



Overcoming Doubt

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1 John 3:19-24

03/24/19

REVIEW — The point John is making in chapter 3:4-18

The Passage — A contrast of two kinds of people

1. A Christian is someone who practices (as a pattern of lifestyle) righteous living and sacrificial love (lays his life down) for others.

*“No one who abides in Him **sins**; **no one who sins** has seen Him or knows Him.... the one who **practices righteousness** is righteous, just as He is righteous;”*

*“We know we have passed out of death into life, **because we love the brethren**. We know love by this, that **He laid down His life** for us; and we out to **lay down our lives for the brethren**.”*

2. A non-Christian is someone who practices (as a pattern of lifestyle) sin and hates (with murderous hate as Cain) others.

*“Everyone **who practices sin also practices lawlessness**, ... **no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him**. He who **does not love abides in death**. Everyone **who hates his brother is a murderer**; and you know that **no murderer has eternal life** abiding in him.”*

The Point — This is how we know who we belong to

*“... **by this the children of God and the children of the devil** are obvious...”*

*“Not as Cain, who **was of the evil one** and slew his brother.”*

INTRODUCTION — Can we really have confidence that we are saved?

- The Positions — What others have said
- The Passages — What the Bible says

Hebrews 6:11; 10:22

2 Peter 1:10

1 John 3:19 (cf. 1 John 5:13)

LESSON — Overcoming Doubt 3:19-24

I. THE CONDEMNING HEART — The Battle vs. 19-20

The Condition — What is John describing?

*“We will **know by this** that we are of the truth, and will **assure** our heart **before Him** in whatever our heart **condemns us**; for God is **greater than our heart** and **knows all things.**”*

The Cure — How do we help our condemned heart?

It depends on your interpretation of these verses

1. The **COMFORT** interpretation **CONSOLES** us as it points forward to vs. 21-24
2. The **CONFRONTING** interpretation **CRUSHES** us as it points back to vs. 4-18
3. The **CONQUERING** interpretation **COMBINES** the first two interpretations.

II. THE CONFIDENT HEART — The Blessings vs. 21-24

The Blessing of **ANSWERED** Prayer. (vs. 21-22; Cf. John 15:17; 16:23-24; James 4:2-3; 1 John 5:17) = **CONTENTMENT**

The Blessing of **ABIDING** in God. (vs. 23-24) = **CERTAINTY**

Applying this to our lives ...