

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:6-8**

Chapter 26- Understanding and Valuing the Doctrine of the Trinity

230 Our Triune God Part 2

WAOY Thursday 08/07/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Doctrine of the Trinity". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5:6-8**- again together:

6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

Now as I mentioned on the last broadcast- there is some controversy surrounding this section of **1John** that we need to address before we examine what John taught here. There are some Biblical scholars who genuinely believe that this section of Scripture was not actually written by the Apostle John but was written many centuries later by an unknown scribe who penned these words in the margin of the *copy* of 1John that was used to translate the King James Version.

And the reason that these men believe this is because there is no record of these particular verses in any earlier copies that we have uncovered. So the King James Version has these three verses reading somewhat differently than the other English Versions that have been produced recently.

And like I told you last time- I have three things to say about this issue. First of all- The King James Version of the Holy Bible is an accurate English translation. In fact, after being in print for nearly 400 years- and after all the archeological discoveries and all the technological advancements that we have made over the last 400 years-

The King James Version is still in the top five translations in accuracy and trustworthiness of all the English Bibles in print.

So even though there may be some translation difficulties with this passage- nevertheless I highly recommend The King James Version of the Bible. Now having said that- I am *not* in the group who believe that special anointing was given to the King James translators to make this Version the only right one to use- that is simply nonsense.

But I would still recommend the King James Version above other versions of the Bible like The Living Bible, The New Living Translation or even the NIV- as these three are paraphrases of the Bible and not true translations.

But we must understand that all English translations of the Holy Bible have what are called, “translation difficulties”. And the overwhelming majority of these difficulties have absolutely nothing to do with any political or sinister conspiracy to deceive the masses of people. The overwhelming majority of all the translation difficulties come from the simple fact that there are some words in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic that do not have a corresponding word in English and so other words and even phrases had to be inserted in order for the verse to make sense. All English translations do this and the only difference between the different versions is how much and to what degree this is done.

For example- if you were to read **John 3:16** in Greek- which is the language that John actually wrote it in- it would not read the way that we have always heard it- simply because the Greek language places all their verbs together and therefore to read **John 3:16** exactly the way that John wrote it would be very clumsy and much harder to grasp. So all translations have to do some editing in order for the verse to flow properly in English.

But again, there are only about twelve places in the entire Bible where these problems occur and we know about all of them and so when we come to a place like we are in today- we simply must go through it one step at a time.

Secondly, the main thrust of these three verses that John wrote here – which is describing the Triunity of God- is in no way diminished by this problem.

The Doctrine of the Trinity that is dealt with here is also taught in many other places throughout the Bible and so this Doctrine and the

truth of this Doctrine is in no way affected by any translation difficulty that the translators may or may not have made here.

So we can trust what is written here and so we must go on through this just like we have with the rest of this Epistle.

Here in verse 6, we are reminded of the four points that John has repeatedly brought to us in this Epistle. There are four things that John says are essential to being a Christian and without which we can know that Salvation has not occurred:

1. Love of God and for God
2. Keeping God's Commandments
3. Loving the Brethren
4. A Correct Understanding of Who Jesus is

And all throughout this Epistle- these are the four areas that John constantly points out as being the hallmarks of genuine Christianity. And he is once again, in this passage, reminding us that even if we love God; even if we keep God's Commandments; and even if we love the brethren- even if we do all three of these things and yet John cautions us here that if our understanding of Who Jesus is- is not true- then there is great doubt about whether or not we are truly saved.

Now most of us who live in our laid back culture typical of the 21st Century find this hard to grasp. Things like Divine Truth and Propositional and Eternal Absolutes and Sound Biblical Doctrine have been so downplayed in our minds for so long that many people honestly think that it really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere- as though sincerity will make something that is false to magically be true.

