



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 2:12-15- ASSURED STANDING/SOLEMN WARNING!

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John, the disciple and Apostle of Jesus Christ writes to those Christians who are under his care and watch. He is almost 100 years old as he writes with great love and concern for those who are enduring persecution of all kinds for their faith in Christ. Many came to faith under his teaching, and many have grown up under his pastoring. Therefore, with fatherly compassion and concern, John writes to encourage them about their salvation and security in Jesus Christ that is certain. Yet he also warns them that being a Christian does not make one immune to the world's allurements.

I. ASSURED STANDING/SOLEMN WARNING!

1 JOHN 2:12-15

(12) "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. (14) I have written to you fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written 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, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:12-15

John writes about the believers' assured standing with God the Father and he also warns believers about the allurements of the world that to which Christians are not immune.

A. ASSURED STANDING- 1 JOHN 2:12-14

John writes as a father to his "little children" in the faith. As a father, there is great care and concern for watching over his children. He has expended his life to share about the only hope for the world and that is Jesus Christ. John knew Christ personally and intimately as His disciple and Apostle, committed to sharing His Lord with a lost world.

In these verses, John writes to Christians of all ages and maturity in their walk and life with Christ. He wants to assure each one that their sins have been forgiven because they know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and that means they are at peace with God. (Romans 5:1) There is a solid and secure standing into which every believer has come and the first is that they have acknowledged their sin before God and their sin has been forgiven. Jesus Christ has redeemed them. In such uncertain and difficult times, they can be assured of their relationship with Christ and confident in their beloved standing with God. This is true of every Christian.

Secondly, John writes that believers "know Him". Whether he speaks of fathers, children or young men, every Christian has the unique privilege of knowing God personally. To know God is our greatest pursuit and it is God's highest purpose for man. John recorded Jesus' own words in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Knowing God is our highest pursuit and it is eternal life! Forgiveness of sins is a free gift from God and being able to know Him personally, intimately and increasingly is a free gift to all believers. Think of it, that we might have fellowship with the Creator of the universe? A shared life with Him comes only by believing God Himself took on flesh in His Son Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, died the death sinners deserve, and then arose in victory over sin and death. In Jesus, we are forgiven and brought face to face with the true, living God to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him. Indeed, the true message of the gospel of Christ produces a true fellowship of shared life with God Himself where we are saved to belong to Him! It is a shared life of communion with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. Amazing! Moreover, this life of knowing God only grows deeper every day.

Thirdly, John writes to encourage every Christian that there is victorious strength in Jesus Christ to "overcome the evil one", Satan. These believers were persecuted and under attack for their faith in Christ. To be clear, Satan is no cartoon figure. He is the enemy of God and of the people of God. This enmity was inaugurated in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15) and will only end when Jesus returns in power and glory at the end of the age to finally cast Satan into the "lake of fire". (Revelation 20:10) Union with Christ is union with the all-victorious Son of God. Satan is a defeated foe. He continues to roar (1 Peter 5:8), but his head has been crushed by the living Lord. (Genesis 3:15) This is the certainty every believer has whether young or old.¹ This is the confident victory assured every Christian in this life and the one to come.

Therefore, John writes to his "little children" to encourage them about their salvation and security in Christ. It is also with the exhortation to "excel still more" (1 Thessalonians 4:10 and grow deeper in Christ. Peter wrote these words, "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on you guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him

BIBLE STUDIES

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be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:17-18)

B. SOLEMN WARNING! - 1 JOHN 2:15

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 John 2:15

There is an assured standing into which every believer has come; of the forgiven of sins, the privilege of knowing Christ and growing, and the victorious strength in Christ to defeat the assaults of Satan. With those encouraging words in 1 John 2:12-14, John then turns to this solemn warning for every Christian. *“Do not love the world.”*

Being a Christian does not make you immune to the world's allurements. Paul sadly records for us the example of Demas saying this, *“for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...”* (2 Timothy 4:10) He had a love for this present world and deserted Christ, which is exactly what John warns against. Jesus said that you cannot serve two masters, *“for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* (Matthew 6:24) So to be clear, what is the world?

“world” Greek **“kosmos”** the human society and way of life governed by Satan with its false values, false claims, and false gods. It is the organized, evil system that hates and opening defies God Who made everything. It is the world where the desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes and the pride of life dominate life. The world is at war against the kingdom of God.

Therefore, the world is under the dominion of Satan. He is the prince of the world. (John 12:31, John 14:30) Scripture tells us that the whole world lies in wickedness in and under the power of the evil one. (John 14:19) It is this world we are not

to love, court its favors, adopt its maxims, nor covet its prizes. The Christ-less world has always opposed the will of God. It would be impossible for the heart to be set upon the world and at the same time be filled with love for the Father.²

So maybe I do not love the world, but maybe some things that are in the world. And John quickly responds to that thought by answering, *“nor the things in the world.”* Can I view the world separately and have some pieces that are an attraction for me still? And yet, the love of what is in the world, is really the love of the world, if I am to be honest for John will go on to say, *“for all that is in the world..”* which are categorized into three areas...and in these directions the soul is allured.³ (1 John 2:16)

John makes it clear that there is no neutrality. Either you love the world or you love God. Do we accept God's standards or the world's? What Christians are to avoid is sharing in the sinful, God dishonoring ambitions, desires and activities of this fallen world. John's warning is very solemn, *“If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* (1John 2:15) A true believer in Jesus Christ comes to perceive that the shallow and sinful attractions of the world for what they are *“...passing away”* (1 John 2:17)⁴ You cannot love God and the world at the same time. (James 4:4)

How easy can it be to serve in the Capitol and not be caught up with the world or the things that are in the world? As a Christian, are you serving God or man? Remember, Christ said that you cannot serve two masters. Do you accept God's standards or the world's standards? There is no middle ground. Do you love the world or do you love God? Is God's love truly in you? If it is, you will not love the world. In our next study, John goes on to clarify what it means to love the world and the things that are in the world.

¹ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 20.

² Erdman, Charles R., *The General Epistles: An Exposition*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1919. Pg.123.

³ Candlish, Robert S., *A Commentary on 1 John*. (1st Published 1866), Banner of Truth, London. 1973. Pg.170.

⁴ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 21.