

BENEFITS FOR THE BELIEVER

Lesson Aim: Learn about the benefits of a believer and thank God for them.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

How can we know that we are children of God? 5:1-3

First, we know that we are children of God when we believe that Jesus (a man) is Christ (the Son of God). He is both man and God (5:1). He is the perfect and only mediator between humans and God the Father. Second, we know it when we love God and His children (5:1-2). Third, we know it when we keep His commandments and do not consider them grievous or burdensome (5:3). The certainty that we are children of God is the first benefit of a believer.

How do we get victory over the world system that opposes God? 5:4-5

We must be born of God to have victory over the world. We are born of God, by faith. We are born of God by believing that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the only way we can get victory over the world, but it is guaranteed. This victory is the second benefit of a believer.

What assurance do we have that Jesus can give to us eternal life? 5:6-8

There are three witnesses that assure us that Jesus is able to give us eternal life. The first witness is the water. After His baptism He began His ministry. His messages and miracles proved He was the Messiah that prophets said would come to save us. The next witness is the blood. His crucifixion completed His work to save us. He paid for the sins of all people. His last words on the cross were, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). The witness of water is not able to assure us of eternal life; we also need the witness of His blood. The two go together. The one without the other is not sufficient to give us assurance of eternal life. The final witness is the Spirit. He inspired prophets to write the message of salvation so believers can be sure of eternal life. Assurance of eternal life is the third benefit of a believer.

Why is the witness of God about Jesus so important? 5:9-10

God's witness proves that Jesus is His eternal Son. God sent His Son to earth to become a man to save sinners. He said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear Him (Mt 17:5). He is not an ordinary man; He is God in the flesh. If we receive the witness of two or three men as truth, we ought to receive the greater witness of God, who is absolute truth. Two times He clearly said that Jesus is His Son, who pleased Him (Mt 3:17; 17:5). God's witness removes all doubt that Jesus is His Son that was sent to redeem us from our sins. This is the fourth benefit of a believer.

How does God give us eternal life? 5:11-13

God has given us eternal life in His Son. If we have His Son, we have life (5:11). Whoever receives Jesus is given the power to become the children of God (Jn 1:12). If we do not have His Son, we do not have life (5:12). This simple truth was written that we might KNOW that we have eternal life (5:13). This is the believer's fifth benefit.

How can we know that our prayers will be answered? 5:13-15

When we are saved by the Son of God (5:13), we can ask for anything that agrees with His will (His Word), and we can know He hears us (5:14). If He hears us, we know our request will be granted (5:15). This is the believer's sixth benefit.

What do we know about the person that is born of God? 5:16-19

A believer has two natures: one that is sinful and one that is sinless. He can choose to be controlled by either one in this life (5:16-17; Rom 7:15-25), but his divine nature will save him from the wicked one so he cannot touch him and take away his eternal life (5:13-19). This is the believer's seventh benefit.

What do we know about the Son of God? 5:20

He came to reveal to us His Father, who is true. We are in His Son that is true. Since both are true, this proves that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the true God and eternal life. We are in the true God. This is the believer's eighth benefit.

Can a child of God come under the control of idols? 5:21

Yes. Whatever takes us away from obeying God is an idol. Being warned of this danger is the believer's ninth benefit.