

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST

(3)

Message Twelve

The True One

RK *Hymns*: 496, 602

Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:6, 11-13, 20; 1:1-3; 3:24; 4:2, 6

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

1 John 4:2 In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

I. In 1 John 5:20 we have the crucial conclusion of the entire Epistle of 1 John:

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

A. This Epistle reveals that now we are truly one with the Triune God, and He becomes true, real, to us—1:3; 3:24; 4:2.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

1 John 4:2 In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

B. He becomes reality and life to us because we are in Him—5:6; 2:24-25; 4:13.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

II. We come to know the Triune God by experiencing and enjoying Him—1:5; 2:27; 4:16; 5:11-12:

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

A. The concern of the apostle John in writing his Epistles was the experience and enjoyment of the Triune God—2 John 8.

2 John 8 *Look to yourselves that you do not lose the things which we wrought, but that you may receive a full reward.*

B. The Triune God is not merely the object of our faith; He is dwelling in us as our life and life supply for our experience and enjoyment—1 John 4:13-15.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.

C. We need to know the Triune God experientially through the inner enjoyment of the subjective God—2:27; 4:4.

1 John 2:27 *And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.*

1 John 4:4 *You are of God, little children; and you have overcome them because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

D. If we would know the Triune God, we must be in the line of life and in the process of the growth in life; the more we grow in life, the more we will be concerned with the Divine Trinity.

III. The Epistles of John reveal the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—1 John 1:1-2; 2:23-24; 3:24; 4:2, 6, 13-14; 5:6, 11-12; 2 John 9:

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

1 John 2:23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

1 John 4:2 In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

2 John 9 Everyone who goes beyond and does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

A. To know the Father is to know Him as the source, the unique Initiator, the One who plans,

originates, and initiates; everything originates with Him, and everything proceeds from Him—1 John 1:2-3; 2:23-24; 4:2, 6, 13-14; 2 John 9:

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 2:23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.
1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
1 John 4:2 In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.
1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.
1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.
2 John 9 Everyone who goes beyond and does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

1. The Father is the source of the eternal life; from Him and with Him the Son was manifested as the expression of the eternal life for those the Father has chosen to partake of and enjoy this life—1 John 1:2-3; 5:11-12.

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

2. The title *Father* refers to the impartation of life; through Christ's resurrection the Father imparts His life to His children—3:1; 1 Pet. 1:3.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

B. In 1 John 1:1-2 both the *Word of life* and *life* denote the divine person of Christ, the Son, who was with the Father in eternity and was manifested in time through incarnation—John 1:1, 14:

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);
John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

1. Christ the Son is the eternal, preexisting One who is the word of life from the beginning—1 John 2:13a, 14a.

1 John 2:13a I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning....

1 John 2:14a I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning....

2. The Son of God was manifested that He might undo and destroy the works, the sinful deeds, of the devil—3:8b.

1 John 3:8b ... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
3. God sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins—4:10.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.
4. God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him—v. 9.

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.
5. The Son of God is the means through which God gives us His eternal life—5:11-12.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
6. Our Advocate with the Father is Jesus Christ the Righteous; when we sin, the Lord Jesus, based on the propitiation that He accomplished, takes care of our case by interceding and pleading for us—2:1; Rom. 8:34.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous;

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

C. The Spirit of truth in 1 John 4:6 is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13:

1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

1. The Spirit is the reality; this means that the Spirit is the reality of all that Christ as the Son of God is—1 John 5:6.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
2. By the Spirit whom Christ gave to us, we know that the Triune God abides in us—3:24.

1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

D. First John 4:13-14 reveals that we are abiding in God the Father and He in us, that God the Father has given to us of His Spirit, and that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world:

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1. *Out of His Spirit* (lit.) in verse 13 implies that the Spirit of God, whom God has given to us, is bountiful and without measure; by such a bountiful, immeasurable Spirit we know with full assurance that we and God are one and that we abide in each other—Phil. 1:19; John 3:34.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure.

