

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 30- What We Know
286 What We Know- Part 12

WAOY Wednesday 11/26/08/Monday 12/01/08

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 on the last broadcast- we were looking at the second Truth that John says that we should know and today I want us to look at the third thing that John says that we know- so let's read **1John 5:20** again together:

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 this is the third area of Biblical Truth that the Apostle John says that we should know- a correct understanding of Who Jesus is. And John wants to be sure that we understand that there is no such thing as being right with God and having an unbiblical view of Jesus. Make no mistake about this, dear friends, what we believe about Jesus determines where we will spend eternity.

Now it is popular today to hear all kinds of accolades about Jesus. Some people admire the Jesus Who went about doing good; others admire the Sermon on the Mount while others look fondly at the Golden Rule. Jesus has been called a great Moral Leader; a Prophet; a Teacher; a Social Activist; and some even look at Jesus as being the original hippie.

And nearly every human on earth loves to quote one thing that Jesus said in **Matthew 7:1**:

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

... *not* because they are interested in walking in Biblical purity- but simply because they don't want anybody telling them that their evil deeds are sinful- not even God.

Now some people love Jesus for no other reason than they look at Jesus as sticking His Finger in the eye of the established order of that day- and that fits in with their own rebellious ways perfectly.

Many people see the Babe in the manger as being so cute and sweet- at least once a year while others give Jesus the credit for helping them score more touchdowns or hitting more home runs or for helping them win awards for songs that talk about abusing women and killing police officers.

Muslims speak in reverent tones about Jesus and use the phrase, "*Blessed be His Name*" or "*May He forever be praised*" every time they mention Jesus' Name. And there are many books written by Buddhists and Hindus and Hare Krishnas which show great favor and admiration for Jesus. Even many Jews say that Jesus was indeed a good man.

Mormons say they greatly admire Him; Jehovah's Witnesses say that He was Michael the arch angel in the Old Testament; while

Scientists; followers of kabala; and Christian Science practitioners all say that Jesus was a great example.

But if what these people say is *all* that Jesus is- then the Bible is a lie and we are all still lost because Jesus made the claim over and over and over again that He was God Almighty wrapped in human flesh. And this is where every single one of those false religions and manmade philosophies all part ways with Biblical Christianity.

You see, dear friends the one single area where Christianity differs from every other religious concept in the history of the world is in just Who Jesus is. And this controversy over the Person of Jesus Christ is just as controversial today as it was 2,000 years ago.

The true Christian Church has consistently confessed for 2,000 uninterrupted years that Jesus Christ was God Almighty in a body; that He was Yahweh draped in full Humanity. And while there has been several very powerful attacks against this confession over the last two millennia- there has not been any wavering about this at all.

Jesus Christ is God. And then to muddy the waters even further- at the same time that Jesus was fully God- He was also fully Man. And so Jesus was fully God and fully Man at the same time; in the same body; without any conflict or contradiction.

In short- Jesus was, is, and ever shall be- a miracle; a wonder. And it is partly because of this glorious mystery about Who Jesus is- as to why we worship Him. You see, *everything* about Jesus is a miracle- from His virgin birth; to His sinless life; to His death, Burial, Resurrection; Ascension; Present Ministry; and His coming again- *everything* about Jesus is and always will be- a genuine, bonafide, supernatural miracle.

There was more angelic activity; more dreams; more supernatural activity surrounding the birth of Jesus than there was in all of history before or since combined. And the only thing that can possibly even come close to being a greater event than the birth of Jesus- is when He comes back as King of kings and Lord of Lords to rule the world with a rod of iron.

And when God the Father imputed all of the sins of the whole world onto God the Son and Jesus said, **“It is finished!”** and gave up the ghost- the eternal Salvation of all who have ever believed and all who will ever believe was guaranteed forever.

There is Salvation is no other Name but Jesus. No man; no person; no organization; no religious *system* can forgive sin or make us fit for Heaven- only Jesus Himself can do that. And so we must understand, dear friends, that the Church does not save us; baptism does not save us; communion does not save us; speaking in tongues does not save us; obeying the Law does not save us; keeping the Sabbath does not save us; giving money to charity does not save us; striving to be moral doesn't save us. We are saved by Grace through Faith in the finished Work of Jesus Christ alone- without any human effort or action or cooperation in any way shape or form.

