

# So That You May Know

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

Chapter 30- What We Know  
288 What We Know- Part 14

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WAOY Tuesday 12/09/08

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 third Truth that John says that we should know and today I want us to continue 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 we must understand that the Christian Faith is not theoretical or abstract. Believing in the one true living God- the Creator and Owner of everything is not silly superstition. It is very intelligent and something that the wisest and most brilliant people throughout history agreed with.

I get amused at so called intellectuals who sit back in their arrogance and self- righteousness and spout off humanistic philosophy that doesn't work and that has failed in every civilization that has ever embraced it as though they are the wise ones and we who believe in and serve Jesus Christ are the ones who have suspended our mental faculties.

There is absolutely no doubt, dear friends that to disbelieve in a very wise and Powerful Creator is just dumb. It is simply ridiculous to assume that the intricacies and details and order of the Universe could have simply occurred randomly instead of being intelligently Created by an all knowing and all powerful God.

I believe that the rise in our day of militant atheism is the direct result of the weakening of the Church and the success that the media has had in embarrassing believers into silence. And so I believe that we need to stand up and be counted.

My greatest fear in life is not that I might offend someone who doesn't believe in anything or that I might appear to be too excited or too energetic about a Man who lived and died and rose again to save my wretched soul. No, that doesn't bother me at all.

But what *does* keep me up at night and what *does* make my knees shake is the thought that somehow I might become ashamed of the Gospel and that I would yield to the temptation to compromise with God in order to benefit myself personally. I worry about living in such a way that might bring dishonor to my King. I am concerned about my own pride and arrogance- *not* that speaking the Truth might hurt somebody's feelings. I am much more deeply troubled about my own ability to love money and to be worldly and to transgress against my Lord than I am that somebody who lives a compromised life might be angry with me.

Dear friends, I want to make sure that when it becomes illegal in the United States of America to be a practicing Christian that there will be enough evidence to convict me. That regardless of whether I am ever popular; that regardless of whether or not I am loved or wanted or appreciated; or regardless of whether I am in good health or walk in financial prosperity- that I will be able to hear Jesus speak those words to me on that day- *“Well, done good and faithful servant.”* Nothing else matters to me.

So I fear God: I fear that I might say something that would be untrue; that I might do something that would be unkind or that I might think something that would be ungodly. Those are my concerns- not who sits in the White House or how much they tax capital gains- because I know that unless we repent we shall all likewise perish. I want to love God and love my wife and love my children and love my brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to love my enemies and love those who hate me and do good to those who spitefully use me and persecute me.

And I know that in order to do those things I must know the Truth; and I must understand the Truth; and I must love the Truth and proclaim the Truth and defend the Truth and not be ashamed of the Truth. And I must refuse to compromise with the Truth and I know that I must actually live the Truth.

And that is how John looked at these things. In all of his writings- John never one time lashed out at those people who beat him or who imprisoned him or who boiled him in oil or who had cast him to die on the Isle of Patmos. John didn't write letters to the Roman Emperor to protest how he was being treated and he didn't boycott Roman stores because they supported causes that he didn't like. And John didn't use his days to campaign for politicians or to promote social causes.

But what John did do was preach and teach and defend and proclaim and publish the Truth- the Truth about Grace; the Truth about the Character and Nature of God the Father and the Truth about the Person of Jesus Christ.

And Jesus called John, “beloved”. And he is known today as the Apostle of Love. And yet as you read what he wrote- no man was as black and white about deep theological issues than John was- not Peter; not Paul; and not James. It was John who showed us the great contrast

between the tares and the wheat; the children of the devil and the children of God; the fish on the left side and the fish on the right and John made some of the most profound statements that can be found anywhere in the entire Bible and that is absolutely amazing as you realize that he- along with his brother James were called, "The Sons of Thunder" before they were saved- which no doubt meant that like a lot of fisherman- John enjoyed violence and fighting.

