

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:18-20**

Chapter 30- What We Know 275 What We Know- Part 1

WAOY Wednesday 11/05/08

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 begin to look at the summary of all that we know- based upon this great Epistle of **1John**- so let's read **1John 5:18-20** together:

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Now it is only fitting that a Book that deals with the Certainty and Assurance of Salvation would end with three final statements by the Apostle John that all begin the very same way. Verses 18, 19, and 20 all begin with the phrase, "**We know**". And so I want us to look at just what John is teaching here in these three verses- so that we may know what John knows.

Now in one sense- these three verses are a *summary* of much of what John has been teaching all through this Epistle. But in another sense- these three verses are a reminder of just how important bold statements that are based in Divine Truth- are to Christianity.

We need to remember, dear friends, that Christianity, as revealed in Scripture, makes many fantastic claims- that stretch the minds of even the greatest thinkers. For example- the Bible says that God is one and yet is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Now the Doctrine of the Trinity may be hard to grasp- but it is nevertheless true and if you have

judged the Word of God to be valuable- then whatever struggle you may have to go through in order to know what God has said- it is worth it.

The Bible also clearly teaches that Jesus was 100% God and 100% Man at the same time; in the same Body; without conflict or contradiction. So since that is true- we have to pause and ponder this great mystery of when God became a Man so that we may know Him properly so that we may worship Him properly.

And the Bible also says that every other religious figure in every other religion in the whole of human history is subservient to Jesus Christ and must bow before Jesus Christ and must be saved by Jesus Christ and if those other leaders teach anything different than what Jesus taught- they will be judged by Jesus Christ. And so we must resist the temptation to alter our view of Jesus in order to keep other people who do not accept the Truth of Scripture from being offended at that statement. We must be faithful to believe and proclaim and defend what God has said about these things regardless of whether they are easy or hard and regardless of whether they are accepted or rejected by the world.

One of the most amazing claims that the Bible makes is that lost sinners are forgiven and made fit for Heaven- not based on what they do for *themselves*- but what Christ does *for them* by Faith alone. So we must know that and we must proclaim that- and we must be faithful to reject any teaching by any man or organization that seeks to add human effort to Salvation.

Luke- the Gentile physician- who wrote the Gospel account that bears his name and **The Book of the Acts** was a very precise historian and scientist who wrote many historical; details and facts about people, places, and events so that anyone can check the history record and see for themselves that what he wrote is true- so that they will believe that Jesus is the Christ and that Salvation is in His Name alone. And he did that so that we would know- not guess or wonder or hope or even simply believe- but so that we may know. The Bible was written so that we would know.

And the writer of **Hebrews** calls out to his Jewish readers to completely abandon the inferior Old Covenant and go on to the vastly superior New Covenant that is based on superior Promises; and has a superior Sacrifice; offered by a Superior High Priest. And in so doing – the writer gives great details about the Old Covenant so that every Jew

on earth for all time would know that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah and that Salvation is in His Name alone.

Paul the Apostle wrote **Romans** Chapter 9 for no other reason other than to explain and defend the concept of Sovereign Election to a people who didn't think it was fair and Paul had every opportunity in the world to crawlfish and teach something easier- but he continues through that marvelous chapter to promote and defend a very difficult Biblical Doctrine- because- even though it may be difficult- it is True and because he wants the people of God to know that Salvation is not a work of Man; it is not initiated by Man; it is not the result of Man's free will choices; it is not carried out by Man and it is not sustained by Man. Paul wanted the people to know that Salvation was a Sovereign work of God alone.

So here the Apostle John ends this great Epistle with the same statement- "**We know**" because like Paul and Luke and the writer of Hebrews- John does not want the people of God to worship hidden mystical things; he doesn't want there to be secret ceremonies and hidden agendas in the Church; John doesn't want us to be ignorant- John wants us to know.

We need to know that the only being that wants God's people to be ignorant is the devil. Blind faith and trust with no proof are signs of heretical cults- not Biblical Christianity. God never demanded anywhere in the Bible that people believe without a very powerful *reason* to believe. God never has asked anyone to use blind faith to follow Him- but God has given us proof after proof after proof; reason after reason after reason; and God has provided evidence after evidence after evidence so that our faith is based on what we *know* to be true so that our faith is strong and not weak.

