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1 John 5:13-21
December 28, 2025

Verses 13-15

Believers obtain a true connection to God through Jesus Christ.

Earl F. Palmer—Prayer is the natural breath of a genuine relationship with God.

Verses 16-17

Believers retain a fallen nature which should lead to repentance.

Danny Akin—[The sin that leads to death] is the total rejection of the gospel and of Christ. John is saying to reject biblical teaching and Jesus yields spiritual death. To pray for such a person is futile and useless.

Verse 18

Believers abstain from intentional disobedience as a sign of new life in Christ.

John 17:12 – While I was with them, I have kept them in your name, which you have given me, I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

1 Peter 1:5 – [Those that receive the inheritance of Christ] by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 24 – Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy.

Curtis Vaughan – He is well kept who Christ keeps; the enemy of souls cannot lay hold of him: Satan assaults but cannot seize.

Verse 19

Believers gain an inheritance into the true family of God.

Norman Clayton – Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me; Not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.

1 John 4:4 – Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Verses 20-21

Believers remain in God's Word to worship Him and Him alone.

Verse 21

Colossians 3:5 – Put to death therefore what is earthly in you; sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Ben Merkle – This is a religion that man has created and not that of the apostolic faith. To embrace a form of Christianity that allows one to deny the truth about Jesus, not live a godly life, or not love others, is to create an idol—that is something all Christians must constantly guard against.

How do we respond?

- 1. True Connection with Jesus is eternal**
- 2. Repentance is required for the Christian life.**
- 3. Obedience is a sign of the Christian life.**
- 4. Inheritance is a promise of the Christian life.**
- 5. God's Word sustains the Christian life.**

Scripture Reading: *Ephesians 2:1-10*