**Day 28 – Freedom From Sin**

5:16-19

Remember, this chapter is really about the assurances we have because we have eternal life! We can be confident of many things. We “know” many things that assure us. Keeping that in mind, take time to carefully read through 5:16-19 at least twice.

1. According to verse 18, what do we know?

Note: “Does not sin” and “keeps” are in the present tense in the Greek. So this verse can be translated, “we know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin (or “continually sin”); but he who has been born of God “continually keeps” himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”

2. What do we learn about the wicked one in verses 18-19?

Note: We must remember, the child of God has 3 enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. We talked about this in a previous lesson.

3. Since we have these 3 enemies, how does a believer keep from sinning according to verse 18?

Note: Many Bible teachers believe the NASB translation of the Bible, translates this properly. “He (Christ) who was born of God keep him (the believer) and the evil one does not touch him.

Other translations of the Bible, like the NKJV or the ESV, give the impression that a believer keeps himself from sin. Of course, it is true that a Christian must keep himself in the love of God (Jude 21); but it is not true that a Christian must depend on himself to overcome the evil one… and that’s the context here.

4. Whenever Satan attacks us, we can be sure that God has done what? (Think of Job! Check out chapter 1: 6-12 and 2:1-7.) The devil wanted to sift peter like wheat, and was he allowed to do that? But what did Jesus do? (Read Luke 22: 31-32)

5. If God gives the devil permission to attack us, what can we be assured of according to 1 Cor. 10:13.

So, what do we know… v18 and 19 could be translated how?

**We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one… who wants us to sin. And, we know whoever is born of God does not practice sin; but He (Jesus) who has been born of God continually keeps him (the believer), and the wicked one does not touch him.**

Now let’s go back to verses 16 and 17. Read them again.

6. According to verse 16, ff anyone sees his brother sinning, what should we do?

7. We pray and what is the promise?

8. We pray for a person who sins which does not lead to what?

9. John says there is a sin that leads to death. Do we pray about that?

Note: Most Bible teachers and commentators don’t believe this is spiritual, where the sin leading to spiritual death would be the blaspheme of the Holy spirit, which is the willful, settled rejection of Jesus Christ.

10. Many believe that here John is talking about sin leading to physical death. What do we learn from the following verses:

1 Cor. 11:27-30

Acts 5:1-11

Hebrews 12:1-13

Concerning the verses in Hebrews, Warren Wiersbe says this: “If a believer does not judge, confess, and forsake sin, God must chasten him, which suggests that a person who does not subject himself to the Father will not live (Heb. 12:9). In other words, first God “spanks” his rebellious children, and if they do not yield to His will, He may remove them from the world lest their disobedience lead others astray and bring further disgrace on His name.”

**Application:**

Practically speaking, as true believers in Christ, what are we to do according to these verses?

And what encouragement do we get out of these verses for today? If you are a true child of God, who does not walk in habitual sin, do you have to worry about a sin that leads to death? And should you fear the wicked one. And when we see a brother or sister sinning a sin not leading to death, what should we do?

Let’s walk in righteousness… that gives us confidence, how?