

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 30- What We Know 280 What We Know- Part 6

WAOY Friday- Monday 11/14-17/08

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 the summary of all that we know- based upon this great Epistle of **1John**- so let's read **1John 5:18-20** again 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 we are in the middle of studying how that in these three verses- the Apostle John is giving us a summary of all that he has taught in this great Epistle. And he begins each of these three verses with the phrase, "We know".

In these three verses- John wants us to know three things:

1. That the person who has genuinely been born of God does not dwell continually in sin
2. That those who are saved are truly born of God
3. That the Son of God has come and has given us knowledge of the one true living God.

And we have spent several broadcasts on the first truth and today I want to look at the second Truth that John says that we should know- so let's read **1John 5:19** again together:

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

Now once again- John shows us the great contrast between those who are lost and those who are saved. John says that while we know that we are of God- we also know just as assuredly that the whole world that lives and operates outside of Jesus lies underneath the dominating control of the evil one.

Now we can tap dance around this all we want to, dear friends, but this means that everything that operates in this world other than saved people- is underneath satan. And that is not just talking about bad and blatantly evil things- but every activity; every song; every book; every concept that makes for a good life and that allows us to become wealthy and that helps to heal our bodies; and that makes us laugh- everything in this fallen world is under the dominating control of the devil himself.

Now it is not fashionable today to take this kind of uncompromising stand for Jesus and the Truth of Scripture that John is making here. Today- the lost pagan world has been successful in imposing on believers a false sense of enjoyment and security that we are somehow bound to agree with- that is not found in Scripture.

For example- we are lectured by people who don't believe in anything that in order for us to be a good Christian- we must live under the confines of what they determine a good Christian must be. And for some strange reason- many people in the modern Church have bought into that ridiculous logic.

These people say that we must be tolerant of other people's opinions- even about Divine Truth and Salvation. That it is somehow arrogant of us to hold fast to exactly what the Bible says about these things. And then we are told that the greatest sin we can commit is to make people who espouse a false religion and a false Salvation uncomfortable. So please allow me to be the first to tell you that that is utter nonsense. I refuse to allow people who don't believe the Bible to define what a good Christian looks like.

Look, as genuine believers, we are to be kind and generous and merciful to everybody- especially those with whom we disagree. We are commanded to love all men- even our enemies- and to work with all men and weep with all men and rejoice with all men- regardless of how

they may live or believe. *That* is the toleration that the Bible demands on those who are saved.

But when it comes to Divine Truth; when it comes to the fantastic and supernatural and miraculous claims that the Holy Scriptures make; when it comes to how lost people are saved and the Attributes and Characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ- we are not to bend one inch; we are not to accept anyone else's point of view simply to avoid them being offended. And we are not to tolerate everybody's opinions as to how Salvation works or Who Jesus is- as though all opinions are of equal value.

And the reason we can't do this- is because of our great love for these people. We love them and we want them to be saved. And the Truth is their false Doctrine about Salvation cannot save them. They are deceived about the only issue that matters- how to get to Heaven. And so love dictates that we engage these people and do everything in our power to help them come to the realization that they are wrong and to discard their man-made beliefs and come to Jesus for Salvation.

Look the Bible teaches that it is just as much a sin to believe wrongly as it is to live wrongly. And so John says that if you don't believe about Jesus correctly according to what God has Revealed in Scripture- then you will miss Heaven.

So as it pertains to personal opinions or personal preferences- we must and we should be tolerant of other people- absolutely. My opinion is not one iota more important or holy than anybody else's. But when it come to the Character and Nature of God the Father or when it comes to the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ in either His full Divinity or His full Humanity and when it comes to the concept of Grace and how a lost person is justified before a holy God- there is no room at all for any compromise with anyone- ever. You either agree whole heartedly with what God says about these things in inspired Scripture or you are yet in your sins.

And make no mistake about this, dear friends- your eternity rides on whether what you believe is in full accordance with God about these three things. And if what you believe differs from what God has said- you are *not* in a right relationship with Him.

I don't have the right to teach another Gospel that is not the very same Gospel that Jesus taught and nobody else does either. You don't have that right and neither does your Church and neither does your

organization. The Gospel is not what I say it is. The Gospel is what God said that it is. And everybody who is truly saved has the solemn duty to make sure that what he believes and teaches is in accord with what God had said in Scripture- or he is a false teacher and should be condemned.

As I have taught several times earlier during this Study of 1John- the Apostles were as kind and generous and longsuffering as anyone on earth has ever been. They were true under- shepherds and bondslaves of the Lord Jesus and they worked with the worst people in society- irrespective of their wealth or fame. These men didn't cozy up to the rich and the powerful; they didn't hobnob with the politicians and the influential- but they labored with the dregs of society.

