

Final Comments and Smart Remarks

1 Jn 5:13-21

I had a professor in college that I really looked up to. He would end every class with a refrain you have heard me use several times. “Any final comments, thoughts...smart remarks?”

This is the last lesson of our study of 1 John. It seemed fitting to call this lesson “final comments and smart remarks.” John finishes this letter with some last thoughts that summed up what he wanted them to understand. They’re even smart remark, but not probably in the way Dr. Bush meant it! John gives them several quick comments; Know you are saved, pray for your brother’s and sister’s sins, let God keep you from sin, and keep away from idols. Every one of John admonitions, including idols is relevant to us today.

PRAYER

- I. That You May Know That You Have Eternal Life – vs 13
 - A. Doubts ruin a good relationship
 1. I once dealt with a husband and wife who had a very stormy marriage. As we talked, I realized that most of their problems came from the fact that neither one really believed the other one loved them anymore. They built a

marriage on the assumption that the other one would cheat on them. They couldn't draw close to each other because of those doubts in the marriage.

2. What a terrible waste of what could be a great marriage.
3. Due to low self-esteem or other problems, many people deal with all kinds of relationships that way.
 - a) I was hurt by someone some time back, so I won't trust anyone again.
 - b) I opened myself up to a friend and they took advantage of it, so I will never have close friends again.
4. There are some very lonely people in this world and probably right here in this group, because you won't give others a chance to know and love you.
5. Can I promise you will never get hurt again? Of course not, but what a waste thinking everyone will treat you the way a couple have treated you.
6. You miss so much of the good in this life when you approach it that way.

B. We don't trust God

1. The saddest person is the one who doesn't trust God.
2. You argue "Oh yes I do, but I just don't know if I am saved."
3. So many Christians struggle with believing they are really saved.
4. Listen, Jesus said it, so it must be true!
5. Is Jesus a liar? Is he out to hurt you?
6. Then why not realize that once you give your life to him, he will never reject you.
7. You might reject him, but he'll never reject you.
8. He will give you that chance to repent until your dying breath, only then will you have to face him as a judge rather than a savior.
9. John backs this up by showing us how our prayers are answered.
10. 1 John 5:14–15 (ESV) — 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we

know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

11. A minister from New York told a story about a little girl who was saying her good night prayers as her parents stood beside her bed and listened. She began, "Dear Lord, now I lay me down to sleep." Before she said "Amen," she added an extra line to the familiar bedtime prayer. "And, dear Lord, please send the lovely snow to keep the flowers warm all winter." As she jumped into bed, she smiled mischievously at her parents, who were glowing with pride because of her apparent thoughtfulness and piety. But

her next statement startled them. "I guess I sure fooled the Lord this time. I really wanted the snow to come so I can play with my new sled!"

12. How often do we try the same thing as adults?
13. We turn our prayers into a wish list of our desires.
14. This passage isn't about using God as Santa Clause, but realizing that we WANTS to bless us and give us eternal life.
15. He isn't looking for ways to zap you with a lightning bolt, but for ways to keep you pure and Heaven bound.
16. Don't live a life always in doubt, live your life knowing that God wants in the worst way to see to your spiritual welfare.

II. Pray for Your Brother

A. Sin that leads to death

1. Starting in vs 16, John goes on to talk about praying for our fellow brethren.
2. This is one of the more difficult passages of the Bible
3. There are various interpretations of what a sin that leads to death is, but no clear-cut evidence on what John is talking about.
4. For our purposes, let's look at the purpose of the prayer.
5. We see people sinning every day.
 - a) For those who are not Christians, it should be our honest desire to see them repent and give their lives to God, but we also realize, they are of the world, and often don't care.
 - b) Seeing another Christian sin is a different matter in my opinion.
 - c) We should never sit idly by and watch a brother or sister sin without trying to do something about it.
 - d) In the church today, you find a great reluctance to confront a fellow Christian about their sin. People in the church will actually get mad

when Elders step up to deal with someone who is unwilling to change their lifestyle to be right with God!

