

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **1 John Series**

Sermon Title: **Five Eternal Certainties**

Scripture Passage: **1 John 5:13-21**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. One thing you can count on to be constant and certain is that things are going to “change!” Right? Is there any doubt that this has been a year of changes? Begin your group time by using the following question:

How have the events and trials of this pandemic year changed you *spiritually*? What positive, and needed, course corrections has the Lord shown you?

Observation Discovering the context

2. In verse 13 John makes a confident, bold statement. What is it?

If someone were to ask you how you know for certain that your eternal life with the Lord is secure, what would you tell them? How would you support your response biblically?

3. Sometimes people give up on God because they prayed and “nothing happened.” In verse 15, John makes another confident statement when he says, “*And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*”

Does this mean any request we make of God is “in the bag” and we just have to wait for Him to deliver? How would you scripturally support your response to this question?

4. We often end our prayer requests with, “Your will be done.” We may not know what God’s will is, but how do we know if we are praying “in” or “according” to God’s will? Use at least three scriptures to support your response.

Do you ever find yourself anxiously trying to figure out God’s will instead of trusting in Romans 8:28? What happens to your peace, joy, and contentment when you do this?

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

5. Pastor Jerry referenced 2 Corinthians 5:17 in his message this past weekend. Do you ever get discouraged because you feel you should be “better” at being a Christian? Do you ever wonder, *“How can I be a new creation if I still slip and fall back into old habits or my old way of thinking, before Christ? I love the things of God and want to please Him, but how do I get some traction in becoming this new creation that John speaks about?”* Well, if this was a club, many of us would be charter members! We all need the Spirit’s help to live our faith in Christ. But thank God that being a new creation is not based upon our good works or our stellar performance!

A companion scripture passage to 2 Corinthians 5:17 is found in Colossians 3. Here, Paul shows the practical side of how we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can pursue and “put on” the “new man” that Paul calls a “new creation.”

Study Colossians 3:1-17 and write down all the ways Paul shows us that we can be “putting on” the new man. You will be amazed how at how specific God’s Word can get in teaching us the attributes and transforming work that the Spirit wants for us as new creations in Christ. Enjoy this exercise, and be prepared to share what you discovered with your group this week.

Remember, we are all “new creations” in progress and we are “God’s workmanship!” (Ephesians 2:10).

Core Truths Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

Practice Makes Progress Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

Worth Memorizing

Scripture: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?