

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:9-12**

Chapter 26- The Divine Witness 252 The Divine Witness- Part 9

WAOY Friday- Monday 09/26-29/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about the Divine Witness- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now on the last Broadcast- we were going over just what the third witness that John wrote here in verse 10 really is. The first witness about Who Jesus is- is Man- the 40 writers who wrote 66 authoritative and inspired Books that make up what we call The Holy Bible. Everything that is true about Jesus is found somewhere in those Books and our understanding of Who Jesus is, and What Jesus does and does not do, and what Jesus loves and hates should come from that record.

The second witness is that of God the Father Who spoke from Heaven twice concerning Jesus, and Who raised Jesus from the dead. And John tells us in verse 9 that this second witness of God is even greater than the first witness of Man. Both the witness of God and the

witness of Man are external objective witnesses and both are true and both are to be used by the believer.

But then in verse 10- John says that there is a third witness about Who Jesus is that is also true and this third witness is an *internal* witness that believers have in themselves. This third witness is more subjective than the other two but is true nonetheless.

Now before we get into this third witness- something needs to be said here. Anytime that the Bible speaks of the witness of the Spirit or an internal witness- many people begin to assume things that are wrong and that they really should not assume about this. For example- when John is talking about this third internal witness here in verse 10- he is not talking about something that is left up to us to determine. We have to remember, dear friends, that in order for any *internal* witness about anything concerning God to be true- it must absolutely coincide with the other two external witnesses of both Man and God.

In other words, John is not giving us license here to make up our own personal understanding about Who Jesus is and neither is he saying that our internal witness about Jesus can be radically different from the other two external witnesses and still be right.

We have to remember, beloved, that along with being God- Jesus was a real live human being Who walked on this earth and did certain very specific things and said certain very specific things and taught certain very specific things. Those certain and specific things that Jesus did and that Jesus said and taught are already recorded for us in the Bible. Therefore any internal witness about Jesus that is reliable and trustworthy will never teach anything that is contrary to either the witness of Scripture or the witness of God.

Being filled with the Holy Ghost is not a license for us to create our own special Jesus that is individual to us and that doesn't have anything to do with the Jesus of Scripture. Jesus is and can be our own personal Savior- that is true- but it is only true in the sense that the very same Jesus that Scripture reveals- Who is what Scripture says that He is and Who taught exactly what Scripture says He taught- saved us personally. That is the sense in which Jesus can be our personal Savior.

But Jesus is *not* our personal Savior in the sense that we were saved differently from the one way in which the Bible says that we are saved- By Grace through Faith alone- apart from any human works,

and Jesus is not our personal Savior in the sense that a vastly different Jesus than Scripture reveals Who teaches different things and Who is radically different in His Person that what Scripture reveals comes to us and saves us. That is not true.

The Jesus that is witnessed internally by every single saved person on earth is the very same Jesus Who is revealed in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible, and the Jesus that is witnessed internally by the believer did those things and He taught those things that the Scripture says that He did- that is the Jesus Who is witnessed internally in every believer.

If another Jesus is being witnessed internally- or in other words- if we begin to feel that God is showing us by the Spirit other details about Jesus that are not already revealed to us in Scripture- then that internal witness is false and does not come from God.

"Well, wait a minute, Brother Blair, are you saying that some internal feelings that we have about God and the things of God are false and unreliable and contradictory to Divine Truth? Are you saying that we cannot always trust what we feel in our hearts?" Yes, that is exactly what I am saying.

Listen, God deals with me all the time as I am assured that He does with many of you, too. God warns me, He convicts me, He leads me, He directs me, and He comforts me all the time internally by His Spirit that dwells inside me. But let me say something that is as true as anything I have ever said.

Over the last 100 years or so- we have built up this internal witness to be equal to or even superior to the Word of God- and that is just flat out not true. Almost all abuses and excesses that have transpired over that same period of time is directly attributable to the fact that we trust what we feel internally more than we trust the external record of Scripture, and that teaching is wrong, it is naïve, it is foolish, and it is very dangerous.

