

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:14-17**

Chapter 27- The Confidence That We Have in Him

256 Asking According to God's Will- Part 3

WAOY Friday-Monday 10/03-06/08

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 in our new section of our study about the confidence that we have in Jesus Christ- so let's read **1John 5:14-17** again together:

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

Now on the last broadcast- we were examining verse 14 closely and I want to go into that verse again today- so let's read verse 14 again together:

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Now John is teaching here that we should have great confidence that anytime we ask God something that is in accordance with His Will- He will always hear us. So since that is true- then our ability to know God's Will is paramount- if we are to be able to pray in accordance with God's Will.

Now there is much teaching about how we can know God's Will, and there are many books out there that claim to teach people how they can know God's Will. We live in a day when self-appointed "prophets"- who are accountable to no one- roam all across our nation claiming to be able to lay hands on you and to give you "a word" that will guide you into doing God's Will. They say that God speaks special revelation to them and that they alone have a hot line to Heaven that allows them to see and hear things that the average person does not see or hear.

There are books and tapes available for you to purchase that supposedly teach you how to give what they call "personal prophecies" to someone else. And there are classes about how to interpret dreams and visions. All of this is designed to help people know what God's Will for their lives are, and so they can do great and mighty things for God.

Dear friends, please hear me on this. I know that people are sincere and earnest about a lot of these things- but it is absolutely amazing the lengths that people will go to, the money that they are willing to spend, the distances they are willing to travel so they can know God's Will- while so few are willing to do what God said to do so that they will absolutely know God's Will.

Knowing what God's Will is- is not mystical; it isn't something that is ethereal or vague or hard or strange. You don't have to go into a trance to know God's Will, you don't have to rise into a place of emotional ecstasy to realize what God's Will is, and you don't need thousands of dollars worth of tapes or books or travel to Tibet or have some prima donna prophet lay hands on you.

We have the final, full, complete revealed Will of God in our hands, and yet today so few actually read it and even less than that actually study it. It is called the Holy Bible, and the result of us not reading the most important Book on earth, and the result of us not studying the only God breathed document that exists is that we are ignorant of what it says, and therefore we honestly don't know God's Will.

And that great vacuum created by God's Own people not knowing God's Will has brought about the proliferation of mystical cults and false prophets and false teachers and a revival of ancient heresies and a promotion of idolatry and materialism and covetousness and a love for money and inconsistent and contradictory Doctrines and wrong Theology and militant atheists and unbiblical practices and spiritual

abuse by ungodly leaders and sexual and financial scandals in our day like the world has never seen. All because the people of God no longer know God's Word and therefore they no longer know God's Will.

And while all the bad news that I just spoke about is true and while it is also true that it is getting worse by the day- it is also true that as God's redeemed sons and daughters- we can fix this problem of not knowing God's Will. The solution lies at our feet and if we will simply apply this solution- those bad and terrible things that came about as a direct result of God's people not knowing God's Will- will go back into the pit from whence they came.

The solution is that as God's people we need to engage ourselves in a serious, deep, ongoing, systematic, planned and scheduled line by line, verse by verse, precept by precept study of all 66 Books of the Holy Bible. And over time- most of our questions will be answered, most of our confusion will be abated, most of our doubts will fade away, and we will be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might.

Now I can hear all the objections to what I just said. *"I don't have the time to study the Bible"* is probably the one I hear the most. And I'm not trying to get anybody to do anything they don't want to- but really and truly dear friends- that excuse is really lame.

First of all- people do what they enjoy doing. Sporting events and recreation and entertainment and all of those things are at an all time high in this country. More people talk about discretionary income and discretionary time than ever before. Discretionary money is what is left over after you pay all your bills. Discretionary time is what is left over after you work at your job. More people have both discretionary money and discretionary time now than at any other point in human history. So the real reason that people don't study the Bible is that they don't want to or they don't enjoy it- not because they don't have the time.

Like I said, people usually do what they want to do- what they enjoy doing and therein lies the real tragedy about all of this because if God's people don't enjoy studying what their Lord has said- who will the lost world?

