

Series: Family Fellowship
"What We Have and Cannot Lose" # 6
1 John 2:12-14
5-13-18 Sun PM

At first glance, verses 12-14 and 15-17 do not seem to go together- little children, young men, and fathers with "love not the world."

Verses 12-14 gives us the encouragement to heed the exhortation of verses 15-17. If we belong to God and know him as father and heaven is our home, we should give our affections to this life and this world.

Six times John says, "I write unto you" or "I have written." He identifies three groups of people- children, fathers, and young men. Why?

He addresses all believers- new believers, mature believers, and maturing believers. This is not chronological age but spiritual mature and growth.

TT- In light of this, we should know what we have and cannot lose.

I. We are Forgiven (2:12).

This is a basic Christian truth: We have been forgiven for all our sins in Jesus' name. This speaks of His person and work, especially his work on the cross (2:2).

Jesus came to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21) and (I John 1:9).

Jesus is faithful to forgive those who repent and believe in Him because of 2:1-2.

II. We Know God as Father (2:13-14).

When we received Jesus as Lord and Savior we also get God as our Father (see v. 23).

We now in in an abiding, permanent relationship the One who has existed from all creation and the One we see in the Gospels.

John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

"You have known Him" The eternal omnipotent creator God is now our Father. Through forgiveness of sins and adoption, we have come to know Him as Father.

Jer. 31:34, And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Two gifts we cannot lose- eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal relationship as Father.

I. We are Forgiven (2:12).

II. We Know God as Father (2:13-14). “Known him”

III. We are Victors in the Faith (2:13-14). “Overcome the Wicked On”

Young men is the phrase used for warriors in the faith. These maturing believers are champions for Christ engaged in spiritual warfare. Three observations are said of these young men:

1. They are strong.
2. The Word of God abides in them.
3. They have overcome the evil one.

Strength to defeat the evil one comes from the work of Christ (3:8) and the abiding Word.

When Satan accuses us of sin we trust in the work of Christ on the cross and high priestly work in heaven. Our sin debt has been paid.

When Satan tempts us to sin, we turn to the Word of God. John Piper says...

1. Jesus died in our place.
2. The wrath of God is removed.
3. Jesus pleads for us in heaven.
4. We believe the gospel.
5. The word of God abides in us and we overcome the evil one.

Three things we have and cannot lose:

I. We are Forgiven (2:12).

II. We Know God as Father (2:13-14).

III. We are Victors in the Faith (2:13-14).

Thus, we can live separated from this life and the world (2:15-17).