

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:11-13**

Chapter 27- The Divine Witness

256 The Divine Witness- Part 10

WAOY Tuesday 09/30/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about "the Divine Witness"- so let's read **1John 5:11-13**.

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Now once again here in verse 13- the Apostle John tells us why he has written this Epistle:

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John says here that this Epistle is all about Jesus and all that he wrote is so that we will rightly know Jesus and rightly serve Him. So, we can look at this Epistle as a sort of measurement of our own spiritual condition. For example- if we believe things about Jesus that John didn't teach- then it probably isn't true. If we are behaving in a way that John condemns in this Epistle- then we can know for sure that we are wrong.

So in these three verses- we need to ask the question- "*Just what is being testified to?*" Just what is the essential content of this Divine Witness?

Now in one sense- this is an unnecessary question because John has been answering that question all along- but in another sense- this is

a very important question because a short summary of just what God's Witness about Who Jesus is would be very helpful for us. And so John gives us that summary right here in verses 11& 12:

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

John says this is the record or the testimony or the Divine witness that God has provided for us- that He has given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

Now when John use the phrase, "in His Son" in verse 11- he used a particular Greek grammatical style that is *exclusionary*. In other words – when John said that this life is in His Son- he was actually saying that eternal life is found *exclusively* in Jesus Christ and cannot be found anywhere else or through anyone else.

So people go to Heaven through Jesus or they do not go to Heaven- at all. It is Jesus or nothing. And it is not Jesus plus something else- it is Jesus alone.

Now you would think that was pretty clear- but in our day- you can't assume *anything*. So in order to be clear about just what John was talking about here it needs to be said that we do not receive eternal life because we are nice or because we are good or because we try real hard to obey the Ten Commandments or because we live by the Golden Rule or because we live by the Sermon on the Mount.

Nobody receives eternal life because they were baptized or because they speak in tongues or because they prayed the rosary or because they gave money to the Church or because they believe that some type of god exists.

Nobody received eternal life because they kept Communion or because they went to Confession or because they went through the Rite Penance. Nobody receives eternal life because excess merit from the Holy Family was given to them in Purgatory. Nobody receives eternal life because they were baptized in the river Jordan or because they gave seed money to some TV preacher or because they were anointed with oil from the Garden of Gethsemane.

None of those things provides eternal life to us. John says that eternal life is found in Jesus Christ and only in Jesus Christ. And any teaching from any group or any individual that says that eternal life is found anywhere else besides Jesus is a lie.

Now you may think that I am being too hard about this- but dear friends, there are literally billions of people on earth today who honestly believe that eternal life can be found in any number of ways through many different things or people beside Jesus and these people go to great lengths to try to obtain eternal life by various means and I tell you- it breaks your heart.

Honest, sincere people spending tons of money- throughout their entire lives- going through manmade rituals and ceremonies that can never give them eternal life. And these people will do unbelievable things in order to obtain eternal life- all because they weren't taught at all or because they were taught wrongly.

Think of the great volume of human suffering that could be done away if only ministers would have the courage to teach what God said rather than what is popular. Think how much untold agony could be avoided if only people understood that God is infinitely more interested in us being holy than He is in us being happy and that Salvation is *not* about God making much of us- it is about us being so radically transformed- that we can make much of God.

John said in verse 12 that every single human being on earth that has the Son- already *has* eternal life. It isn't that they are *developing* eternal life like Mormonism and Hinduism and Gnosticism teaches but that they already *have* eternal life. And the reason that this is true is because eternal life is found nowhere else but in Jesus Christ.

And then in verse 12- John said the same thing- but in the negative:

... he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life

So in reality there are only two groups of people on earth- those who have life in Jesus and those who do not have life in whatever else they have. So we might say in Alabama English that there are people who are alive and people who are dead. And every single saved person on earth is alive and every single lost person is already dead.

Now that is quite clear- but we live in a time when we are bombarded with unbiblical and humanistic teaching on a daily basis so that often

we lose sight of the simple but profound truth that every single human being born of woman is born sinful and utterly corrupt and completely separated from God.

No one is born good; there are no good people on earth; nobody is righteous; all men are evil and wicked and every human on earth lives in hostile rebellion toward God and the things of God on a daily basis.

That is what it means to be lost. And I think that we need to revisit the definition of what it means to be lost often- lest we begin to believe the garbage that is poured into our eyes and ears and minds and hearts by people who do not believe the Bible is true.

