

That You May Know

Poetic Purpose — 1 John 2:12-14

February 17, 2019

I am writing to you, little children... I am writing to you, fathers... I am writing to you, young men. -1 **John 2:12-14**

I. A PREGNANT PAUSE

- John pauses to poetically invite his readers to self-examination (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5).
- It appears that John is addressing three types of believers here: new believers, mature believers, and growing believers.
- John wants to remind his readers that he believes they have a foundation to their faith. Thus far, his letter has been intense, soul-searching, and even disturbing (1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 11).
- For John, it is the false teachers that he sees as spurious, not the loyal members of the church who are contending for the faith (Phil. 3:1-2; Jude 3).

II. SOME POINTS OF APPLICATION

- It is good to remember our standing in the Lord. We are:
 - *forgiven for the sake of Christ (Acts 2:38, 3:16; 4:12).
 - *those who know the eternal God (Gal. 4:8-9).
 - *strong, and have overcome Satan (Eph. 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4).
- Abiding in the word of God is key to securing a firm foundation in the faith (vs. 14; Luke 8:1-28; Col. 3:16).
 - *It is also a key to salvation (Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:23).

KNOW: When we know that we know Christ, we may speak confidently of our faith. Our sins are forgiven, we know God through Christ, his word dwells in us, and Satan is overcome.

DO: Let God's word dwell in you richly—be confident in your faith.

Suggested Reading:

How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian? by Donald Whitney (LifePoint Library #248.4 WHI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. John writes to what type of people in these passages?
2. Can you relate to at least one of these groups? In what way?
3. How are our sins forgiven "for his name's sake"? What does that mean?
4. John speaks of "overcoming the evil one." How do we overcome Satan as followers of Christ? Can you think of some Scriptures that deal with this issue?
5. Basic question here: Why is it important to have the word of God abiding in us? How do we go about making that happen?
6. What is one application point you can take away from Sunday's message, or from the passage at hand?