*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, November 27th, 2018

*Susan says, “Many believers struggle with assurance and wonder if they really have made Christ Lord of their life. So, how does one know for sure that they are among the redeemed, and that they will for sure enter into the kingdom of Heaven?...There are certain tests that He has left for us in His Word which validate whether or not we are His children. John give us two of those evidences in this lesson that reveal if in fact we are truly born again. It is not in what we say, but it is in what we do. It is not in how we talk, but in how we walk.” (pg.47)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 4– “Does Your Talk Match Your Walk?” – 1 John 2:3-6 (pg. 58)

“What does it mean to ***know Him***? …It does not mean that we have come to know about Him, but that we have come to know Him…experientially…Our redemption is continuously manifested by our sanctification, by our conformity to the person of Jesus Christ. So to know Christ means that we have a personal *(saving)* relationship with Him, and it is a relationship that will continue to the end.” Knowing God “is a knowledge that leads to action, and that action is keeping His commandments.” (pg. 49-50)

“So let’s summarize the two tests John mentions: *The Test of Obeying His Word* (vv 3-5), and *The Test of* *Walking His Walk* (v 6). “There is a valid test to make certain one is a believer in Jesus Christ, and it has nothing to do with the past but everything to do with the present. It has to do with keeping His commandments.” (pg. 48)

{In his bible study notes on these verses, Pastor MacArthur says, “The repetition of these words (**know**…**keep**) emphasizes that those genuinely born again display the habit of obedience. Obedience results in assurance of salvation (cf. Eph. 2:2; 1 Pet. 1:14). That these two words are among John’s favorites is clear since he uses “know” approx. 40 times and “keep” approx..10 times in this epistle.”}

If you are struggling with your assurance today, it may be that you are not a believer, or it may be due to the fact that you are not keeping some of His commandments. “You might say, “Susan, you’re making this really hard. There is no way I can keep all of His commandments.” You’re right, without Him andwithout the enabling of His Spirit you can’t. The good news about keeping His commandments is what Jesus just said in Matthew 28, “I am with you always,” or as He said in John 15:5, “without Me you can do nothing.” **On our own we cannot but with Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit we can keep His commandments**.” (pg.52-53)

“John will tell us later on in his letter, in 1 John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” The keeping of God’s commands is not burdensome---they aren’t irksome, they aren’t weighty, and they aren’t heavy…Obeying God is not a burden; it is a joy, and it is freeing. (Matthew 11:28-30). Sin is heavy; sin is a burden.” (pg.50-51)

“What did Jesus say in Luke 6:46? “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” Jesus knew that a claim to His Lordship without obeying His Lordship was no Lordship!...It is a heartache to hear people say, “I know Him,” but yet do not obey Him…John says, if you say that you know Him and yet do not keep His commandments, then there are two things that are true about you. Number one ---you are a liar. Number two ---the truth is not in you.” (pg. 53)

Is there some known sin in your life? I would encourage you to be diligent to seek the face of the Lord and ask Him to show you if you are just an “if-we-sayer,” or if there perhaps is some sin that is causing you to doubt your relationship with Him.

Secondly, are you walking His walk (v 6)? Does your life reflect the life of the Saviour? {In his bible study notes on this verse, Pastor MacArthur says, “Jesus’ life of obedience is the Christian’s pattern. Those who claim to be Christians ought to live as He did (cf. John 6:38) since they possess His Spirit’s presence and power.”}

Are you doing as He would do? Are you saying what He would say? Are you going where He would go? There is a rather sobering thought found in the cathedral at Lubek, Germany, which perhaps is a good summary of what John is saying in these few verses we have covered.

**You call Me Master, and obey Me not;**

**You call Me Light, and seek Me not;**

**You call Me Way, and Walk Me not;**

**You call Me Wise, and follow Me not;**

**You call Me Fair, and love Me not;**

**You call Me Rich and ask Me not;**

**You call Me Eternal, and seek Me not;**

**You call Me Gracious, and trust Me not;**

**You call Me Noble, and serve Me not;**

**You call Me Mighty, and honor Me not;**

**You call Me Just, and fear Me not;**

**If I condemn you, blame Me not.**”