With all due respect- just who do we think we are that what we feel would be superior to what God's Holy and inspired Word teaches? Most of us who are alive today have very limited experiences, very limited education, very limited knowledge of history and Truth, and so who are we to say that what we feel the Spirit is saying to us is more reliable and trustworthy than what came out of the very Mouth and Heart of the Owner and Creator of the Universe?

And I'll be real honest with you about some observations that I have had over the last 40 years as people trust more and more what they feel rather than trust what God has said in Scripture. Here is the result of what happens when people pay more attention to what they feel than what the Bible says:

- ✓ People are more worldly than ever before
- ✓ People are less spiritual than ever before
- ✓ More attention and more prayers are made today about temporary things, things of this earth, and things that pertain to this earth than eternal things and things that pertain to Heaven.
- ✓ Money and the love of money is deemed to be more important than ever before and in some areas plain old fashion greed and covetousness is taught as being a godly virtue rather than the wicked sin that it is.
- ✓ The Church in America is becoming more and more a political action committee rather than the pillar and ground of the Truth.
- ✓ Biblical Morality in the Church among professed believers is at an all time low as scandal after scandal rocks the Church nearly every week with little or no outrage.
- ✓ Sin that embarrassed the lost world is now prevalent inside the walls of the Church with little or no outrage.

What God the Holy Spirit says is absolutely true and it is right and it is reliable and trustworthy, but the truth of the matter is, dear friends, that we misunderstand what the Spirit says all the time. We misapply what he says and we misappropriate things that the Spirit says all the time. And we do that- not because we're trying to but because we are human and we are weak and we are frail and, in spite of the great attention that we spend on what we feel inside our hearts today- the infallible word of the living God says that our hearts can't be trusted – especially with eternal matters.

Now you certainly don't have to take my word on this subject- but I pray that you will believe what the prophet Jeremiah said about our hearts in **Jeremiah 17:9**:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Now this verse says that above everything else- our hearts are the most deceitful thing that exists on the face of the earth. Now the word deceitful means something that cannot be trusted and something that is in business to fool us. So if what Jeremiah says here is true- then why would anyone trust their heart about anything? Why do so many people tell young people to trust their heart or to follow their hearts? Our hearts are the last thing we should encourage people to follow.

And as bad as our hearts look now- Jeremiah didn't stop there. He also said in this verse that in addition to our hearts being more deceitful than anything else in all of Creation- that our heart was also

... desperately wicked...

Now it would be bad enough for our hearts to be wicked- but when Jeremiah used this Hebrew word "desperately" before the word wicked- what the prophet was saying was that our hearts are wicked to the point that there is no human cure. In other words- our hearts are so wicked by nature that no human invention can cause the human heart to become unwicked or even less wicked. But he didn't even stop there. Look at what Jeremiah said next:

... who can know it?

Now please remember that I didn't say these words- Jeremiah spoke them almost 600 years before Jesus was born. And this anointed prophet said that we don't have the ability to know or to discern or to comprehend the things that are in our own hearts.

Now our Jesus also taught about the heart and it wasn't any more encouraging than what Jeremiah said. Read **Mark 7:20-23:**

20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Jesus taught here that the source of all evil is the human heart; that from inside the heart of Man comes all evil. So evil doesn't originate from any *external* source as sociologists teach today- but evil comes from *within* the person- and specifically from his own heart.

"But Brother Blair- that may be true about someone who is lost- but doesn't that all change when we get saved? Doesn't Jesus now live in our hearts?"

Absolutely Jesus lives in our hearts and we can rejoice about that, but the point that I am making here is that in spite of the fact that we are saved- we are still plagued by those evil things that come from within our own hearts. And while it is true that sin no longer *dominates* the saved person- we are still troubled by sin every day.

And so that makes the reliability of the *internal* witness to be subject to the *external* witness of Scripture which is fully reliable and fully trustworthy. And anytime that the internal witness differs in the least from the external witness of scripture- the internal witness is to be discarded and the witness of both Man and God as recorded for us in Scripture rises to the forefront.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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