



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

True Confidence

I John 2:3-17

Read 1 John 2:3-17 together:

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not

from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- ? How does knowing what you believe is true create confidence?

Context:

- ? Review 1 John 1:1-3. Why should we trust John's words?
- ? Why do you think John describes his hearers as little children? How does his encouragement in this passage reflect the way that we'd speak to children?

Content:

1. I can know that I know God: Verses 1-6

- ? How many times is the word "know" repeated in this section?
- ? What is the proof of our relationship with God according to these verses?

2. I can test whether I am walking in the light: Verses 7-11

- ? What test of following God is given in these verses?
- ? Do you think the person who is in darkness is a Christian or non-Christian? Why?
- ? Read John 13:34-35 in the green box. Where did John get this concept from?

3. I have experienced the joy of salvation: Verses 12-14

This is an unusual section of Scripture, and not all scholars agree on its purpose, but whether John means to speak to specific ages and life stages or to a variety of spiritual maturity, we can all see ourselves somewhere in these verses.

- ? Why would little children be told that their sins are forgiven and that they know the Father?
- ? Why would John remind fathers of their knowledge of God?
- ? Why might young people need a reminder that they have overcome the Evil One and that God's Word abides in them?

4. I imitate what I love: Verses 15-17

- ? How does loving the world keep us from the Father's love?
- ? Why is loving the world foolish according to verse 17?

Application:

- ? Do you ever wonder if someone you know (or even you) is saved? How can we wisely apply these litmus tests? What would a foolish or judgmental application of these litmus tests look like?
- ? How can you be confident in faith according to these verses? Where in your life do you need such confidence?
- ? What things of this world are you tempted to love? How does this love affect your actions?

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.