

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:6-8** Chapter 26- Understanding and Valuing the Doctrine of the Trinity 232 Our Triune God Part 4

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WAOY Tuesday 08/12/08

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 the way John writes in this Epistle is very unique among all the Biblical writers. John has been talking at great length about overcoming the world and about God choosing and loving us and about our love for the brethren and now in these verses- John switches back to talking about Who Jesus is.

So obviously this is of great importance to John and therefore should be of great importance to us. Because if the basis of my victory over the world is that I have faith in Jesus Christ and lean upon Him- and if I am to look to Jesus and rely upon Jesus and put all my trust in Jesus- then it is very important that I know Who Jesus is. And it is vital that I come to the conclusion that Jesus is worthy of the trust and confidence that I place in Him and that He is Someone with Whom I can rely.

So where do we go to find out about these things? I mean am I simply supposed to sit in a pew on a Sunday Morning and hear one or two short sermons about an historical figure named Jesus and then automatically trust Him with my life and my eternity? Not hardly. So

where should I go to find out about this Man named Jesus? Well, the best place to go is to find out what God- the Owner and Creator of the Universe says about Jesus. Where can I do that? In the pages of Scripture.

Beloved, it is frightening to see how little is taught about Jesus today. Even among those who say that Jesus is their Lord- so little is known about Who Jesus really is. And that lack of knowledge translates into a lack of trust in Jesus and a lack of trust in what Jesus said and what He promised. And that lack of trust translates very quickly into a lack of obedience and that lack of obedience translates into an explosion of sin and worldliness in the lives of God's people.

You see, dear friends, right belief always leads to right living and wrong belief always leads to wrong living. And contrary to those who say that Doctrine doesn't matter anymore- what you believe – *especially* about Jesus- always translates into how much or how little you trust in this Jesus. And how much or how little you trust in Who Jesus is and what Jesus said and what Jesus did- always translates into whether you are overcoming the world or whether the world is overcoming you.

So correct Doctrine; Sound Teaching; Biblical Truth will always lead a person to see and know Jesus properly and fully while reading the latest best seller or listening to little sermonettes for Christianettes will always lead a person to seeing and knowing Jesus partially or wrongly or inaccurately and in a very shallow and superficial way that does not have the power to invoke trust and confidence- especially when the storms of life are raging.

For example, if I have been taught and if I believe that Jesus will never let anything bad happen to me as I define badness- then when bad comes to me- as it surely will- then my only option is to believe that Jesus is not true to His Promise. And therefore, based on that false teaching- Jesus has proven to not be worthy of my trust.

Or if I have been taught that when I am sick all I have to do is pray and God always will heal my body as long as I have enough faith no matter what- and I do get sick- which I surely will- and God does not heal me- then because I was deceived by that false teaching- I am left with one of two options: Either Jesus is a liar or else I am not really saved- because if I had been saved- then surely God would have healed me. So the result of believing man-made teaching is that not only am I sick- but now I have to carry around the weight of guilt that I am out of

fellowship with God- right at the point when I need God the most.

So by not knowing Who Jesus is biblically and by not knowing What Jesus has already done- I am a sitting duck for all kinds of kooky and off the wall teachings that may sound good but which are false and will always leave me high and dry.

Today Jesus is being presented to God's people by some as being everything from their lover to their best friend to their home boy to their example. So there is the "Jesus the psychological therapist"; there is "Jesus the financier"; there is "Jesus the day care operator" and there is "Jesus the hippie".

And we are told today that we can do everything with Jesus today. So we can laugh with Him and dance with Him and sing with Him and fly with Him- everything but fear Him and obey Him. The people of the modern Church have been told that they can come to Jesus anyway that they want to and live any way that they want to and they can ask anything that they want to and expect anything that they want to- no matter how they live their lives. And so the grand and glorious Savior has been reduced to being little more than a puppet on a string- moving at every whim of the human heart.

Beloved, that is *not* Christianity. That is *not* worship and that is *not* the Jesus of Scripture. The "Jesus" that is so popular today is not the Jesus that God the Holy Spirit revealed in inspired Scripture.

Because Paul said Jesus was God. John said Jesus was God. Peter said Jesus was God. Moses said Jesus was God. David said Jesus was God. The writer of Hebrews said Jesus was God. And Jesus said Jesus was God.

God Almighty- in all His Holiness; and in all His Power and Glory draped Himself in human flesh and was born of a virgin and lived a perfectly sinless life so that every single person whom God has chosen for Salvation from before the foundation of the world would have every single one of their sins washed away.

