple.

12:7 If you had known what it meant, "I prefer mercy and not sacrifice," you would not have condemned the innocent.

12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

12:9 And Jesus left there and went into their synagogue.

12:10 And there was then a man with a withered hand. And the people, wishing to accuse Him, asked Him, "Is it permissible to heal a man on the Sabbath day?

12:11 Jesus said to them, "If any of you has a sheep, and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not lay your hand on it and lift it up?

12:12 Is not a man far better than a sheep? Therefore it is right to do good on the Sabbath day."

12:13 And Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand. So he stretched out his hand, and it was as good as any other hand.

12:14 The Pharisees went out and consulted with Jesus about killing him somehow.

12:15 And when Jesus knew this, he went away. 12:15 And when Jesus knew this, he departed from there; but many followed him, and he healed them all,

12:16 And he admonished them, saying, “Do not reveal yourselves to the people.

12:17 For this is the fulfillment of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying

12:18 “Behold, the servant whom I have chosen, whom I love, whom I have put in my heart. I will give him my spirit, and he shall preach righteousness to the Gentiles.

12:19 He will not contend, he will not cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the highways.

12:20 He will not break a bruised reed, nor quench a smoking lamp, until he has caused justice to prevail.

12:21 The Gentiles will put their hope in his name.

12:22 Then the people brought a blind and dumb man who was possessed by an evil spirit, and Jesus healed him and made him speak and see.

12:23 And all the crowd was astonished, saying, “Is not this man the Son of David?

12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is by Beelzebul, the head of the demons, that this man is casting out demons.

12:25 And Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, “About a nation divided inwardly it will destroy itself, and a city or house divided inwardly will not stand.

12:26 If Satan casts him out, then it will be a nation divided inwardly; but if Satan casts him out, then it will be a nation divided inwardly. How then shall that nation stand?

12:27 If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom shall your fellow cast them out? Therefore they will be the ones to judge you.

12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, the kingdom of God has already come to you.

12:29 And how can anyone break into a man's house and take his possessions, unless he first bind up the strong man? For only after tying him up can he plunder his house.

12:30 He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me is scattered.

12:31 Therefore I say to you. For unto man is forgiven every sin that he committeth, and every word that defileth God. But words that defile the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

12:32 And he that opposeth the Son of man shall be forgiven: but he that opposeth the Holy Ghost shall be forgiven. But he who opposes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, neither in this world nor in the world to come.

12:33 For if the tree is good, its fruit is also good

The Bible describes the “unforgivable sin” as defiling the Holy Spirit.

This refers to an arrogant heart that does not recognize the saving grace of Jesus. To make the work of the Holy Spirit the seat of evil spirits when the work of God's Holy Spirit has come through Jesus is to trample on God's clean, warm, and loving heart and to confuse the Holy Spirit of a God of love with an evil, lying, life-despising, blood-shedding, deceitful, and destructive spirit. Jesus told them that they could no longer be saved. We should not insult a clean spirit by brushing away its saving hand. But the evil spirits will try everything to prevent salvation from coming into our hands, and we must not fall for their tricks. We must look with eyes wide open to death to see where salvation lies.

5:17 For all unrighteousness is sin. But there is also sin that does not lead to death.

5:18 For we know that everyone who is born of God does not sin. He who is born of God has protection over him, so that the wicked will not be able to touch him.

We know that all who are born of God do not sin.

This is the first of what is written four times in “We know.” The words can be understood as if those born of God cannot continue to sin.

Romans 6:14 For you are not under the law, but under grace, so that you will not be subject to sin.

1 John 3:9 For all who are born of God do not sin. For the seed of God remains in him. And he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We are those who are born of God, who are kept alive by God, who are guided and protected. The one born of God protects him, so the evil one cannot touch him.” The one born of God, Jesus, protects us, and the evil one cannot lay a finger on us. But we are lured into sin by the lust that is in us. But we should avoid it as something we have no part in. We may sin, but God's Spirit teaches us, guides us, and leads us.

