

Theme: Faith in Exile – I Peter 1:17-19

Message: We Know – I John 5:13-21

Aim: Celebrate the coming of Christ & what we know because of it.

Intro: What do you know? We often use that phrase as a statement of surprise, but it's a good question. What do you know? What do you know something about, are learning about & what do you know for certain? The apostle John used the word "know" 29 times in this epistle, but he uses 2 different words in the Greek. 13 times he uses "eido" & 16 "ginosko." Ginosko means inceptive & ongoing knowledge & is a general term for knowledge, something one is learning, so it may be incomplete. Peter wrote that we are to "***grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...***" & the word for knowledge is "ginosis" – knowledge that is incomplete & growing. We need to learn more about Jesus throughout our Christian lives. "Eido" means perception & absolute knowledge, complete knowledge. Someone has written, "Christians start w/ginoko – learning, move to epignoko – intense & precise knowledge, accurate & correct knowledge – our growth goal; & finally end w/eido (oida), which is fullness of knowledge." I find it interesting that John wrote about what we know, sometimes w/ginoko – what we're coming to know & are growing in that knowledge; & sometimes w/eido – what we're absolutely sure of. Theme: Faith in Exile (last in the series). I reiterate that we who are in Christ – believers & followers of Jesus – live in this world as exiles. This world is not our home. We're here to represent Christ in the world & influence others for Him as He builds His kingdom thru us. How important it is that we exiles grow in the knowledge of the things of God & equally (or more) important that we know for sure those truths upon which our faith stands – be settled in those truths – know that we know that we know. It's interesting that John uses the word "ginoko"

only once in our text this morning – John 5:13-21, so, using “eido,” he zeroed in on some truths we can & should know for certain [READ]. John ended this epistle w/the most important truth, from which the other truths flow. I) **WE KNOW** (eido – for sure, know that we know that we know) **that the Son of God has come!** (vs20) That literally means He has arrived & is present! “He is here!” John ended his epistle essentially the way he started it. He started by writing about whom he had seen & heard & touched – the Word of Life. He spent much of the epistle pointing to Jesus & urging them to follow Him & love as He loved. He ended the epistle pointing to Jesus. This 1st Sunday of Advent 2023 is the perfect time to declare this wonderful truth. He has come! Many doubt His coming, but we know! That doesn’t mean you never doubt, but the truth of Christ’s coming is truth about which we need not waver. You can take it to the bank, hang your hat upon it. The angels announced His coming; the shepherds marveled at what they saw; the Magi traveled from afar to see the King who had been born. Simeon rejoiced in seeing the hope of Israel. Not only has the Son of God come, but, revealing the Father to us, He has “given us understanding of the truth of the gospel. Because He has come & laid down His life for us on the cross, we may know God, who is true. Because He has come, we who believe are in Him who is true & in Christ. That means we are in God’s family & have His life in us by His Spirit. “In Christ” means that everything Christ has done counts for us – His life, death, resurrection, & ascension count for us. His sinlessness counts for us; His righteous life counts for us. He is coming again for us. He (Son of God) is the true God; He is eternal life – the embodiment of eternal life. We know the Son of God has come! And because He has come, there are other important truths we can know that we know that we know. For those who believe in the name of the Son of God (as Savior/Lord, II) **We Know that we have eternal life** – vs13. The

operative word is “have.” We have eternal life right now. We’ve not yet begun to live it; we’re still in this finite plain, but we have it. The Holy Spirit w/in us is the guarantee of eternal life. When Jesus comes again, He will raise the dead, judge the world & confer on those who are His by faith eternal life. Our part is to hold fast to Him who holds fast to us. He will get us there! Then we’ll be exiles no more! III) Because the Son of God has come & we have believed in His name, **We Know that He hears us when we pray** – vs16. Prayer is a wonderful gift from God – not just asking for things from God, but seeking communion w/God. However, asking is a large part of prayer, as we depend upon our Lord for all of life. Jesus urged us to “keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking” & “it will be given, you will find, it will be opened” (Mt. 7:7). God wants us to ask & He delights to be our benefactor. But there is a caveat here. “Ask anything according to His will.” Prayer is not a frivolous matter, nor a blank check to spend on our whims. Part of communing w/God is seeking His will, wanting what He wants, developing His heart. John encourages us in that he wrote, “if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know He hears us...we know we have the requests we have asked of Him.” This is a caveat indeed, but not hyperbole. God means it. So, take time to discern God’s will, align w/Him & ask away. One thing about which John exhorts us to pray is a bro/sis committing sin. Pray for them & “God will give them life” – pull them out of their sin &/or protect their relationship w/Him. Then he wrote about “sin leading to death.” What does that mean? Since he referred here to a “brother” (or sister) I don’t believe he meant spiritual death. I don’t believe one can lose his/her salvation. So, he must have meant physical death, in the sense of God taking out a believer caught up in sin – a corrective, not condemning judgment. Only God, in His wisdom, knows when that needs to happen. That may even be an answer to our prayer for those struggling in sin.

IV) **We Know that those who are in Christ do not continue to practice**

sin – vs18. That might at 1st seem contradictory. But there is a difference between sin as a way of life & someone struggling w/sin. That difference is the Holy Spirit w/in, who will not allow the believer to be at peace w/sin. I think John is exhorting us to remember who we are in Christ & to not be one whom God deems it necessary to take out. Abide in Christ – stay close to Him. Don't go back to a life of sin – that's not who you are anymore. John gives us assurance of God's protection thru the One (Jesus) who was born of God (only begotten). Because the Son of God has come & has taken our sin upon Himself on the cross, & has risen as triumphant conqueror on our behalf, we have the assurance that He protects us & the evil one (Satan) cannot touch us. That word touch means "adhere to, fasten to, set fire to." As said, Satan may harass you but he cannot have you. He will seek to hinder your walk in Christ, but he cannot steal your relationship w/Christ. Be who you are in Christ & stand firm in the truth. V) **We Know that we are from God & the whole world lies in the power of the evil one** – vs19.

We who believe are blood-bought, born again children of God. We belong to Him – nothing we have done, but all by His grace. There are really only 2 kinds of people in this world – those in Christ/of God, & those who are not. It's strong language for John to say "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one," but it's true. The whole world – "good" people & "bad;" rich & poor, young & old – the whole world lies in the power – is under the dominion of – the evil one (Satan). That means that we who are in Christ, who are in but not of this world, are indeed exiles, looking for a "city that has foundations, whose designer & builder is God." Our lives are under the dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God who has come! We follow Him. Let us be about His business, carrying out His mission. Let us live by faith – faith in the

One we know & the truth we know that we know that we know - faith
in exile.[]