



Sunday 12th July 2020

Notes from our Sunday Morning
Pre-recorded Worship

Song

Rescuer

Chorus

He's our Rescuer

He's our Rescuer

We are free from sin forevermore

Oh how sweet the sound

Oh how grace abounds

We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

Verse 1

There is good news for the captive

Good news for the shamed

There is good news for the one who walked away

There is good news for the doubter

The one religion failed

For the good Lord has come to seek and save

Verse 2

He is beauty for the blind man

Riches for the poor

He is friendship for the one the world ignores

He is pasture for the weary

Rest for those who strive

Oh the good Lord is the way the truth the life

Yes the good Lord is the way the truth the life

Bridge

So come and be chainless

Come and be fearless

Come to the foot of Calvary

There is redemption for every affliction

Here at the foot of Calvary

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Reading: 1 John 5:13-21

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Talk by Jens Mankel – An Expectant Family

An expectant Family has perspective because it knows something!

John is stating the reason for writing the letter in verse 13: I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Eternity is yours – now! To know God is in fact eternal life (John 17:3)

Eternal life is knowing God. You may be disappointed with that definition. You think you know God and you still aren't satisfied. You want there to be something more. The key lies in understanding what the Bible means by this word "know."

This was speaking of much more than just intellectual knowledge. It can be seen in hundreds of Bible scriptures, like, *"Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain"* (Gen. 4:1). Adam didn't just know Eve intellectually. That won't produce children. He had an intimate, personal experience with her. This was speaking of a knowing between a man and a woman in the most intimate way possible.

Likewise, when Jesus said eternal life was knowing God, He was speaking of having an intimate, close, personal relationship with God. That's awesome!

Many people believe Jesus died to forgive their sins, but they still don't have a close, personal, intimate relationship with their Father God. They think that is reserved for heaven. They are content to muddle through life singing songs about how, when we all get to heaven, what a day that will be.

That is not to take anything away from heaven, but we are supposed to have eternal life (close, intimate, personal relationship with God our Father and Jesus Christ His Son) right now. It's not "pie in the sky by and by" but rather "steak on your plate while you wait." (Andrew Wommack)

Jesus said in John 3:16 that God loved the world so much, He gave His only begotten Son so those who believed on Him wouldn't perish but have everlasting life. **If all you have done is believe on Jesus so you won't go to hell, then you are missing out on the everlasting life the Lord wants to have with you right now.**

1. Know your heritage!

Example: Birth certificate – You not only find your name on it but in most cases you will find your parent's names on there as well. With that you know where the family resemblance lies. When you believe in Jesus Christ you become born again. John wants you to know that you are born of God (v.18): how do you know that? You stop sinning! There is transformation in your life towards others and yourself. You learn to deny yourself as you follow Jesus. You learn to love sacrificially. You do all that because being born of God means that you show family resemblance! You start to resemble the Father's cruciform character. Just as Jesus was able to say: 'look at me and you see what the Father looks like!' so are we who are born of God able to recognise that we are born again Christians by the fact that we resemble our Father in Heaven.

So what about the sin that leads to death? (v. 16-17)

It's not the magnitude of any given sin like, "Whoa that sin is so great that the cross of Christ is not sufficient for it." That's not how you want to think about a 'sin that is unto death'. John is speaking about the attitude, the disposition of the sinner that excludes the possibility of him or her ever being forgiven. In the context of this little epistle, it's a person who is intent on denying the true Christ!

That's what John is saying through this book. He's saying, "We touched Him." "We know Him." "Jesus is true," he says, "listen to us the apostles. You hear us. You give yourself to the apostles' doctrine. If you deny the Christ of the apostles, if that is your attitude, and if that is your disposition, that is a sin unto death. If you deny the only remedy and you walk out and you dig in your heels. You're done!"

2. Know how to trust God (v.19):

In these verses John encourages us to believe and to be bold!

Becoming childlike again is different from becoming childish! Jesus told his disciples to become childlike in their faith in trust towards God. This includes that we develop a deep trust in God **believing** that we receive from Him everything we need in life. There is no need to tread down others in order to rise above them. There is always enough for everyone in God's Kingdom. We are all receivers of God's life and provisions. It is this fact, that we are receivers, that God invites his children to ask Him **boldly** for what we need in prayer (v.14).

3. Know Jesus (v.20):

Paul proclaims in Colossians 'Christ in you – the hope of glory!'

God's plan is **to make known his secret to his people**, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. **And the secret is that Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God.** (Col. 1:27) This literally means that Jesus comes to live in you by the power of the Holy Spirit to display the glorious character of God through you! If you know Jesus and what he is like intimately and by experience you begin to display His godly character in all circumstances. You will start to display love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – 'because just as He is, so are we in this world' (Gal 5:22 & 1John 4:17). Christlikeness is a true sign of knowing Jesus.

4. Keep yourself from idols!

What is an idol? It is the thing loved or the person loved more than God, wanted more than God, desired more than God, enjoyed more than God. It could be your partner. It could be your career or job. It could be a hobby or for all I know your favourite electric guitar. People idolise lifestyles, their rights, or achievements, even their own bodies. I know a guy who owns a fishing lake with huge trout in it. At some point he had to challenge a customer who spent every weekend, including the nights, fishing. My friend was worried for this customer's marriage, because this guy never seemed to spend his weekends at home with his wife anymore. Fishing seemed to have become an idol to this guy.

Idols are cumbersome, their image is made by us, maintained by us and carried by us (check out Isaiah 46:1-7). God does not tolerate idolatry because it draws you away from God who is life eternal. Idolatry starts in the heart: craving, wanting, enjoying, being satisfied by anything that you treasure more than God. Idolatry is a refusal to put God first in everything you do.

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (See 1 Thess. 1:9-10).

John ends his letter by raising eternal expectation in his readers:

- Know your heritage.
- Know how to trust God.
- Know Jesus.
- Keep yourself from idols!

Songs

This I Believe (The Creed)

Verse 1

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

Chorus 1

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Verse 2

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

Bridge

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

Chorus 2

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

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Holy And Anointed One

Verse 1

Jesus Jesus
Holy and Anointed One
Jesus

Verse 2

Jesus Jesus
Risen and Exalted One
Jesus

Chorus

Your name is like honey on my lips
Your Spirit like water to my soul
Your Word is a lamp unto my feet
Jesus I love You I love You

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Family News

We're sad to announce that Hannah Jenkinson, Youth Pastor, and Jo Foster, Children's Pastor will be leaving their posts at the end of July, and in October, respectively. Hannah and Jo have been great assets to the team and the church since their arrivals in 2016/2017 and we will miss them greatly! Please do be praying for them and their families as they move into the next chapter of their lives, and for the recruitment process to appoint their successors, on which more information will be announced shortly.

Do contact the Church office if you would like any **personal prayer**, and we'd be glad to organise this for you.

Thanks for joining us!