For example- many out in the pagan world teach that people are born internally good- that they are internally just fine at birth. The world then goes on to teach that it is what happens to that good person *externally* during their lifetime that makes them bad- like a mean father; or a lack of money or a lack of opportunity; or poverty; or because mom wouldn't let them have a kitty cat.

So the lost world teaches that by showing this person how to look inward- inside himself- into the power that is supposedly already in them- then all bad people can tap into that inner strength and that inner power and they can become good again and then they can fulfill all their dreams.

So the goal in this teaching is to build up the inner "self" of Man- and so concepts like "self- esteem"; "self- worth"; "self- help"; "self- fulfillment"; and "self- satisfaction" are concepts that are very important if you buy into this false pagan unbiblical teaching.

Now what I just described for you is the state sponsored religion of the United States of America and this religion is taught in every public school and in every major University and it is taught and practiced on Wall Street and on Madison Avenue.

And sadly, in our day this false pagan unbiblical religion is also taught by many of the television preachers on the Hay, Wood, and Stubble Television Network. This false religion is also unfortunately taught in many of our Churches and you will find these concepts of the self of Man in almost every single Christian major best seller published in the last fifty years.

This religion is called, "Secular Humanism" and it was invented by the heretic Pelagius almost 1700 years ago as he fought Augustine over the Biblical issues of Original Sin; The Sovereignty of God; and Grace.

Now I have no idea why *anyone* who names the great Name of Jesus would ever want to believe or teach *anything* that a heretic taught- but nevertheless- the antichrist religion of Secular Humanism is more popular today than it was when Pelagius first brought it forth seventeen centuries ago.

But we need to know that the Bible doesn't teach these things. The Bible teaches that what is *wrong* with us is *internal*- not external. The Bible teaches that the source of all evil lies inside the fallen and depraved human heart- and therefore- all wickedness, all sin, crime, violence; war; malice; strife; anger; bitterness- every manifestation of evil on earth resides in the human heart at the very moment of conception.

And the Bible goes on to say that not only do fallen people not have any inner strength or inner power to look to or to develop- the Bible teaches that all men people are born spiritually dead- that they do not possess any life at all other than that which is in their sinful flesh for a few years. So the Bible says that no good thing resides internally in fallen and unsaved people.

Then the Bible goes on to say that the only hope for this sinful fallen dead person is *external*- *outside* of himself- in the Gospel; on the Cross; and in the Bible. And so we must look *away* from ourselves and look to the sinless Life and the substitutionary Death and the glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

So in order to be saved- God is the One Who has to initiate Redemption because all lost people are dead and they cannot see; they cannot hear; they cannot believe; and they cannot choose to love and serve God absent a sovereign Act of God. And we can't do this- precisely because in our lost state- we are dead.

So, this is where Grace comes in. God rescues fallen Man; God goes to where we are precisely because we cannot go to where God is. God chooses us- we don't choose God- that is preposterous- fallen, dead sinners can't choose anything except sin and self. So left to themselves- no lost person would ever choose God or the things of God- precisely because he is dead.

But although we deserve to burn in hell forever- God graciously washes us and saves us and changes us and adopts us and we become bond slaves to Jesus Christ.

Now the reason that the order of this matters is because if the Bible is correct- then the last thing that any dead, fallen sinful Man needs is to look inward. What is he going to look at- his wicked heart? So we must understand that Righteousness does not come from within us- Righteousness comes from without- from Jesus Christ- even as life does not come from within us. No, the Bible teaches that eternal life only comes from outside of us- from God's Own Son.

So Humanism is the religion that baits people with the lie that says that if only we can build up our "self- esteem" or "self- worth"- we could all be great in the earth and fulfill all our dreams.

But Christianity says that lost sinful wicked fallen dead people are miraculously and supernaturally and Sovereignly saved by a good and loving God Who calls us to come to the Cross and die; to decrease; to go down; to end the search to fulfill our own dreams and to live only to glorify God and to fulfill His Dream.

So Humanism is not a tool that helps anyone. Humanism is evil and it is an affront to the Cross of Jesus Christ and those who teach it and those who believe it are in fact fighting against God's Plan for Salvation.

So the next time you hear anyone talk about building up "self- worth" or "self- esteem" or promoting "self- fulfillment"; the next time you hear anyone teach about releasing the power that lies inside you or about tapping into your inner strength- you need to think heresy and you need to think false religion and you need to think paganism. And then thank God that He has given you eyes to see and ears to hear.

The Apostle John said that eternal life is found exclusively in Jesus Christ and **He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.**

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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