But John learned *how* to love; John learned *how* to obey and he leaned on Jesus' Breast and heard the heartbeat of the Son of God and he saw Jesus raise the dead and he saw Jesus heal the sick and he saw Jesus cast out demons and he saw Jesus feed the multitude. And John saw Jesus arrested and he saw Jesus suffer and he saw Jesus being beaten and he saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and John watched them lift the Cross up in the air and drop it in the stand and John saw Jesus agonizing for over three hours and John heard Jesus cry out, "*Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani which is to say, My God, My God why hast thou Forsaken me*" and John saw Jesus die. And when Mary came and told them that she had seen the Lord- John outran Peter to the tomb John had looked in and saw that the clothes that had covered Jesus' Body and the napkin that had been around His Face where laying there and the tomb was empty. And the Bible says that John believed.

And John saw Jesus and talked with Jesus for forty days *after* His Resurrection. And John saw Jesus ascend up into Heaven and he saw Jesus in His Glory on the Mount of Transfiguration and John saw Jesus in His Kingdom in the Vision of Revelation and John was in the Upper Room when there came from Heaven the sound of a rushing mighty wind and John along with 119 other people including Mary- the mother of Jesus were endued with Power from on High and John was personally chosen by Jesus to be one of His Apostles. And now some six decades later- John wrote these words that we are studying now.

And this old man- who was the last living Apostle- looks out over the horizon and knows that his time is short and he sees the struggles that the Church is in and he sees the battles both within and without and he sees the threat of pagan Judaizers as they try to add requirements to Salvation and he sees the danger of the Antinomians as they seek to abuse the Grace of God and live in lawlessness and he sees the threat of mystical Gnostics as they try to hide the Gospel and so John writes these words to strengthen the believers and to strengthen

the Church and to make a difference between that which is holy and that which is profane and to equip the saints and to assure them that the work that Christ had begin in them – He is well able to finish.

So here in **1John 5:20**- the last Apostle on earth wrote this final summary of all that he taught in these five Chapters by saying that:

We know that the Son of God- the messiah and the fulfillment of the almost 400 Old Testament prophecies has indeed come and that He was born of a virgin; that He lived a perfectly sinless life; that He fulfilled all His Father's Will; that He died and rose again to secure the eternal Salvation of every single person who has been chosen by God for Salvation from before the foundation of the world.

And then John said that we know that through Jesus and only through Jesus – we can know the Father and that true knowledge of the Father in fullness cannot be obtained by any other means other than through Jesus Christ.

And then John said that we know that genuine Salvation is not just head knowledge but that we have been born again and we have been adopted into the family of God to such an extent that we know that we are literally in Jesus Christ.

And finally John says that we know that what he has taught us here in this great Epistle is the correct and full knowledge of the one true living God and the elements and conditions that John has taught us in this Epistle in great lengths is the definition of what genuine Salvation is all about.

And John says that those who read and study what he has written in this Book as the Holy Spirit has moved upon him and as he has penned down these Words that were literally exhaled by the Mouth of God- Words that are inspired; inerrant; infallible; authoritative; relevant; and eternal- as we read and study these specially given and specially preserved Words- we will not wonder about these things; we do not guess; we will not hope but we will know these things and we will be established in the Faith that was once and for all delivered unto the saints.

And then John places the cap on this Book by giving us one final warning about the great danger of having idols in our life by writing the last verse of this Epistle which says:

## **1John 5:21**

### **Little children, guard yourselves from idols.**

Children of God; children of Faith; children of Jesus; children of the Church- in other words- those of you who are saved- guard yourselves from idols. Watch your heart that you be not entangled in the affairs of this life. Guard your hearts so that you do not love this present evil world. Listen to the testimony that comes out of your own mouth because whatever comes out of your mouth comes from your heart. Watch out; be alert; do not slumber. Do not be weary of well doing. Do not get lean in your soul. Do not fall in the snare of the wicked one. Do not follow after things that are passing away. Do not set your affections on the lust of the flesh or the lust of the eyes or the boastful pride of life. Do not allow the cares for this world; or the deceitfulness of riches or the lust of other things enter into your hearts. Do not become self- deceived. Do not think more highly of yourselves than you ought. Do not love money. Do not covet.

Labor; strive; and work while there is yet day. Struggle and beg God for eye salve so that you can see and beg God so that He would touch your ears so that you can hear. Keep your nose in the Book and your knees on the carpet and stay near to the Cross and do not have or love or follow after or worship idols but love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength and judge yourself so that you will not have to be judged.

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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