But when anyone for any reason came into the Church for the purpose of bringing in false teaching or false doctrine- when anyone tried to deceive the sheep- when evil men came to seduce the servants of God- these same kind and gentle men became like pit bulls. The Apostles to a man were brutal against *anyone* who tried to preach another gospel; they were the worst nightmare for anyone who tried to make merchandise of the Lord's sheep; and they were valiant watchmen- guarding the door to the House of God so that the Church of Jesus would remain the shining city on a hill and the pillar and ground of the Truth.

Today- the Apostles would be called "unloving"; "legalistic"; "mean spirited"; even "unchristian" by the very same people who try to put that label on us. I am confident that the local "ministerial association" would send a committee out to brother John to tell him to tone down his rhetoric. They would be aghast that John made such clear distinctions between the children of God and the children of the devil; between the children of Light and the children of darkness; between the fish on the left side and the fish on the right; between the sheep and the goats; and between the wheat and the tares.

So even though it is very popular today to classify faithful ministers of the Gospel as being goofy and superstitious intolerant bigots- I would suggest that these people would realize that, unlike Islam- we don't convert people to Christianity based on threats or violence. Our weapons are not carnal- but they are mighty. We use the Power of love to persuade people about the Truth of Scripture and we use the power of persuasion as we give people factual concrete evidence

from infallible Scripture that proves that Jesus was God and that Salvation is in His Name alone.

We preach with passion that comes only from personal conviction that what we say is true- but we preach not just with passion- we have more than human emotion behind our words- we preach with Divine Authority- because we know whereof we speak. We have become convinced that God's Word is true and that it is inspired and inerrant and infallible and while we too struggle with our own sin- we are not confused about what we believe or why we believe it. And that means that the 66 Books of the Holy Bible are the most unique and special Books in all the world and we so believe that that we have dedicated our lives to the study of those 66 Books and to learn them and to analyze them and to personally investigate the claims that they make so that we will be equipped and qualified to tell all men about the hope that lies within us.

Listen, any good lawyer can speak eloquently and business leaders can use clever phrases and slick marketing slogans to manipulate people. So-called Christian TV is full of psychological motivational speakers- masquerading as preachers of the Gospel. And God knows that politicians can cause people to scream and dance and jump around. But when a man of God speaks Gods' Word accurately and fully without compromise- souls are converted and hearts are pierced through and divided; heads are bowed under deep conviction; self- righteousness melts away; hard hearts are broken; black hearts are washed whiter than snow; unbelief turns to belief; and the miracle of Salvation is manifested on the earth again.

And when we preach that Word- that Divinely inspired Word- it is true and it is eternal and it is binding on the conscience of every man who lives in every country under every Governmental system in the world for all time. And so when we speak the Words that came out of God's Mouth- we speak them with Authority; without apology; without hesitation; without embarrassment; and we speak them as they are- perfect and true and commands that are imposed by a loving and Almighty God on all that He has created- souls are saved and God is glorified.

The men who stand and preach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ are called and chosen and selected and handpicked by Jesus Himself to dedicate their lives to one single cause- the Glory of God.

And so they herald Divine Truth through the accurate and complete proclamation of the only Book that God gave to Man.

These men are not to build their own kingdoms; they are not to make themselves of any importance; they are not to make merchandise of God's people; they are not to grow fat and wealthy off the backs of the poor; they are not to become self-appointed and unaccountable prima donnas- who must be catered to and waited on. No- they are to be humble; faithful; self-sacrificing bond-slaves of the Lord Christ Himself living only to do His bidding.

And these humbled, broken, trembling men stand behind a pulpit that is ablaze with the Holiness and the Righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself and they thunder the Word of God in fullness without the slightest bit of hesitation or embarrassment about how much or how little what God has said may fit in with the sensibilities of lukewarm or unsaved Church members.

So their steps are sure; their speech is sound; their voice is unwavering- not because they are self-righteous or cocky- but because what they speak and what they teach is not their own words- it is not their own personal experiences; and it is not their own opinions; but it is the inspired Word of the living God.

These men can hear the rejoicing of the multitudes of Heaven mingled with the screams of the multitudes who are forever damned and it terrifies them to think that they might say something or even do something that would bring dishonor to the Lord Who bought them.

And that is why John spoke with such authority and certainty. And that is why there are no gray areas in John's Theology. And that is why we must be just that clear and just that certain and just that faithful.

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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