So, Jesus didn't come down here to earth simply to be our example- because no human being born of woman can live up to the perfect example that Jesus set. Jesus didn't come down here to earth simply to give us tips on how to have a better marriage or how to hit more home runs or how to get our teeth whiter and brighter or how to get that vacation house in the Mountains.

Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. And the way that Jesus saves us from our sins is by Him living perfectly and by Him dying with all our sins on Him and by Him rising again. So, Jesus was born to die. The only reason that Jesus had to leave Heaven and be born is so that He would be rejected and taken and beaten and die. And when Peter didn't understand that and tried to stop Jesus from going to the Cross and give His life- here is what Jesus told Peter in **Mark 8:33**:

**Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**

Now right there most of us would have become so insulted if Jesus would have talked to us like that- we would have probably just walked away and left Him. Please notice that Jesus didn't say to Peter, "*Bless your heart, I know you mean well, Peter, but you just don't get it*". No, Jesus called Peter, "satan". And Jesus said that Peter really didn't relish the things of God at all. And what was Peter's sin that caused Jesus to speak to him like this? Peter didn't want Jesus to die!

And we have to ask ourselves the question that if we had been there that day- would we have understood this any better than Peter did? Would we have wanted Jesus to die? Think about this. All of our Christian lives have been spent in eager anticipation of Jesus coming back to this earth- but here Jesus was there. And Peter and James and John could touch Him. The Messiah had finally come. They had Jesus. And now Jesus is telling them that He is going to die?

Why? Wouldn't it have been better for Him to live? I mean as far as they were concerned, what possible good could ever come from Jesus dying? Just think about how many hungry people would no longer be fed and how many sick people would no longer be healed. Think about all the cripple people who would not walk if Jesus died and how many sermons would not be preached if Jesus was to die.

Yet we know now that the most important thing that Jesus ever did was to die. Because without Jesus dying- nobody gets saved and nobody loves God and nobody goes to Heaven and God's Plan of Redemption is ended. So dying was more important and more powerful and more eternal than anything else that Jesus did. In fact, everything else that

Jesus did led up to and went along with His death- because that was the Will of God. Jesus was born to die.

But how was Peter supposed to know all this? I mean Who does this Jesus think that He is to talk to Peter like that? I mean we have our rights, you know, and this Jesus acts like He's God talking to Peter like that.

Well, that's because Jesus is God. And that is because in Peter's limited knowledge and human sympathy- if he would have had the power- Peter would have prevented Jesus from dying. So, if it had been left up to Peter- Jesus would have been stopped from doing the very thing that God sent Him to do- which was to die on the Cross for the sins of God's people.

So even though it is true that Peter was operating out of human emotion- he was against Jesus doing what God wanted. And that put Peters' desires out of sync with God's. And so because Peter was fighting against God's Will- Jesus correctly called Peter "satan" and rebuked him.

Now the point of all this is to show you that this side of Jesus- the side that called Peter, "satan" is *not* the part that we normally think much about when we think about Jesus. And that is because we have a tendency to only want the parts of Jesus that we agree with. And that means that we are perfectly willing to throw the other parts out or simply ignore them.

But this is part of what God has revealed about Jesus in Holy Scripture. And so when we think about Who Jesus is- we *must* include parts like this too- or else our understanding of Jesus is warped and incomplete and therefore is not accurate.

Many today want to talk about the little baby Jesus in the manger while others want to dwell on the Christ Who taught on the Mount of Olives. Still others want the Jesus Who fed the five thousand and Who healed the sick and raised the dead. Still others want the Jesus Who hung on the Cross. Some even want the King- Who will return to this earth one day. And all of these aspects and sides of Jesus are good and they are true. But even if you believe all of this- your understanding of Jesus is still not complete. Please turn with me and read about another side of Jesus that we need to add to the mix from **The Revelation 1:13-18:**

**13** and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

**14** His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

**15** His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.

**16** In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

**17** When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "**Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,**

**18** and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

This is the Jesus that we all are going to have to stand before to give an account of what we did with all the time that we had here on earth. And this is the picture of Jesus that we need to add to all the others if our view of Jesus is going to be accurate and true and Biblical because you see, Jesus is both Lion and Lamb; He is both Priest and Prophet and King; he is both Lord and Servant; and He is both Savior and Judge. Jesus is the First and the Last; the Beginning and the End; the Alpha and the Omega and the Author and Finisher of our Faith. And Salvation is in His Name Alone; brought about By His Life and Death and Resurrection alone. And Salvation is for His Glory alone.

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.