

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 28- The Confidence That We Have in Him

260 Asking According to God's Will- Part 4

WAOY Tuesday 10/07/08

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 our new section of our study and look again at what John taught about "The Confidence we have in Jesus Christ"- so let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5:14-17** again together:

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not *leading* to death, he shall ask and *God* will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

Now we are continuing to discuss just what John was talking about when he wrote verse 14- so let's read that verse again together:

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Now there is an underlying principle about what John wrote here that we need to know- and that principle is this:

Everything that God does in the earth is done ultimately for His Glory

Creation, Salvation, Blessings and even Judgment are all acts of

God that designed ultimately to bring Glory to God. Now there are- of course- secondary aspects to all of these things- but the overriding purpose of God and the overriding reason why God does anything is to bring Glory to Himself.

Now I realize that what I just said may sound strange to some of you- but it really isn't strange at all please let me explain. If a man said that about himself- we would rightly say that that man was egotistical and self-righteous- and as such- he would be sinful and wrong- but you see, we are not talking about a man- we are talking about God.

And God is proper to be that way about Himself. In fact God would be wrong not to be that way about Himself. You see, there is nothing in all of Creation more important to God- than God. There is nothing more beautiful, nothing more wise, nothing more glorious, nothing more good than Himself and so God loves Himself fully and God glorifies Himself fully precisely because there isn't anything else or anybody else that deserves Glory and Love more than God does.

And so God has commanded all of His Creation to love and worship and glorify Him. And the reason that God created all things was so that all things would glorify Him. Read with me **Psalms 19:1**:

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

So, we can see that the Heavens do not declare their *own* Glory- they declare the Glory of God. Now the Bible also teaches that God created Man and saves sinful man for the very same reason- for His Own Glory! Read **Isaiah 43:5-7**:

5 "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west.

6 "I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth,

7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

So then we can see that Salvation is not just about us going to Heaven to walk on streets of gold and to be reunited with loved ones

who have gone on before us. We will surely do all of that in Heaven- but that is not the main purpose of Salvation.

The main purpose of Salvation is so that we will have the honor and the privilege to share in the love and knowledge of God. Read **Isaiah 45:5&6:**

5 "I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me;

6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,

So we can see here that part of the reason that God saves us through Jesus Christ is so that we will know. Well, what does God want us to know?

That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,

So Salvation is God giving unworthy sinners the honor and privilege to love Him and know Him. Okay, why does God want us to know and love Him? Because by this love and through this knowledge- we will then serve and worship God in the manner in which God is entitled to be worshipped.

You see, while it is true that all of Creation is worshipping God- Man is not. Man doesn't worship God- fallen Man worships himself. So worship that is only correctly reserved for God has been stolen and is now being given to Man. And that is called idolatry. Idolatry is when we worship Man as though he were God and when we do not worship God as being God. And in our normal natural fallen condition- we worship Man and not God.

And unless and until God Sovereignly comes to us first and changes us – we will never out of our own free will choice ever worship God. That is because we are lost and fallen and we can't and we don't want to. So, God has to give to us both the power and the "want to" in order for us to worship God. That Sovereign gift is called Regeneration and is likened in scripture to being a Resurrection or a birth.

You see, dear friends, mankind in their lost condition are not basically good people who just have few things we need to improve. No,

the Bible says that we are dead in trespasses and sins and we live our lives in hostile opposition to God and the things of God. So we don't need improvement- as Psychology would tell you- no, we need to be recreated or born again.

And part of that new creation state is that God give us a brand new divine nature. That new nature replaces our old nature which was based on Adam and his sin. This new nature- also called the seed of Christ- now resides inside of us and begins to change us from the inside out.

Now what is very important to know is that all of our loves and our wants and our wishes and our desires and all of our free choices are now all based upon that new nature and so when we are saved- we now naturally and normally and earnestly desire to do God's Will and to bring Glory to His Name.

Before we were regenerated- all of our loves and desires and wants and wishes and all of our choices were based on our old fallen nature which pertained to Adam in his fallen condition and not to God. That is why our "will", before we were saved, was not free- but was in bondage to our fallen nature. We were free to choose alright- but only on a horizontal level. Since our ability to choose rested on top of a fallen nature- our choices were never vertical- they were never toward God or the things of God.

Lost people can choose to live in a certain city; they can choose to marry whoever they want to; they can choose what pair of shoes to wear and they are free to choose any number of things- as long as those choices never violate their fallen nature. But precisely because the nature of that person is fallen- he will never in a million years freely choose to love or serve God. All the lost man wants to do about God is to do exactly what Adam did after he sinned- run and hide.

So God has to Sovereignly change the nature of the beast in order for anyone of us to even want to love and serve God. It isn't a change of mind or a change of attitude- although the mind and attitude will soon follow- but it is a change of nature. The nature of the human has been radically and supernaturally and eternally changed. That change of nature from Adamic to divine is called Regeneration or being born again. And that has to happen first- before anyone can be saved.

And once the nature of the human has been miraculously and Sovereignly changed- then that lost person has eyes to see; he has ears to

hear; and he has a heart to believe and by his own free choice- a choice that rests upon a new divine nature- he freely chooses to repent and trust Christ for Salvation.

So did lost Man freely choose to accept Christ into his heart? Absolutely- but not before God did a Sovereign Work of Grace in his life first. And that is what is meant when I say that Salvation is a Sovereign Work of God alone apart from anything that a human being does or does not do. Because until God Sovereignly regenerates that lost soul- he is dead and he cannot see; and he cannot hear; and he cannot believe and he won't – because he is dead and he can't.

Now after God does that Sovereign work- that person has been reborn and he can hear the Gospel; he can understand God and the things of God and God has given him the gift of faith and now he can be saved. And he will be saved because 100% of all those whom God chose from before the foundation of the world- God will draw and 100% of all those that God draws will come and 100% of those who come- Christ will receive them and 100% of those whom Christ receives will be kept by the power of God all the way to Glory.

Now the flip side is that those who are chosen and those who are drawn and those who come and those who are regenerated and those who receive the new divine nature and those who are saved will change. And they will love God and they will serve God and they will follow God and they will obey God- not perfectly all the time- but they will obey and the domination that sin had over them when they were lost is now forever broken and they are now indwelt by the Holy Spirit and they have both the will and the power to do of God's good pleasure.

And so even though they are not sinless or perfect- they desire to do God's Will and they desire to pray according to God's Will and they no longer live their lives for their own glory- but they do all that they do for the Glory of God!

Now that doesn't mean that they do whatever they want to and then just thank God for it. You don't glorify God by promoting sin or by celebrating sin and then thanking God for it- but they change what they do and they change where they go and they change the way they talk and they change what they look at and they change what they read and what goes into their mind and eyes and ears and heart and they follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes.

And over time they delight themselves in the Lord and over time the Commandments of God are no longer grievous to them and over time they love what God loves and they want what God wants and they desire what God desires. **Hebrews 10:9** says that when Jesus came to this earth he shouted:

... I come to do Your will, O God...

And now because the very seed of Jesus Christ remains in us- we say the very same thing too and John teaches us here in verse 14 that as this becomes true in our life- we will have great confidence because we know- we don't hope or wonder or even believe- but we know that whatsoever we ask according to His Will- that God hears us.

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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