

1 John
(Lesson 13)

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are examining the information presented in 1 John 5:1-12.
2. As we study this letter we must remember that John wrote it to Christians who were being influenced by false teachers he called "*antichrists*."
 - a. These people created quite a disturbance in the early church.
 - b. In 2:26 John issued a strong warning against these people.
 - 1) Some of them denied that Jesus is the Christ (2:22-23).
 - 2) Some of them denied that Jesus came in the flesh as God's Son (4:3).
3. (5:1-12) John showed how a person must resist the influence of the "*antichrists*" and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-3) TO BE BORN OF GOD, WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST
 - A. (vs.1a) "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*"
 1. Did the "*antichrists*" believe that Jesus is the Christ?
 2. No, and because they did not believe that Jesus is the Christ, they were not born of God.
 - B. To be born of God, a person must believe that Jesus is the Christ; however, are there any other requirements?
 1. (vs.1b) A person must love those who have been begotten of God.
 2. How do we know when we love God's children?
 3. (vs.2) We love God's children "*when we love God, and keep his commandments.*"
 4. Why must we keep God's commandments?
 5. (vs.3) We show our love for God by keeping His commandments, and we do not consider them to be burdensome.
 - C. Basically, John summed up in vs.1-3 what he has been teaching about having fellowship with God and being born of God (2:3-5, 9-11; 3:23-24a; 4:15, 19, 20-21).
- II. (vs.4-5) TO OVERCOME THE WORLD, WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
 - A. (vs.5) "*Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*"
 1. Did the "*antichrists*" believe that Jesus is God's Son?
 2. No, and because they did not believe that Jesus is God's Son, they were overcome by the world.
 - B. (vs.4a) To be born of God, a person must overcome the world.
 - C. John basically summed up what he said earlier about the Christian's relationship with the world (2:15-17).
 - D. (vs.4b) Faith in Christ is the key to overcoming the world (Colossians 3:1-4).
- III. (vs.6-12) JOHN PRESENTED THE TESTIMONY OF SEVERAL WITNESSES TO PROVE THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME IN THE FLESH AS GOD'S SON
 - A. John began with the testimony of the Spirit in vs.6-8.
 1. His testimony is reliable because "*the Spirit is truth*" (see John 16:13).
 2. The Spirit testifies that Jesus "*came by water and blood.*"
 - a. Water: Matthew 3:13-16; John 1:32-34
 - b. Blood: John 19:34
 - B. John also included the testimony of God in vs.9-12.
 1. John mentioned God's testimony about Jesus in vs.9 -- His testimony is recorded in Matthew 3:17; 17:5.
 2. John showed in vs.10-12 that God's testimony about Jesus must be believed.
 - a. Those who accept it inherit eternal life.
 - b. Those who reject it do not have life.