

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:9-12**

Chapter 26- The Divine Witness 250 The Divine Witness- Part 7

WAOY Thursday 09/18/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about the Divine Witness- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been looking at the three witnesses that the Apostle John teaches in this passage. And we have already looked at verse 9 which gives us the first two witnesses- the witness of man and the witness of God. Now today I want to look at verse 10 very closely to see what John teaches about the third witness- so let's read verse 10 again together:

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Now keep in mind just what these three witnesses are testifying of. These three witnesses are not simply talking about anything- but these three witnesses are testifying about Who Jesus is. The witness of Man- mostly the Apostles and Prophets who wrote the 66 inspired Books of the Holy Bible and God the Father both witnessed about Jesus- externally- that is they taught external objective propositional Truth about Who Jesus is.

But the Holy Spirit- Who dwells internally in every believer- also witnesses about Jesus- and this internal witness is much more subjective than the witness of either Man or God the Father.

Now before we can get into this teaching about the internal witness of the Holy Spirit- we need to establish certain Biblical facts that have been distorted over the last hundred years or so.

Much has been written and said about the Holy Spirit since the Azusa Street Revival of 1906 and those teachings have become the foundational teaching of many Churches today. And because we live in a day where genuine Bible Study and Bible Knowledge is at an all time low- there is much that is believed today about the workings of the Holy Spirit that the Bible doesn't teach.

When I was saved in June of 1971- I was taught that it was good that I was saved- but it was incomplete. I was taught that Jesus had washed away my sins, to be sure, but now I need to be filled with Power that comes only after Salvation. Now that sounded good to me since I was all of 16 years old and didn't know anything about Church or the Bible or Christianity, and I was full of zeal and excitement over being saved, and since I certainly wanted everything that Jesus wanted to give to me.

The problem with me being taught that- is that foundational teaching that says that I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit at some point *after* Salvation is simply not taught in the Bible. And that teaching ignores what God the Holy Spirit had to do in me first in order for me to ever be saved in the first place.

First of all- Salvation is a Sovereign Work of God alone. The Bible says that God Sovereignly chooses those who will be saved from before the foundation of the world and then goes about to make sure that those elected people are saved. Now you may not like that or that may make you uncomfortable- but that is exactly what the Bible teaches and what

the Bible has always taught- way before I was ever born. Please turn with me and read **Ephesians 1:3-6:**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Now these are the inspired Words of the Apostle Paul that came right out of the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God. And Paul says here in verse 4 that God has:

... chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

Now what did God choose us for? Read the last part of verse 4:

... that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Now the only way that any of us human sinners can ever be holy and without blame before God in Love is by being saved and by having the Blood of Jesus Christ wash us and the Righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to us. And just in case you don't get it- Paul then said the very same thing but using different words in the very next verse:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

So we see that the reason that God chose us for Salvation was because it pleased Him to do so- not because we were good or because God needed us or because we bring something to the table that God had

need of- but simply and only because choosing us pleased the Lord. And if you stop and think about it- that is what Grace is all about.

Now the fact that God saves us and we don't save ourselves, the fact that God doesn't need us even though He wants us, the fact that we don't have anything at all to do with our own Salvation is a very humbling thing to ponder because in our fallen condition- we want to be in charge; we want to be the catalyst for our own moral improvement and we want to be the source of our own ability.

But Grace says that not only do we not earn Salvation- but that we can't earn Salvation- no matter what we do. We can't earn it, we don't deserve it, and we cannot do anything that will make ourselves to be better saved.

So the real distinction, dear friends, is not for bad people to make some changes in their own lives so that they can be good people- because that's not Christianity anyway. Christianity doesn't teach that lost sinners can put forth will power or try harder or in some other way improve their spiritual condition with God by keeping laws or by keeping church rules or by making moral adjustments in their lives- that's not Christianity.

