

BELIEF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
LOVE
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This Is How
We Know

1 JOHN

DAVID
McCULLOUGH

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

1776

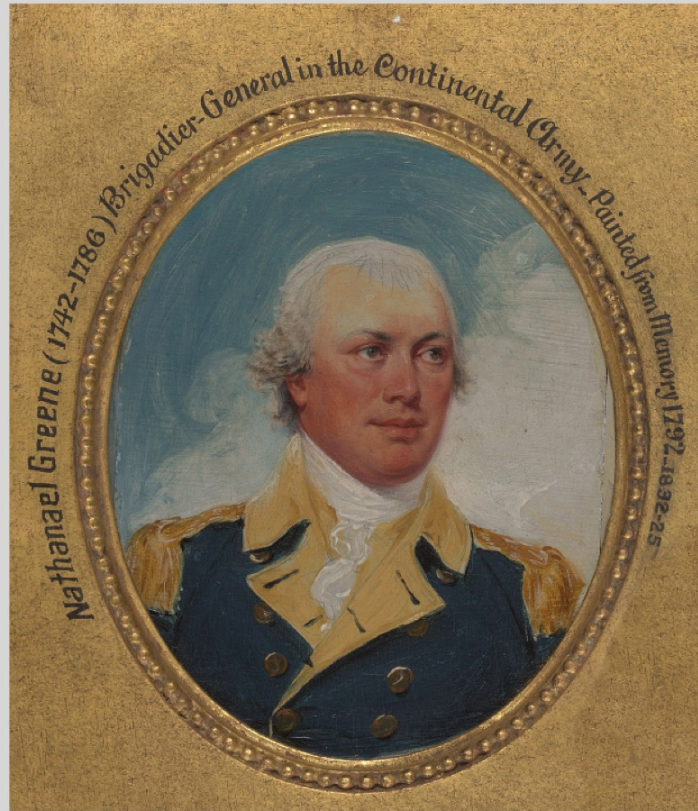




George Washington



Charles Lee



Nathanael Greene

“Nearly all his efforts and those of his senior officers were concentrated now on trying to hold the army together.

“The Connecticut troops, whose enlistments were to expire on December 9, were counting the days until they could start for home. Nothing, it seemed, could change their minds.”

David McCullough

“They desert in large bodies, are sickly, filthy, divided, and unruly. Putrid disorders, the small pox in particular, have carried off great numbers.”

Visitor

“You can come down and receive protection, and return without molestation on the part of the King’s troops, and you best know the situation of the provincial army.

“Do advise Cousin Johnny and Thomas and Cousin Thomas Jones, for if they do stay out to the last, they will undoubtedly fare the worst.”

John Bray

“A spirit of desertion, cowardice, plunder, and shrinking from duty when attended with fatigue or danger, prevailed but too generally.”

Joseph Reed

“Such is my situation that if I were to wish the bitterest curse to an enemy on this side of the grave, I should put him in my stead with my feelings....

“In confidence I tell you that I never was in such an unhappy, divided state since I was born.”

George Washington

“Why Young People Are Leaving the Church”

Reddit

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Reddit

“Why Gen Xers Aren’t Going Back to Church”

Wall Street Journal

Four questions:

Four questions:

Can we know?

Four questions:

Can we know?

What do we know?

Four questions:

Can we know?

What do we know?

How do we know?

Four questions:

Can we know?

What do we know?

How do we know?

Why do we know?

- **Can** we know?

- Can we know?
 - **assurance**

- Can we know?
 - **assurance**
 - know - “by this we know”

- Can we know?
 - **assurance**
 - know - “by this we know”
 - eidō - 17x
 - ginosko - 25x
 - 42x total

“I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.”

1 John 2:21

- Can we know?
 - assurance
 - know - “by this we know”
 - **evident**

- know - “by this we know”
- **evident**

“By this it is evident who are the children of God” (3:10)

- know - “by this we know”
- **evident**

“By this it is evident who are the children of God” (3:10)

phaneros = visible, clear, obvious,
plainly recognized

phaino = shining

- know - “by this we know”
- evident
- **reassure**

- know - “by this we know”
- evident
- **reassure**

“By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him.”

1 John 3:19

- know - “by this we know”
- evident
- reassure
- **abide**

- know - “by this we know”
- evident
- reassure
- **abide**

meno = to remain, abide, stay - 24x

“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God **abides** forever.”

1 John 2:17

“Let what you heard from the beginning **abide** in you. If what you heard from the beginning **abides** in you, then you too will **abide** in the Son and in the Father.”