All of our obedience and striving to be godly and resisting sin and overcoming the world are merely human responses that flow out of a person who has already been saved by Grace through Faith alone.

And what that means is that if you follow the teachings of Mohammed faithfully- living by every tenet of the Koran and do not trust in Christ for Salvation- you will die in your sins. If you follow the teachings of Buddha or Krishna or Sun Yung Moon; or Joseph Smith or Ellen G. White or Mary Baker Eddy and you live by every tenet of the Baga- Va- Gita or the Book of Mormon or the Pearl of Great Price or The Doctrines and Covenants or the Keys to the Scriptures or the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society or the ancient teachings of Kabala and you do not trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ and receive Salvation by Grace through Faith alone- you will die in your sins.

If you follow the teachings of every single pope since Linus and you live by every papal edict, bull, writ, decree and every single ex-cathedra statement- and you do not trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ alone for Salvation- you will die in your sins.

If you follow the teachings of Benny Hinn or Joyce Meyers or Joel Osteen or Kenneth Hagin or Kenneth Copeland or TD Jakes or Juanita Bynum or Blair Bradley or Billy Graham or the Puritans or Augustine or Jonathan Edwards or John Macarthur or Charles Spurgeon or John Piper or John Calvin or Martin Luther and you do not trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ alone for Salvation- you will die in your sins.

And if you trust in all that Moses said and you try to obey every single Law that is recorded in the Old Testament and you do not trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ alone for Salvation- you will die in your sins.

You can prophesy till the cows come home; You can utter words of wisdom and knowledge; lay hands on the sick; bind the devil; cast out demons; fall on the ground; pop your neck; scream and shout and dance all over the Church or you can sit back and self-righteously judge those who do those things. But if you do not put your full trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ alone for Salvation- you will die in your sins.

Salvation cannot be bought; bargained for; bartered; or negotiated. Salvation cannot be earned; deserved; or worked for. Salvation is not payment for something that you have or have not done; and it is not a reward for something you are entitled to. And Salvation is not something that God owes you.

God has concluded that very single human being that is born of woman is personally guilty of the sin of Adam and we are born in sin and we are conceived in iniquity and there are none who are righteous in themselves; none who seek after God by and through their own free will choice apart from the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. There is absolutely no way for any human to develop their own human righteousness to the point where they are allowed to go to Heaven based some act or religious duty that they carried out. And Salvation is not something that is brought about through our participation in religious ceremonies or rituals. The Bible says that Salvation is entirely by Grace and it is entirely through the gift of saving Faith apart from any and all human works. And God set it up this way so that he alone receives all the Glory when He forgives and saves an unworthy sinner.

Dear friends, Mankind is utterly fallen; utterly corrupt; utter wicked; utterly depraved; utterly unable; and utterly unwilling to believe and trust and serve and love and obey the Command of God to repent and be saved. So we are utterly dependent on God to give us both the will and the power to obey the command to believe.

We are utterly dependent on God to give us the Grace that we do not deserve; and we are utterly dependent on God to give us the Faith that we do not have; and we are utterly dependent on God to give us eyes to see and ears to hear and to take out of us a stony heart and give us a heart of flesh.

All of this God must do for us *sovereignly* precisely because, in our lost condition, we are unable to even *cooperate* with Him. And God has to do all of this first- *before* we can believe or trust or accept or repent or be saved because in our normal fallen condition- we are spiritually

dead- we are without any spiritual life at all. And before a dead man can do *anything*- he must first be quickened or given life. And this is what it means to be born again. It is God sovereignly giving spiritually dead people new life so that with that new life- they can repent and believe and be saved.

So I said all of that to say this- without a clear; unshakable; unchanging; and accurate understanding of Who Jesus is- none of this is possible because it is impossible to trust in Someone that you don't know.

So Who Jesus is must be clearly articulated and clearly taught and clearly believed; and clearly confessed so that the Jesus of Scripture is the Jesus in Whom we trust and not "another Jesus" who has been invented by Man.

And that is why Paul and Peter and John and all the fathers of the Church have very carefully taught a full and Biblically accurate portrait of Jesus- so that Men might believe and be saved.

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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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.