

1 John 3:20

by John Gill

God's greatness and knowledge provide comfort and assurance that He will judge us justly and pardon our sins.

Scripture: Psalm 139:1, Romans 8:1, 1 John 3:20

Topics: "Assurance of Salvation", "God's Judgment"

Description

John Gill emphasizes the significance of 1 John 3:20, explaining that while our hearts may condemn us for our sins and shortcomings, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. He highlights the dual nature of this truth: it serves as a warning of God's righteous judgment for unrepented sin, while also offering comfort to believers who may struggle with feelings of guilt and condemnation. Gill reassures that God's understanding and grace surpass our self-accusations, reminding us of the peace and righteousness provided through Christ. Ultimately, he calls for a deeper trust in God's mercy over our own hearts' judgments.

Transcript

Ver. 20. For if our heart condemn us,.... Of want of love to the brethren, and of hypocrisy in it, as well as of any other sin; for the conscience, which is meant by the heart here, is accuser, witness and judge; it accuses of the evil of sin, and is as good as a thousand witnesses; and upon its own testimony pronounces guilty, and condemns.

God is greater than our heart: for he is the Maker of it, and he has the power over it, and the management of it; it is in his hands, and to be turned by him as he pleases; and he is the searcher and trier of it; and besides, is a swifter witness than conscience, and a superior Judge unto it.

And knoweth all things; that are in the heart; the principles of actions, and all the actions of men, for which their hearts condemn them; and all the sinfulness in them, and the aggravations of them; wherefore, as he knows them more perfectly, he judges of them more exactly, and will reprove more sharply, and condemn more severely for them: hence, if the condemnation of men's hearts and consciences be so very great, as sometimes to be intolerable and insupportable, what will be the righteous judgment, and dreadful condemnation of God? how fearful a thing will it be to fall into the hands of the living God! this sense is confirmed by the Syriac version rendering it, "how much greater is God than our hearts?" there is another sense given by some, which is not by way of terror, but comfort, and that is, that if the hearts of believers accuse, reprove, and condemn for sin through unbelief, or want of clear view of pardon and righteousness by Christ, God is greater, as in power, so in knowledge, than the hearts of men; and he knows the

thoughts he has towards them, which are of peace, and not of evil; the covenant he has made with his Son, of which he is ever mindful; and what his Son has done, that he has made full satisfaction for sin, and brought in an everlasting righteousness: so that let sin, or Satan, or the world, or the law, or their own hearts condemn them, there is no condemnation of any avail unto them. But the former sense seems best to agree with the context.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-john-320/>

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