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A Letter to Dear Children, Part 8

The Promise He Promised Us

Text: 1 John 2:24-26

To review: the aging disciple of Jesus, John, clearly loves these people to whom he writes. He uses several terms of endearment when he addresses them (2:1, 12, 18). John’s desire for these first century followers of Jesus is that they take Christ seriously and “walk in the light” (1:7; 2:6).

In the passage preceding this text we are considering today, John says, “You all *know* things. You are not ignorant, and you are not antichrists”. Therefore, keep *living in* God.”

John will raise up the importance of two views.

1. One must look *back* in order to get grounded. John keeps taking about “that which was from the beginning” (1:1; 2:7, 13, 14, 24; 3:8,11). That which was planted in these believers some time ago must remain in them. John would say that the rearview mirror is as important as is the windshield. Looking back to that which was from the beginning contributes to that which I am aiming to be...and become. John is teaching stability here. He doesn’t want these folks to become the lightly attached ones. He describes those kinds of people in verse 19. Rather, these believers are to be steadfast and unmovable. They are to be anchored *in*, and grounded *by*, a rich a past.
2. One must look forward in order *remain* grounded

“**That which was from the beginning” has to do with the past.**

“**Abide” has to do with the present**. The idea of abiding came from Jesus in John 15. Jesus said no one can succeed in a faith journey unless she/he is connected to Jesus, as a branch is connected to the vine.

These believers have been invited into a new life. You and I have been also. It’s so radical that, as opposed to the *temporal*, it is called *eternal*. Eternal life is not so much a reference to duration but to quality. This is the life that is distinctive. This eternal life is an abundant life (John 10:10). The term *eternal life* is used sixteen times in John’s gospel, most memorably in John 3:16. John uses the phrase again, a good bit, in this epistle (1:2; 2:25; 3:15; 5:11, 13, 20). Eternal life is a life that is anchored in a relationship with God, through Christ. That life was promised to us by God (v. 25). This eternal life is what we proclaim. It is the motivation, the impetus for our global mission emphasis. The reason we give ourselves to outreach both locally and globally is because we want every person on the planet to at least hear of God’s great love expressed in Jesus the Christ. Not all will say “yes” to God’s invitation to new life. However, they need to at least hear. We must be more and more engaged in mission. Consider the varied ways we may be involved in seeing that others enter this eternal life of which John writes in verse 25.

* Education- schools started by missionaries, so that children may learn AND hear about Jesus.
* Bible translation- Bible Translation Association in PNG
* Medical ministry- Bongalo Hospital in Gabon

Our Purpose (bongolo[hospital.org](http://hospital.org))

Our PURPOSE is to help the Bongalo Hospital staff and the Alliance Church of Gabon to assume responsibility for the hospital, for loving and caring for the sick with devotion and expertise, and for leading as many of them as possible to faith in Jesus Christ.

Seven OBJECTIVES

1. Complete the physical structure of the hospital.
2. Recruit and train spiritually mature, capable African replacements to assume responsibility for key positions:
3. – Gabonese doctors
4. – a nursing supervisor
5. – two nurse dentists
6. – a maintenance director
7. – a bookkeeper/accountant
8. – a nursing school director
9. Train Christian African surgeons for our hospital and for other mission hospitals through the Pan-African College of Christian Surgeons.
10. Train Christian Gabonese to be capable nurses equipped to teach TEE.
11. Assure that all who come for care at the BEH hear a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
12. Develop financial resources for the future.
13. Develop community health education to combat AIDS, sexually transmitted disease, and abortion

"The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible."

– Ralph Winter

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

– C.T. Studd

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."

– Oswald J. Smith

"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its Biblical right to exist."

– Oswald J. Smith

The longer we walk in the light, the more we come to know about God, about Christ, about what God desires for us and about ourselves. We *know* things (v. 20). We are so confident and grounded that we don’t need some itinerant heretics to teach us anything! John, the teacher, is not saying that these first century believers don’t need teaching (v. 27). There were those who were aiming to deceive the first century believers (v. 26). John says “you can stand *against* them and stand up *to* them because of the anointing and because of what you know. This is the promise He promised us. God promised us anointing. He promised us His presence. God set us up to be in a growing, vital relationship with Him. We can do this. We can be serious people of God. In spite of the presence of liars, deceivers, antichrists and fools, we can walk in the light. We can abide *in* and *with* God. We can live and share this life that is different: eternal life.

**Illus.**

From Eileen Starr, missionary to Alaska:

Dear Friends and Supporters:

*Two and a half weeks ago I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I had additional testing that revealed an extensive tumor that was inoperable and progressing and unlikely to respond well to chemotherapy. I have decided at this time to not pursue chemotherapy. The prognosis is not good, with life expectancy of only a couple months. I will be in Hospice care here in Alaska. I am experiencing weakness, fatigue, weight loss, nausea and some discomfort. Please pray that these symptoms can be controlled.*

*I believe that God determined the length of my life before one day was lived (Psalm 139:13-16) and that none of this comes as a surprise to Him. I am grateful for the blessings and opportunities that God has given me to know Him, to serve Him and to build His kingdom.*

Do you hear the confidence which Eileen has, in her Savior and in the eternal life which is hers? This is the promise He promised us!

Amen