

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
October 20, 2021  
1 John 2:12-14 KJVS  
Doubles and Triples

[12] I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. [13] I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. [14] I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

John's work in this epistle gets a bit repetitious. God's Word in general is much the same from Old Testament accounts to the words of Christ. Repetition in the Bible is understood as a doubling down of Truth or a witness unto itself. John 5:30-33. John here is drawing emphasis to his testimony of some basic facts of the gospel. The forgiveness of sins, our ancient familial relationship with the Father, our strength through His Word and our overcoming of evil. Let's break it all down.

[12] I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

We obviously benefit deeply from the forgiveness of sin. Our burden is lifted and our eternity is secure. John 5:24, 6:37, 10:27-29. Something we may overlook is perhaps the chief focus of our salvation. The great work of Christ on the cross was to assure His glorification, His fidelity and obedience to His Father and to preserve the promise and prestige of His Wonderful Name. His name is hated by the world but revered among us, His believers. How would we see His Name if He broke His promise to us and released us of our salvation? Acts 2:38, 4:12, Romans 10:13. He forgave us because His great integrity and self worth would allow no less.

[13] I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

John begins here his triple statement of our knowing God. God is nothing new to the Jewish fathers. Though their understanding of Him had to progressively grow through the dispensing of revelation they nonetheless knew God, their creator and sustainer since the earliest days of man. Adam knew Him. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and on down through the Kings and the Prophets. Each knew the Lord and became a link in the chain of growing knowledge as the Heavenly Father allowed more and more of His character to be displayed to mankind. Jeremiah 9:23-24, 31:33-34. We find next the first of the double statement about overcoming the "wicked one".(Greek; ponēros; the hurtful one that is evil which indicates degeneracy from original virtue, calamitous; also ill that is diseased; but especially morally culpable that is derelict, vicious, facinorous; mischief, malice, the devil, bad, evil, grievous,

harm, lewd, malicious, wicked, full of labours, annoyances, hardships, pressed and harassed by labours, bringing toils, annoyances, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble, of a bad nature or condition. There was even more but we get it, right?) Can any of us overcome such a one? Yes! Through Christ! John 16:33, Romans 8:31-39, 1John 5:4-5.

[14] I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

We have now the end of the repeating statements in these three verses but two more points are to be made in conjunction with them. We know our God through His Son, Jesus. Through Him also we overcome the wicked one. What mechanism facilitates these Wonders? Our strength comes from the Indwelling Word of God. Does the written Bible live within? No. The Living Word lives within. John 1:1,14, 14:17, Romans 8:9-10. Knowing God is Strength. Strength is the Indwelling Spirit of Christ. The Indwelling Christ overcomes the wicked one. He rules and we win! Dig it?