“Assuring Our Hearts Before God”
1 John 3:19-20

Introduction:
A. Christians have assurance greater than their hearts or their feelings.
   1. First John emphasizes this fact through out.
   2. God’s word more reliable that our hearts.
B. Trend today toward heart-felt religion over Divinely revealed religion.
   1. Heart felt assurance the standard for measuring salvation.
   2. Satisfaction of felt-needs the standard for measuring worship.
   3. Feeling close to God equated with being close to God.
   4. More emphasis on stirring up the heart than stirring up the mind. (Cf. 2 Pet. 3:1)
C. We will notice several assurances that we have from God in First John.

Discussion:
I. The Assurance Of Fellowship of God. (1 John 1:1-10).
   A. Gnostic and others have sought mystical (“better-felt-than-told”) assurance of fellowship.
   B. Christians have a better assurance of fellowship.
      2. Walking the light of that message. (vv. 7)
      3. The written promise of forgiveness (v. 9).
II. The Assurance of Knowledge of God. (1 John 2:3-5).
   A. Many want to know God like they know one they see and feel.
   B. Christian assured they know God if keep his commandments.
III. The Assurance of Abiding in God. (1 John 2:5, 24-27).
   A. Many look for sensational feeling.
   B. Christians have anointing of gospel heard from beginning.
IV. The Assurance of being Children of God. (1 John 3:7-9).
   A. Many rely some miraculous “born again” experience.
   B. Christians assured by their practice of truth.
      2. In remaining Christian of God (text)
V. The Assurance of Love for God and his children. (1 John 5:1-3).
   A. Love different from natural feelings and expression - sensual.
   B. Love that can be commanded.
   C. Love that is active good will toward it object.
   D. Love of faith and not of passion.
VI. The Assurance of Eternal Life (1 John 5:9-13)
   A. Based on the record (vv. 10, 13).
   B. Based on abiding in having the son (v. 12, cf. 2 John 9-11).

Conclusion:
A. Do not depend of heart for assurance - but God's promises.
B. Assure hearts with word of God rather than fleeting emotions of heart.