James 1:13 When anyone is tempted, he should not say, “This temptation is from God. For God is not a tempter of iniquity, neither does he willingly tempt any man.

1:14 For each man is tempted because of his own lusts and enticements.

1:15 For lust poureth out, and bringeth forth sin: and sin ripeneth, and bringeth forth death.

5:19 And we know that we are from God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one.

This is the second installment of “I know.” The world is under the hand of the wicked one. This is a word we do not want to admit. We do not want to admit that this beautiful world that God has created is easily under the control of the wicked. But that is the state of this world that is in sin and in rebellion against God. The misery, exploitation, bullying, hatred, and fighting everywhere is proof of this. But we are from God.

5:20 Furthermore, we know that the Son of God has come and given us the knowledge of Him who is the truth. And we are in Him who is the truth, and in His Son Jesus Christ. 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and given us the knowledge of the truth, that we may know him who is the truth. And we are in Him who is the truth, and in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

There are two “we know” and three “truths” in this verse. And we are not under the power of the evil one, but “in Him who is the truth, and in His Son Jesus Christ,” which tells us who we are under and in whose keeping we are.

We also know that the Son of God has come and given us the knowledge of Him who is the Truth.”

The first is “truth. Truth also means “authentic, real, and dependable. We can know and rely on that very One as the foundation of our lives, and believe that He is the One to whom we can lean for eternity. We need to have the intelligence to know and believe in Him. We no longer need to struggle to control, intimidate, or overtake others, or to struggle to manage ourselves according to the goodness of our own hearts. Being under the control of this pure One, this earthly power, is what saves us. We are to follow the coming of the Son of God, Jesus, and the way of life He has revealed to us.

Matthew 20:25 Then Jesus called them to Him and said, “As you know, the rulers of the Gentiles rule over their people, and the great ones wield power over them.

20:26 And it shall not be so among you. But whosoever wills to be great among you, let him be a servant; and whosoever wills to be great among you, let him be a servant,

20:27 He who wants to be a leader among you must be a servant.

20:28 For just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of partiality or vanity, but in humility of mind set one another above yourselves.

2:4 Consider not yourselves only, but also others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

2:6 For though Christ was in the form of God, do not consider equality with God a thing to be adhered to; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect in the sight of God,

2:7 Instead, He humiliated Himself and took the form of a servant, taking the form of a man.

2:8 And he abased himself, and was not like unto man,

2:8 He humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2:9 Therefore God exalted him, and gave him a name above every name.

The Son of God has come and given us the knowledge of the truthful One. We are to make full use of this knowledge.

We are in the One who is the Truth, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

The word “true” is repeated here. He is the One on whom we can depend, the One who believes and is real, the One who is genuine and true. That is eternal life. We can rely on Him forever.

5:21 Children, beware! Be careful and avoid idols.

Idols, on the other hand, are nothing but false images. They are false gods. They have no power to save. They are false and vain. They are only pretense, words, and talk.

But our God actually sent Jesus to take our place and rescue us. Here is the truth.

3:14 For we know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brother. Those who do not love remain in death.

3:15 For ye know that every one that hateth his brother is a murderer: and every murderer abideth not in him eternal life.

3:16 For he hath laid down his life for us, that we might live. For by this we have known the love of God, that we love one another. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

3:17 How can the love of God be in him who has the riches of the world and yet closes his heart in mercy when he sees his brother in need?

3:18 O children! Let us not love one another only with words or with our lips, but let us love one another in deed and in truth.

2:15 Do not love the world and the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of possessions, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

2:17 The world and the lusts of the world pass away. But he who does the will of God abides forever.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Thank you for teaching us that we are born of God and are in the overwhelming protection of the Lord. Thank you that you are the One who is true, real, authentic, and dependable. Let us go forward this week with boldness, knowing that we are being led out of evil so that we can do the right thing. Please lead all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.