Now that is my argument against using the excuse about not having the time to study God's Word. I don't buy it for one second. What is really the case is that we do a very poor job of setting priorities about things that are important versus things that excite our flesh. It is just easier for us to watch the game than to try to wade through all

the funny names that Moses wrote in the Old Testament. It is simpler for us to watch a movie that has a moral aspect to it than it is to go back to ancient Greek or Hebrew to find the meaning of a word. But, dear friends, that is precisely the problem.

If all we do in life is what we want to, or that which will tickle our ears, or that which will make us laugh- or that which will entertain us- then we wouldn't even work on our jobs, and we wouldn't do the difficult things to keep our marriage strong, we wouldn't make those sacrifices that are needed to raise our children rightly, and we wouldn't defend our nation from attack, or do anything that required effort.

So the real underlying reason why we are looking at a radical decrease of time spent in God's Word among God's people, the real reason why so few people today know the Bible, the cause of so many saved people not understanding the God Who saved them is that we no longer value the Bible. We do not place as high a priority on Bible Study that we place on other things that are at best temporary and that can never help us to understand God's Will or give us strength when the storms of life come.

And this famine was prophesied about 700 years before Jesus was born. Look at what the prophet Amos said about this in **Amos 8:11&12:**

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Now notice that Amos didn't say that we would have a famine of the Word of the Lord- but that we would have a famine of *hearing* the Word of the Lord. You see, Amos didn't say there would be a famine for a lack of Churches or a lack of Bibles or a lack of preachers or a lack of Christian Book Stores or Christian radio and television stations or Christian music or movies or concerts or any lack of anything like that.

No, Amos prophesied very specifically that this famine was not like any other famine that had ever come upon Man. Amos said this famine was in the ear of Man and this famine caused people to not be

able to hear the only thing that they need to hear- the words of the Lord.

And we are living in that day, dear friends, when God's people actually hearing and seeing and knowing and understanding and loving and living and obeying and defending God's Word is at an all time low.

And this famine- like all famines- is God's Righteous Judgment against a wayward people who love pleasures more than they love God; who love themselves more than they love God; who love money more than they love God; who love to do what is right in their own eyes and who love to serve God according to their own terms.

And God is not pleased that we have chosen our ways above His Ways, and God is not pleased that we have walked in our own ways and sought counsel from the ungodly and have put more value on our blessings than we do on the One Who blesses.

And so God has sent us a famine- and our ears have been affected by this famine. And this famine is very great and this famine is very dry, and it has come up upon our land to plague us so that we will awaken out of our slumber, and so that we will once again value the Words of the Lord.

Well, what is the answer to this famine, Brother Blair? The same answer that is always the answer when God plagues His Own people. Repentance. **2Chronicles 7:14** says:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The Acts 3:19 says:

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

And so we need to repent, and we need to beg God to give us a revival of love for Him and a revival of love for His Word, and then we can regroup and reprioritize our lives so that we don't spend time with God and His Word *if* we find the time- but rather that we so value God and we so value what God has said that we will aggressively push other things out of the way and we *make time* to spend with God, and we *make time* to pray, and we *make time* to read and study God's Word so that we know what God's Will is, and so we will once again know how to

pray, and so we will once again know what God loves and what God hates, and so that we can earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

Now I really don't know a lot about this other than to say that the best time according to the Bible to study God's Word and pray is early in the morning. Now that doesn't mean that you can't study and pray at different times during the day- in fact, you should pray without ceasing and you should study all during the day.

But every major character in the Bible- including Jesus, rose up early in the morning- way before light and they spent time with God in prayer and in the study of His Word. Now I didn't put that in the Bible dear friends- but check it out yourself.

And while this is certainly not a requirement- it is a pattern that not only Biblical characters did- but which carried over into History. George Washington, John Adams, Samuel Chadwick, the Puritans, Augustine, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon all rose up early and sought God and studied the Bible for hours before they ever started their day.

It was a requirement at one time at Harvard University that students had to have two hours of Bible Study and prayer before class began- and classes started at 7am- and that was the Business School.

So I encourage you to examine your daily schedule and to push aside things that are frivolous and that don't matter to make room for Prayer and the study of the Word of the Lord so that we will once again know God's Will.

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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