6. We have a scriptural obligation to go to that person.
 - a) In Matthew 18 we are told to go to our brother who is sinning.
 - b) James 5:20, and Gal 6:1 commends the one who turns a sinner from his sin.
7. So, the purpose of the prayer in our text, whether they are Christian or not, is that they repent.

B. What sin leads to death?

1. I will be honest, I simply don't know.
 - a) The 2 thoughts that makes sense to me are these:
 - b) Some sins have rapid physical consequences that lead to death. Either death by the sin itself or death because of execution.
 - c) The 2nd one was going back to earlier in 1 John when he talked about those who didn't believe in Jesus being the Son of God, or denying his physical humanity.
 - d) That thought process would dismiss the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
 - e) There would be no forgiveness; similar to Jesus talking about blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.
 - f) Denying the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. However, it doesn't hurt to pray for the brother that his heart be changed. You never know what might transpire.
3. You don't forget them; you just don't concentrate all your efforts on them anymore.
4. We all know people in that situation. It might be family, close friend or whoever, but you know that they know everything needed to obey God and until their heart changes, nothing more you say will change the situation.
5. Sadly, there comes a time when you just have to say, there is no more I can do, only God can change them now, and you move on.

III. Let God Keep You from Sin – vs 18

A. Ongoing battle in our hearts

1. For all Christians, especially young Christians, keeping from temptation is an ongoing battle.
2. Most of us fall to temptation, not because it was too great, but we were too willing.
3. Hopefully the longer you are a Christian; the more you depend on Christ to help you in times of temptation.
4. And spiritual maturity will cause you to mature beyond many temptations.
5. V 19 reminds us that the whole world is under Satan's control.
6. By being a true believer, you are in a small minority of the world.
7. As a whole, the world turned their backs on God for the gods of this world.

B. Vs 20 points to how important it is to equate the Son with the Father.

1. 1 John 5:20 (ESV) — 20 And we know 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, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

2. John uses the Phrase “We know” repeatedly in these last couple of verses to emphasis important issues.
 - a) We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin.
 - b) We know that we are children of God.
 - c) We know that the son of God has come.
3. That last statement ends with “He is the true God and eternal life”
4. To fight the Gnosticism we talked about a few weeks ago, John stresses that God and Jesus were wrapped together.
5. For us today, it is just as important.
 - a) Jesus is the saving power of God.,
 - b) The HS is the working of God in our Lives.
 - c) The Father is the holiness of God.

IV. Keep yourselves from Idols. - 21

A. An odd statement

1. This is the only mention of idols in this whole book.
2. Does that seem out of place to you?
3. John has been talking about Christ, sin, walking in light, God’s love, Man’s love, and then, BOOM avoid idols.
4. Idols are the antithesis of everything John had just written about.
5. So it makes sense to people after hearing about God, that idols cannot be a part of Christian life.
6. Our idols today are more sophisticated, but just as accepted, and just as insidious as they were back then.
7. Gen 1:26 God said, let us make man in our image. Ever since then we have tried to do the same thing with God.

B. We want a god like us rather than to be like God.

1. They may be of gold like In a Kyoto, Japan temple. It's unusual place of worship called "The Temple of the Thousand Buddhas." On display inside the shrine are more than a thousand likenesses of Buddha, each just a little different from the others. They are there so the devotee can come in, find the one that looks the most like himself, and worship it.
2. Or they may be in how we interpret what Kind of God we want.
3. I don't want a condemning God, just a loving God.
4. I want a God that gives me a comfortable life with no obligations.
5. In our minds, we fashion our idol.

C. Conclusion

1. As I wrap up; If you want a good practical book on Christian living, you don't have to go to the bookstore, just read 1 John from time to time.
2. It is a great guide on how we should be and who we should be.
3. It will challenge the new and old Christian alike.
4. But it is all just words unless Jesus is in your life.