Man believe today that one of the hallmarks of Christianity is not that we have a true and accurate and Biblical view of Jesus- but that we are tolerant and accepting of what anybody says about anything. I recently saw an ad on television asking people to come to a particular Church and the one single aspect that was used to draw more people to that denomination was that they were saying that in their Church- nobody was going to tell you what to believe- that you were free to believe whatever you wanted to and still be in good standing with the Church. They even had a Muslim and a Buddhist smiling and holding

hands and agreeing that you can love and worship Buddha or Allah and still join this Church.

That's where we are. That kind of nonsense is the result of decades of teaching and preaching that Doctrine doesn't matter and whatever a man can imagine in his mind is just as true and just as important as anything in the Bible.

I was asked to be on a panel discussion on the radio a number of years ago about the issue of "*What is Truth?*" And one member of the panel got very angry with me because I would not agree that his position was valid. He said that I was being narrow minded by not accepting other views that may be "out of the box".

My response to this soul was that all opinions do not deserve validation. Some opinions are valid while other opinions are simply nonsense and contradict laws of gravity and laws of physics and laws of logic and the Bible and should not be accepted but should be rejected.

And that is where we are today about this issue of Jesus. Although Jesus is the central Figure of the last 2,000 years- there is more confusion about Jesus now than ever before and fewer people are steadfast in their understanding about Who Jesus is today than at any time in Church history. And again- that is not accidental and we can hardly say that this illustrates advancement on our part but is the logical result of the Church of Jesus Christ abandoning Biblical Studies and of entire generations of Church goers not being taught the Fundamental and Essential Doctrines of the Christian Faith.

And if you stop and think about it how in the world can any Christian- a person who believes in Jesus- how could a Christian not know who Jesus is- it is just absurd. But that is where we are.

So, John reminds us here of one aspect of Christ's Nature- that Jesus- in addition to being fully Human- was also fully Divine.

Now some would ask, "*What's the big deal? What difference does it make if Jesus is just like God or was actually God?*" First of all, if Jesus was *not* God- then we are committing idolatry by worshipping Him- because we are forbidden to worship anyone else or anything else but God. So that's a big deal. But if Jesus *is* God- then are we to assume that there are two gods? And if the Holy Spirit is also God- are there now three gods? The answer to what appears to be a contradiction is The Doctrine of the Trinity that says that:

God is One in Essence and is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit.

And because the Doctrine of the Trinity is true- then Jesus can be described as being:

100% God and 100% Man at the same time in the same body without conflict or contradiction.

So you see, even though The Doctrine of the Trinity may be difficult for us to grasp- by not having this Doctrine we are left with no solid answer to the mystery of Who Jesus is.

John tells us that our belief in Jesus is paramount to our Salvation and he is not the only one who taught that. The Apostle Paul also taught that in order to be saved- we must believe that Jesus is God. Let's examine that for a minute by looking at **Romans 10:9**:

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Now here Paul is making three points by using this term Lord in this verse.

1. That Jesus is God incarnate
2. That Jesus is the Messiah and the One to whom all the prophets spoke about.
3. That Jesus has the right of ownership over those who belong to Him

1. Paul was teaching here the unashamed and bold fact that Jesus is God incarnate and that Salvation cannot be accomplished without understanding this; believing this; and confessing this publicly. Paul did not say that Jesus is *a* lord- but that Jesus is *the* Lord or in other words- Jesus is Yahweh with a human body.

2. Jesus is the very One to whom the entire Old Testament points. All of the nearly 400 prophecies concerning Messiah are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

3. The word that was translated here as “Lord” comes from the Greek, “*kurios*”- which signifies Sovereign Power and Authority.

Now to show you the significance of this distinction between Jesus being Savior or Lord- in the book of **The Acts**- Jesus is referred to as “Savior” only twice- but He is referred to as “Lord” ninety-two times! In the entire New Testament- Jesus is referred to some ten times as “Savior” and some seven hundred times as “Lord”!

The point here is not that Jesus is not our Savior- Thank God He is our Savior. But the point here is that it is unbiblical to try to distinguish Jesus as being “Savior” from Jesus being “Lord” as though this was two unrelated titles. Jesus is our Savior only if Jesus is our Lord.

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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