**1 John 5:14-21**

**MAIN: When we know God we can impact the world**

**1. Making a difference in prayer – 5:14-17**

**Summary: God answers all prayers according to His will, but all prayers are not according to His will.**

* **Some sins lead to a more immediate death; others do not.**
* **Often when we pray for those involved with sin, God will deliver them from temporal punishment**
* **There are times when a person’s fate is determined and prayer will not change that; remember: we don’t know the mind of God – Isa. 55:8-9**
* **God does not want us to be discouraged to not pray, so He gives us that knowledge**
* **It’s not wrong to pray in those times, but we need to be aware of the potential outcome regardless of our prayers**
* **Some sins may bring temporal judgment on our lives – 1 Cor. 11:27-30**
* **The impact on our lives can vary – “weak…sick…sleep”**
* **The judgment is remedial or restorative in nature – 11:31-32; Heb. 12:4f.**
* **Our prayers can be vehicles for God’s use – Lk. 2:36-37**
* **We can help restore believers to the faith (Jas. 5:19-20), impact leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2; Rom. 13:1), and nations (James 5:16b-18).**

**2. Making a difference from what we know – 5:18-20**

**Overall Section Summary: We know that 1) our true selves are kept from Satanic corruption, 2) we are on God’s side, but the world is not, and 3) God in His mercy sent Jesus that we might know Him, the only true God who can give us eternal life and deliver us from this world. For that reason, we should avoid anything that might lead us from the true God**

**A. We are the untouchables – 5:18**

**Summary; Our regenerate self, having been born of God and having God’s “seed” within us, is impervious both to Satan and to our own sin.**

* **When the focus is on the Apostolic “we” in other places (1:1-4; 3:14; 4:6), John uses an emphatic “we” in the original. Here, he does not.**
* **Viewed as regenerate a person (Rom. 7:22), we do not sin (3:9-10) and can have victory over the world around us (5:4).**
* **No matter what, nothing touches who we really are.**
* **It’s critical that we are strengthened in our new self; prayer and abiding in Christ brings that out (Eph. 3:14-21).**

**B. We’re on God’s side, the world is not – 5:19**

**Summary: The world is dangerous and contrary to who we really are,**

**so, we should avoid it (1 Jn. 2:15-17)**

* **If we know the truths of v. 18, we know which side we are on.**
* **The phrase “of someone” or “something” should be interpreted in context.**
* **When used of Christians, it is normally understood as involving powerful, experiential fellowship with God.**
* **In this context, it is used over against the world being “under the sway of the wicked one”. In other words, we are on God’s side.**
* **When we are in fellowship with God we can do what He wants, while the world does Satan’s bidding.**
* **Abiding in Christ brings out our new self, but Christians need to be careful not to “love the world” and do what it wants, since the one who does the will of God abides with Him forever.**
* **When we are in fellowship with God, we are influenced by Him. The world is influenced by Satan.**
* **We can impact the world by our prayers and our presence – Mt. 5:13-16**

**C. We can know God, even if others do not – 5:20**

**Summary: The love of Jesus caused Him to come that we might know Him relationally in eternity, but also have the privilege to know Him in time, that we might fellowship with Him.**

* **Spiritual people understand things others do not – 1 Cor. 2:15-16**
* **For us, knowing God means freedom. The world lies under the power and influence of the wicked one and will not see life correctly.**
* **We who abide in Christ have a part of us that can never be touched.**
* **It is critical that we abide in Christ so that our new self is manifested.**

**3. Since we know the true God, stay away from all other “gods” – 5:21**

**Summary: Since we now the true God, we must stay away from false gods.**

* **Chasing idols will hurt our lives and those we love (e.g. Col. 3:5).**
* **Chasing idols will lessen our impact on the world.**