2. Our God, the Father, has given us the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, who is the bountiful supply of Jesus Christ, the Son—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

E. We know the true One and are in the true One—1 John 5:20.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

IV. “We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life”—v. 20:

A. “We know”:

1. *We* refers first to the apostles in their teaching and fellowship and then to all the genuine believers as members of the Body of Christ—1:3, 6-7.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

2. *Know* here refers to knowing by experiencing, enjoying, and possessing the divine reality—3:2, 5.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

1 John 3:5 And you know that He was manifested that He might take away sins; and sin is not in Him.

B. “The Son of God has come” through incarnation and through death and resurrection as the Spirit to bring God to us as grace and reality so that we may have the divine life and partake of God as love and light—John 1:14; Eph. 2:17; 1 John 1:5; 4:16.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

Eph 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

C. “Understanding” is the faculty of our mind enlightened and empowered by the Spirit of reality to apprehend the divine reality in our regenerated spirit—John 16:12-15.

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

John 16:15 All that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare it to you.

D. “Know the true One,” or “Know Him who is true”:

1. The Greek word translated “true” (*alethinos*) means “genuine, real,” the opposite of false and counterfeit:
 - a. Actually, the Greek word is simply “the True.”
 - b. Only our Triune God is true; everything and everyone else are false.
2. The term *the true One* (which is subjective) refers to God becoming subjective to us.
3. In this verse the God who is objective becomes the true One in our life and experience:
 - a. The true One is the divine reality, and we know the true One, know the divine reality, by experiencing, enjoying, and possessing this reality.
 - b. The Son of God has given us an understanding so that we may experience, enjoy, and possess the true God, the divine reality.
 - c. This verse indicates that God has become our reality in our experience.
 - d. The God who was once objective to us has become our subjective reality.

E. “We are in Him who is true”:

1. We are in the True, in His Son Jesus Christ.
2. We not only know God—we are in God:
 - a. We not only have the knowledge of Him; we are also in an organic union with Him.
 - b. We are one with Him organically.
3. No longer are we outside the True, and no longer are we outside His Son Jesus Christ.
4. When John says that we are in the true One, he is making a crucial point: *Not only do we know the true One, and not only do we experience, enjoy, and possess Him as the divine reality, but we are in this reality; we are in the true One.*

F. “We are...in His Son Jesus Christ”:

1. To be in the true God is to be in His Son Jesus Christ.
2. Since Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the embodiment of God (Col. 2:9), to be in Him is to be in the true God; this indicates that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the true God.
3. Whether we say that to be in the true One is to be in His Son Jesus Christ, or we are in the true One by virtue of being in Jesus Christ, the outcome is the same, and the meaning is actually the same:
 - a. To be in the true One is equal to being in His Son Jesus Christ (for the true One and Jesus Christ are one in the way of coinherence).
 - b. We are in the true One by being in His Son Jesus Christ.

G. “This is the true God and eternal life”:

1. We need to pay attention to the word *this*.
2. John uses *this* to refer both to the true God and to eternal life; by this we see that the true God and eternal life are one.
3. Doctrinally, the true One and His Son Jesus Christ may be considered two, but when we are in the true One and in Jesus Christ experientially, They are one.
4. For this reason, John uses *this* to refer both to the true One and to His Son Jesus Christ.
5. In our experience of being in the true God and in Jesus Christ, They are one.

H. We need a clear vision of what *this* in 1 John 5:20 refers to:

1 John 5:20 *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

1. The word *this* refers to the very God who has become experiential to us through our

being in Him.

2. When we are in the true One and in His Son Jesus Christ, They become one to us; therefore, John says that “this” is the true God, and “this” is eternal life.
3. “This” is the very God and the very Jesus Christ in whom we are.
4. “This” includes the condition of our being in God and Jesus Christ; hence, the true God and eternal life include our being in the true One and His Son Jesus Christ.
5. Now in our experience this true One becomes the true God, and Jesus Christ becomes eternal life.
6. “This” includes the fact of our being in the true God and eternal life.
7. We know that we are in the true God and in eternal life because we are in the true One and in His Son Jesus Christ.
8. When we are in the true One and Jesus Christ, “this,” including the fact that we are in Them, is the true God.

I. The true God becomes our experience as eternal life—v. 20; 1:2; 2:25; 5:11, 13; John 3:15-16, 36; 4:14; 5:24:

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

John 3:36 He who believes into the Son has eternal life; but he who disobeys the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

1. This is the basic factor of John’s first Epistle.
2. In 1 John we have the enjoyment of the Triune God as eternal life.
3. When we are in the true God, He becomes eternal life to us.