1 John 2:24

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have **continued** with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”

1 John 2:19

- know - “by this we know”
- evident
- reassure
- abide
- **confidence**

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have **confidence** and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.”

1 John 2:28

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have **confidence** and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.”

1 John 2:28

parresia = freedom, openness, boldness - 4x

- Can we know?
 - assurance

- Can we know?
 - assurance
 - **annointing**

- Can we know?
 - assurance
 - **annointing**

“But you have been anointed by the Holy One,
and you all have knowledge.”

1 John 2:20

modern day
TURKEY

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



Typical Gnostic Teaching

Typical Gnostic Teaching

1. They have **secret knowledge**. (gnosis)

“I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

“But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.

“But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie — just as it has taught you, abide in him.”

1 John 2:26-27

Typical Gnostic Teaching

1. They have secret knowledge. (gnosis)
2. The **physical** world is evil.

- rejected the OT

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- believed Jesus did not come in the flesh

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- denied bodily resurrection

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 - evil - to be abstained from

- rejected the OT
- believed Jesus did not come in the flesh
- denied bodily resurrection
- viewed sexual intimacy as either ...
 - evil - to be abstained from
 - irrelevant - to be indulged in

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —“

1 John 1:1

- Can we know?
 - assurance
 - annointing
 - **identity**

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

“The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now ...”

1 John 3:1-2a

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

- Can we know?
 - assurance
 - annointing
 - identity
 - **victory**

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

1 John 5:4-5

- Can we know?
- **What** do we know?

- Can we know?
- What do we know?

“The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us —” 1 John 1:2

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

1 John 5:11-12

- Can we know?
- What do we know?
- **How** do we know?

Three Signs of Life

Three Signs of Life

- **belief in Jesus** (theological)

Three Signs of Life

- **belief in Jesus** (theological)

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.”

1 John 4:2-3a

Three Signs of Life

- belief in Jesus (theological)
- **obedience** (ethical)

Three Signs of Life

- belief in Jesus (theological)
- **obedience** (ethical)

“... but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” 1 John 2:5-6

Three Signs of Life

- belief in Jesus (theological)
- obedience (ethical)
- **love** (relational)

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8

“As someone who’s been struggling with [assurance] for some years, I am sorry to say this brief explanation can be so misleading. Not to be hateful.

“I follow your blog regularly and respect what you do. But who out there can confidently say they live without wickedness within or love their fellow ‘Christians’ without fail?”

Anonymous

“And Mr. DeYoung, as well-intended as he may be, ultimately makes salvation rest on me and my efforts rather than on Christ and the cross.”

Anonymous

Three Main Objections

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1. We should never look at ourselves for assurance.

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2. We never really love God or love our neighbor.

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1. We should never look at ourselves for assurance.
2. We never really love God or love our neighbor.
3. This approach to assurance makes me doubt my salvation.

“At the heart of all three objections is the assumption – more unstated than argued from Scripture – that living an obedient Christian life is not possible,

“that the only two options before us are trusting in our own works for salvation or admitting to unrelenting spiritual failure.

“If, however, those two options present us with a false dilemma, then the three objections fall away.”

Kevin DeYoung

- Can we know?
- What do we know?
- How do we know?
- **Why** do we know?

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —

“the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us —

“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

“And we are writing these things so that
our joy may be complete.”

1 John 1:1-4

- Can we know?
- What do we know?
- How do we know?
- Why do we know?
 - **fellowship**

“... so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:3

- Can we know?
- What do we know?
- How do we know?
- Why do we know?
 - fellowship
 - **full joy**

“And we are writing these things so that
our joy may be complete.”

1 John 1:4

“You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalm 16:11

“The trouble with me is lack of faith. I have no rational ground for going back on the arguments that convinced me of God’s existence:

“but the irrational deadweight of my old skeptical habits, and the spirit of this age, and the cares of the day, steal away all my lively feeling of the truth, and often when I pray I wonder if I am not posting letters to a non-existent address.

“Mind you, I don’t *think* so – the whole of my reasonable mind is convinced: but I often *feel* so.”

C.S. Lewis

There's peace that outlasts darkness
Hope that's in the blood
There's future grace that's mine today
That Jesus Christ has won

So I can face tomorrow
For tomorrow's in your hands
All I need, you will provide
Just like you always have

And I'm fighting a battle
You've already won
No matter what comes my way
I will overcome

Don't know what you're doing
But I know what you've done
And I'm fighting a battle
You've already won

WE'RE EXCITED TO
PROVIDE ALL
GLUTEN FREE
BREAD FOR
COMMUNION!



CLICK THE QR
CODE TO SEE
THE INGREDIENTS