So John has not asked people to believe what he has taught here simply because he thought it was a good idea. No John tells us what he tells us because what he says is based in fact- provable; discernable; evidentiary fact that can be seen and heard and touched and trusted.

The Apostle John doesn't tell us about some figure of history named Jesus who John heard about from other people. No, look how John describes Jesus in **1John 1:1-3**:

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the

Word of Life —

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

So John says, *“I saw Jesus personally; I touched Him with my own hands; I walked with Him for 3-1/2 years; I saw His Mouth move when He spoke; I laid my head on his breast and heard the Heartbeat of the incarnate God.”*

And then in verse 3- John says, *“The One that I personally saw and the One that I personally knew- that is the One that I declare to you.”* Now why did John want to declare Jesus to us? So that we would think great things about John? No. So that John would be larger than life to us? No. So that we would become dependent on John? No.

Why does John go to great lengths to accurately declare Jesus to us? Look at the middle of verse 3:

... so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

So John wants us to know and not wonder so that through the correct and true knowledge of God- we may be in right fellowship with John and the other Apostles. And the reason that John wants us to be in right fellowship with himself and the other Apostles is so that we may be in right fellowship with God and with Jesus.

Now I taught much on this when we were in this verse earlier in our study- but this is truly a remarkable statement by John here. John is saying that if we ever hope to be in right fellowship with God and Jesus- we have to be in right fellowship with the Apostles. In other words- unless we accept and believe and confess the very same things about the Gospel and about God and about Jesus and about Salvation that was taught by the Apostles- then our personal belief is off base and we are not in fellowship with Jesus at all.

And the *reason* that John could make such a profound statement as this- a statement that nobody on earth can make about himself today- is precisely because Christianity; Biblical Christianity is not

something that is up in the air and determined by every personal opinion of Man- but Biblical Christianity is defined by that body of teaching that was given by God and which was articulated by the Apostles in the writings of the New Testament Books.

And the goal of all that the Apostles wrote is so that we would know; so that we would be convinced that the fantastic claims; the supernatural events; so that we would believe that the miraculous things that the Bible says are absolutely true.

And so here in verses 18-20- the Apostle John summarizes all that he has taught in this Epistle all that all the other Apostles taught in all the other Epistles by saying, “We know”.

Now we cannot be naïve because not everyone believes what John has taught here. And for over 1900 years we called those who did not believe what John taught- “unbelievers”. Those who did not believe what John taught- were outside the Church and were considered to be not saved.

But in our day- unbelief has entered into the Church to such an extent that it has become the normal fabric of the people of the modern Church and this has become such a huge issue in our day that today very few people actually know what they believe or why they believe it.

And yet inexplicably- at the same time that the people of the Church are more confused about Truth than ever before- the only thing that could remedy this problem- Sound Biblical Teaching- is looked at as being dry, dull, boring, and unnecessary.

And of course the result of all of this is that the average person who sits on the average pew in the average Church in America today does not know; he is unsure and confused and torn about what he believes and why he believes it. And so the very purpose of why the New Testament was written- so that we would know- is not being fulfilled in our day.

And that would be bad enough but what is even worse- is that you cannot remove one thing without inserting something else. And so ancient heresies; fables; false teachings; and fantasies have rushed into the vacuum that has been created by the systematic removal of Divine Truth and God’s people not only don’t know- but much of what they *do* know- is not true.

600 years before Jesus was born- the prophet Jeremiah saw the very same thing happening to the people of God. In his day great

prosperity and safety and security had brought about a great falling away and the people of God were more concerned about hanging on to their wealth than they were hanging on to what God had said. So they rejected Jeremiah and those who called the people to repent of their backsliding and to repent of their lukewarmness and to repent of loving this present world and they heaped to themselves false prophets who would sooth them with sweet sounding prophecies of peace and safety and prosperity.

So not only did the people not know what God wanted them to know- their ears and their hearts and their minds were being filled with lies and deception and the people couldn't have been happier about it. So, in **Jeremiah 5:31a**- the prophet said:

The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their *own* authority; And My people love it so!...

And they never saw the Judgment of God coming that took them all away. I pray that we will wake up and we will repent and we will hunger after Righteousness so that we may know God's Word before God's Anger is poured out on 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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