

Famous Last Words

(1 Jn.5:13-21)

Main body of 1 John ends at 5:12

- 13-21 form a summary and a conclusion [similar to John 20:30-31]
- The conclusion restates main themes –
 - Main emphasis: assurance of believer's fellowship with God.
 - Word are repeated: **eternal life** (5:13, 20); **born of God** (5:18); **knowing God, being in Him** (5:20).
 - 'We know': six times in this section

Conclusion is divided into three parts

- 13-17, why John wrote
- 18-20, summary of themes of 1 John, beginning with *we know*.
- 21, final warning against idolatry.

I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

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II. The Greatest Present,
11-13

11-13: the danger of unbelief

- Unbelief is not an error / mistake, but sin.
 - Unbelief calls God a liar (cf. 1:10).
- John writes to protect believers from becoming unbelievers (2:19).
- John gives doctrinal, moral, and social standards for self-examination.

I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

II. The Greatest Present, 11-13

III. How To Pray, 13-15

14-15: we ask – He hears

Confidence: originally, freedom of speech; complete confidence (in Him).

- Previously: 2:28; 3:21; 4:17.
- Does He really hear? Confirmation provides certainty.

His will – a condition of prayer. [3:22]

James 4:1-4, prayer of covetousness...

David, 2 Sm.15:25-26

Paul, 2 Co.12:...7-10

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Strong persistent faith must accompany prayer or we risk turning prayer into wishes...

Marriage

Education

He hears us – as James 4:1-3? ...Lk.18:9-12?

Hear: listen to, 1 Pt.3:12

I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

II. The Greatest Present, 11-13

III. How To Pray, 14-15

IV. How To Pray
For A Brother Who Sins, 16-17

16: sin not to death?

Good to pray for physical needs of others.

3 Jn.2

BUT: spiritual needs are most important.

16: sin not to death?

Jn.11:4, a sickness not unto death... (14)

1 Jn.5:16, a sin not unto death...

- Death results if we persist in any sin

16: sin to death – no need to pray

1. Ancients denied forgiveness possible for sins committed after baptism
 - Based on misunderstanding of Hb.6:4-6
 - Many postponed baptism until near death
 - 1 Jn.1:9; Ac.8; Hb.6:9 (Hb.10:26-32)

16: sin not to death?

Jn.11:4, a sickness not unto death...

1 Jn.5:16, a sin not unto death...

- Death results if we persist in any sin

16: sin to death

2. Others taught that apostates could never be forgiven.

- During persecution, some recanted; later repented . . . BUT: Mt.10:33
- Ct.: Lk.22:31-32 (Jn.21). Ja.5:19-20

16: sin not to death?

Jn.11:4, a sickness not unto death...

1 Jn.5:16, a sin not unto death...

- Death results if we persist in any sin

16: sin to death

3. Some denied that antichrists (or those they deceived) could be saved (4:3).

- They thought this would be same as forgiving satan. 2:19; 2 Pt.2:1... Goals:

¹cause trouble, Ga.1:7

²capture trophies, Ga.2:4

16: sin not to death?

Jn.11:4, a sickness not unto death...

1 Jn.5:16, a sin not unto death...

- Death results if we persist in any sin

16: sin to death

4. Real answer lies in sinner himself.

- 16: sinning a sin...
 - May imply refusal to repent. Lk.13:3
 - Ct. 1 Jn.1:9; Ac.8, can be saved.

Gen.20, Abimelech

Jer.7:16...; 11:...14

17: sin [leading] to death

Prayer cannot help him.

1 Jn.3:4, sin is lawlessness

1 Jn.5:17, ...unrighteousness

The facts

1. 1:8-10, Christians sin. They may be forgiven (implies repentance...).
2. 2:15-17, brother sins (worldliness); will not change; may defend sins.
3. 2:19, brother deceived by gnostics: denies God; will not change. Pray? [Ro.10:1]

I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

II. The Greatest Present, 11-13

III. How To Pray, 14-15

IV. How To Pray For Brother...
16-17

V. The Persistent Peril,
18-21

18: **we know...** begotten of God

Purity and protection

If born of God...do not sin [*sinneth not*]. Ch.3

‘Begotten’ identifies the Father.

‘Touch’: contact with view to causing harm...

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19: **we know...** we are of God

Avoidance and addiction

‘World’ – wicked people who lie in power of
(under sway of] the evil one.

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Avoidance and addiction

‘World’ – wicked people who lie in power of (under sway of] the evil one.

20: **we know...** Son of God

Discernment and destiny. Life, 1:1-3.

21: little children...

Idols??

May refer to false conceptions of God (as heresy of Gnosticism) –

- False god ... False christ ... False hope

More generally: all counterfeit gods.

Idol: anything that takes the place of God.

Common problem: Ga.5:20; Ep.5:5. Rv.2:14...

“The warning is to believers against turning away from God to idolatry, whether ‘openly or secretly, consciously or unconsciously’”