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Nottingham, England

Facing the Truth

We must face the *TRUTH*. Regardless of how much we may pretend to be of the truth, our hearts condemn us or defend us even as the Gentiles (Rom 2:15). So in 1 John 3:18-24 the subject is: Have you really passed out of death and into life?

Are we loving in deed and in truth? ...*And by this we shall know that we are of the truth ... us ... as we are of God* (1 Jn 4:6). Like 2:15 or even 2:4 — that we are *in Him*. 1 Jn 2:2 — *And hereby we know that we know Him ...* and of course 3:14. 1 Jn 3:19 — *But God is greater than our hearts and knows all things* (1 Jn 3:20-21). That God is greater than our hearts means that it's evidently a testing, searching thing.

That is a subjunctive as verse 20, as 1 Jn 1:6-7. 1 Jn 3:20 — "If our hearts condemn us" is subjunctive. If our hearts condemn us, then there is a possibility that what the subject is may apply to ourselves who do not live up to the word of God which is 1 John 3:14-21.

So, do we have boldness before God? This is the question. If our hearts do not condemn us, then we should have boldness, confidence before God — verses 22-24 is us, and even as 1 Jn 2:28; 4:17 says.

1 Jn 3:20 — We need to draw the same conclusions as God who knows our hearts in all things, and it is concluded based upon the truth. The truth is: we do not love as He loved; we do not lay down our lives as He did. We only love in word and tongue. We do not love in deed and truth. We are pretending, and we can fool others, but not God who knows all things.

To conclude that we have not after all passed out of death into life as John 5:24 says, and will not be raised up from the dead (Jn 6:44) is deduced and settled in God's mind. He Himself is convicted of it, based on the evidence of our behaviour done in reality, Gen 6:7-8 says, and is walked out with finality (*finality*: a concluding decision, Mt 7:21-23).

As Ecc 12:13-14 concludes, based on the evidence that demands the verdict of guilty — Ps 116:1,2,14-19 — this you could not do.

So, if you believed that when you were baptized, you received your immortal body, like our Master has now after He rose from the dead, it would not take long for you to conclude by the evidence, that you were still in your mortal body, and to deduce that you did not believe, after all, that you received an immortal body, since your immortal body you believe you received at baptism needs food and sleep. So it would not take long to arrive at the conclusion.

1 Jn 3:19 — If we do as verse 18 says, we can safely conclude by the evidence of loving in deed and truth (Jn 4:23-24). John 13:34-35 — If all men can arrive at the conclusion that those who love are true disciples, we should all the more know we are. Verse 35 says by this shall all know that you are disciples of mine, if you have love for one another.

1 Jn 3:14 is the evidence of John 5:24 beyond a doubt, as 1 Jn 3:4-10,20; 4:7,8; 5:13. It goes on and on. God, in love, does not want us to be self-deceived (Gal 5:7; Eph 5:6; 2:11-12).