

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

#### 77. Part 2

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WAOY Wednesday 08/29/07; WOSM Tuesday 01/17/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

**18** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

**19** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

**20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

**21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

**22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

**23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

**24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

**25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

**26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

**27** As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now the two key verses in this passage and the ones which give us the key as to why John wrote them are verses 21 and 26:

**21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.**

**26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.**

So, from these two verses, we can see that first of all- John was not writing this letter or this Epistle to the lost- but only to the saved. And secondly- that he wrote this passage precisely because there were those who were trying with all their might to deceive and, John says, to *deceive* the people of God.

John says here in verse 21 that he wrote specifically because his readers “**know the Truth**” and they know that Divine Truth is self-evident in that no lie can possibly be of the Truth.

You see friends, if something is a lie- that means, by definition, that it is not true; it is false; it is deceptive by nature; it is wrong. But Truth; Divine Truth; Truth that comes from God can never and is never wrong. It is always right; it is always accurate; and it is always reliable.

So, as we take this time to examine Truth- we can see that part of our definition of what Truth actually is- is that Truth is never and can never be a lie and a lie can never and is never Truth. John says it very plainly here in verse 21-

**...no lie is of the truth.**

Now that may sound elementary to some of you, but I assure you that we all need to know this definition of Truth because we live in a time when many things are said to be true and from God- even when they have been proven to be a lie. Even in the Church- we have people who supposedly speak in God’s Name and on God’s behalf and who sign God’s Name to what they just said by saying, “*Thus says the Lord*” or “*The Lord told me*” or “*the Lord showed me*” and then when what they say does not happen or it does not come to pass instead of rejecting both what these people have said and these people as well- we make up

excuses for them by saying, “Well, that **part** of what they said was presumptuous and was not of God”

But John says here that no lie is of the Truth. And that means: “at all”. And this should cause us all to be very careful not to say that God has said something when the Lord has not spoken. If God says something- it *will* happen and it will happen exactly the way God has spoken. And if it doesn’t come to pass- then God has not spoken. No lie is of the Truth.

So, the one sure a trustworthy place where we can go to find Words that God *did* speak and Words that *are* true and Words that *have* come to pass and Words that *will* come to pass- is the Holy Bible. Scripture. And all other words are subject to being terribly wrong and misleading.

And it was the Words that God had already spoken and the Words that God had supernaturally preserved and inspired, and which were already written down that was under attack in John’s day. The Gnostic mystics and the Greek philosophers were doing their best to try to “re-invent the wheel” as it pertained to Christianity and they were trying to create *another* Gospel that was far different from the Gospel of God in Scripture and they were trying to create a *new* “Christ”- who was *not* the Christ of Scripture and they were trying to create another “god”- who was made in *their* image and was in *their* likeness and who did *their* bidding.

So, these false teachers and heretics taught that a person could be in right standing with God and still live in sin and disobedience to what God had commanded. And this false teaching was enormously popular in John’s day- even as it is enormously popular in our day- because it taught that a person could go to Heaven without any change of behavior.

And this lie began to infiltrate the Christian Church in John’s day- even as it does today- But John refuted this lie when he wrote in **1John 2:4-6:**

**4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

**5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

**6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

Now John was not simply raising the bar for all of us here- he was specifically *rejecting* a very prominent teaching of both the Gnostic mystics and Greek philosophers of his day by saying that unless we have been transformed by the miracle of the new birth- the things of God will be nothing but foolishness to us and therefore- we will not keep God's Ways or even care about God's Ways.

But if we are saved- then serving God and loving God and obeying God are part and parcel of the new divine nature and while it is true that we will not always be *successful* in obeying God – we will always *want* to and when we don't obey God- we *know* that we are wrong and we will quickly repent.

So, John linked obedience to Salvation here and he taught that without obedience- we are not part of truth and light- we are part of lies and darkness.

And John's teaching had the effect of exposing the false teaching of the Greeks and Gnostics for what it was- a lie- and also to expose the false teachers as being what they were- a part of the lie and those who walk in darkness. And John's exposure delivered people out of deception and also gave those who had been deceived an opportunity to repent.

Now several of you have called and written to ask me why I am spending so much time on things that happened 2,000 years ago. Well, here's the answer. While it is true that the heresy of the Gnostics and the Greeks that John was fighting against occurred before the end of the first century- it is also true that the very same false teaching is alive and well today and is enormously popular and it is being taught from the pulpit of a church near you.

It isn't hard, my brothers and sisters, to tune into what is called "Christian Television" today and hear very well received preachers teach the very same Gnostic heresy about Salvation that John fought against right here. And when you try to expose the teaching for what it is, you get a responses that go something like this, "*Well, who are we to judge*" or "*But look at how many people are blessed by what he says*" or "*Better that they get a little truth than no truth at all*" or some other lame excuse.

No, the fact of the matter is that if something is a lie- then it is not truth and if something is truth- it is not a lie. John made that clear- didn't he and if we are going to preach at all- we need to preach the very same thing that John and Peter and Paul and the rest preached and not preach the very things that these men denounced.

And so, because Man is fallen and because it is much easier for us to believe a lie than it is to believe the truth and because lies and false teaching are *always* more popular than Divine Truth- John taught that we must reject *anything* that is a lie and that is of darkness. And because these very same ancient lies are still being taught today- we still have the need to hear John in our day.

Now in addition to teaching that people could be saved and yet continue to walk in unrepentant sin- the Gnostics and Greeks taught that Salvation was an *intellectual* experience and had no bearing on how we treated other saved people. And this lie became enormously popular and began to spread through the first century Church. So, the John had the responsibility and the authority as an Apostle to expose this teaching as also being of darkness and he did so by saying in **1John 2:9**:

**The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.**

So now in addition to John saying that a saved person will walk with God and keep God's Commandments- now John teaches that saved people will also love all of the other saved people. And John taught this because this was a real big problem in the Church in the first century. And I tell you that we need to teach this today because it is still a real big problem in the Church of our day.

The Greeks and Gnostics also wrongly taught that a man proved that he was in Favor with God precisely because he was blessed by financial gain and had lots of material possessions. So, the goal of those who followed the Greeks and Gnostics was to acquire more of this world's goods in order to prove that they were of God. And I don't suppose I have to tell you just how popular this false teaching was back then.

But once again, this brave Apostle was faithful to his calling, and he stood up boldly and publicly cried out against a false but very popular teaching by saying in **1John 2:15-17**:

**Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Then John completely destroyed the false notion that material gain equals godliness by saying in the very next two verses:

**For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

So now we can see just how John viewed Truth- and how vital Divine, Objective, Absolute Truth was to this last living Apostle. John didn't believe, as many do today, that Truth is harsh and cruel and unmerciful. He didn't buy into the notion that in order to have a move of God's Spirit- we have to be ignorant of Divine Truth- did he?

No, John saw Truth as what distinguished Christianity from every other false religion and philosophy of Man. He saw Truth as what defined the Church from every other institution on earth. He saw Divine Truth as his guide and protector and that which guarded his soul.

So, John, he gives us here his fourth test of genuine Salvation- an understanding and appreciation for the Absolute Truth of God as he draws a line in the sand to divide between those who love and keep the Truth and those who reject it and trample it under their feet.

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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