That's Humanism, that's Mormonism, that's New Age pagan philosophy- but it isn't Christianity. Christianity says that lost people cannot do anything to come near to God; they cannot improve their condition by applying themselves or by doing certain human works.

The Bible says that God Sovereignly and Graciously saves unworthy sinners based on nothing except the fact that from before the foundation of the world- it pleased God to set His Love upon those lost people- period.

Now some will say- *"Wait just a minute, Brother Blair- I know when I got saved and I got saved because I heard the Gospel and I believed it and I was convicted of my sins and I voluntarily chose to give my heart to Jesus!"* And my response to that is that I absolutely agree with you. That is exactly what happened to me and everyone else who is saved. All that I am saying is that us hearing the Gospel and believing the Gospel and being convicted of our sins and us voluntarily choosing to repent and accept Christ into our hearts is the *second* thing that happened to us and not the first thing.

What? What do you mean the *second* thing? Here is what I mean. Before you were saved- what condition were you in? You were

lost- right? Well, what does it mean to be lost? Well it means to be separated from God- right? Yes, but it means a whole lot more. Being lost absolutely means that we are separated from God but it also means that we are spiritually dead, and it also means that we are spiritually blind, and spiritually deaf, and spiritually unable and unwilling to love and serve God. Read with me **1 Corinthians 2:14:**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The Apostle Paul says here that the natural man or the lost unsaved man does not receive the things of the Spirit. What things? Well salvation for one. But why doesn't the lost man receive the things of the Spirit of God? The very next part of this verse tells you:

... for they are foolishness unto him:...

What is foolishness to this lost man? The things of the Spirit of God are foolishness to every single lost person. Now the word that was translated here into English as "foolishness" comes from the Greek word *mooria*, which means: *to hold something to be utterly ridiculous to the point of scorn*. So the Bible says that every single lost person on earth holds the things of the Spirit of God, including Salvation, to be so utterly ridiculous that it doesn't deserve his admiration- but only his scorn. Now why do lost people look at Salvation like this? The next part of the verse tells us:

... neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The Bible says that not only does lost man reject and disdain the things of the Spirit of God- including Salvation- but the Bible also says in this same verse that lost people cannot know the things of the Spirit of God. Now the word that was translated here into English as "can" is the Greek word *dunamai*- which means: *to have the ability or the power*. And the word that was translated into English here as "know" is the Greek word *ginooskoo*- which means: *to become acquainted with; to perceive; to understand; or to comprehend*.

So if you put all this together- **1Corinthians 2;14** says that lost people hold Salvation and everything else that pertains to God in utter contempt, and they do not have the ability or the power to become acquainted with the things of God or comprehend them or to understand them or to even perceive of them. Now that is a better definition of what it means to be lost and separated from God.

So we realize that lost people then are dead to God; they are blind, deaf, and unable and unwilling to love and serve God. And they are like this- not because they are bad or because they are mass murderers or homosexuals because they are in jail or on drugs- but the Bible says that *all* lost people are like this by virtue of the fact that they are all fallen- even those that who are clean and prosperous and smart and those we would call humanly good.

So the \$64,000 question is this: If this is the condition of every lost person- and it is- then how do these blind people begin to see? How do these lost deaf people hear the Gospel? How do separated sinners, who hold Salvation in utter contempt- begin to love it?

Truly we can begin to see that this is way beyond simply a human choice here. But this miracle whereby blind people see and deaf people hear and people with a heart of stone receive a heart of flesh is a Sovereign Work of God that must happen inside this dead unworthy sinner before he could ever hope to chose to repent and be saved. And that is the Sovereign regenerative Work of the Holy Spirit that goes inside the body of people before they repent that gives them both the desire and the will to be saved. Which is why it is so wrong to teach that the Holy Spirit doesn't come inside us until after we are saved. Because unless the Holy Spirit does this supernatural miraculous work in us *before* Salvation- no one would ever be saved in the first place.

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.