

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

#### 76. The Importance of Sound Doctrine-Part 1

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WAOY Tuesday 08/28/07; WOSM Monday 01/16/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to begin a new section of our study by looking at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** together:

**18** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

**19** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

**20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

**21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

**22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

**23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

**24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

**25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

**26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

**27** As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you

**abide in Him.**

2,000 years ago- Pontus Pilate asked Jesus one of the most important questions of all time and one that we need to ask ourselves today. When Jesus stood before this hard hearted Roman dignitary- Pilate asked Jesus in **John 18:38:**

**“What is truth?”**

Now we live in a time of great upheaval about the issue of Truth today as we see Science and Technology and Government, and the Financial markets cause many of the things that we depended on at one time and things we believed in and trusted to go by the wayside.

When I was a child, people died when they had a heart attack; we had one channel to watch on our black and white television; the telephone in our house was located in the hallway; it was against the law in Mississippi for the Republican Party to hold elections; the word, “gay” meant happy; 96% of all married women stayed home with their children; women wore earrings- and they wore them in their ears; and Pluto was the ninth planet in our solar system.

Today, people can get heart transplants when their own heart goes out; we have hundreds of channels to look at in high definition digital color; each person has their own cell phone with their own number; the Republican Party is the majority political party in Mississippi; the word, “gay” means sexually perverted; Only 4% of all married women stay home to raise their children; both men and women wear rings in various parts of their bodies; and Pluto is no longer considered to be a planet at all.

So many things have changed in my lifetime and some of these changes are for the better and they have improved our lives exponentially and these changes brought us much comfort and prosperity.

But some of these changes in our lives have also brought about massive shifts in economics and they have changed the way that we look at things and social and family values have suffered tremendously as a result of these changes. What was “out” is now “in”; what was “up” is now “down; what was “unacceptable” is now “acceptable”; what was

“acceptable” is now “unacceptable”; “right” is now “wrong”; and what was “wrong” is now considered to be “right”.

And so many people today are tempted to be like Pilate and ask the question, “*What is Truth?*”

Now according to many observers- the issue of what Truth actually is- has suffered tremendously. And that suffering has gone on for so long now and has affected so many- that today- most people actually do not know what Truth really is anymore and many more than that do not even believe that it is possible that Objective, Propositional Absolute Truth actually exists- much less understand it and much less than that actually obey it.

From Adam in the Garden until the first century- this world lived under the basic assumption that there was such a thing as Absolute Truth. Up was always up and never down; work was honorable- even the most menial tasks; early to bed and early to rise was the mantra that built fantastic civilizations and planted economic prosperity and brought forth goods and services.

And Western Civilization was built upon the premise that the Scriptures contained not just Truth- but Divine Truth; inspired Truth; inerrant Truth; infallible Truth; authoritative Truth; relevant Truth; and eternal Truth. And this Truth was steadfast; it never changed; it never waivered; it was absolute. Because this Truth came from the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God- the one true living God- Who is the Creator and Owner of the Universe.

So, the issues of what was right and what was wrong in Western Culture were always based- upon English Common Law. And English Common Law was based upon “morality” and “morality” was based upon the Divine Revelation of the Ten Commandments. Now that doesn’t mean that every single person in America was a Christian at some point in history- that has never been true and unfortunately, that will probably never be true. There were Muslims and Buddhists and atheists and evil men who lived and worked in this country from the very beginning- but the premise on which the nation was built was that the Bible contained Divine Truth and Law was based on that Divine Truth.

So Western Civilization bought into the notion that God did indeed reveal Himself to Abraham and that God dealt with the Jew as His chosen people. And that God gave these people a language and a

nation and God gave them their laws and their civilization, and He sent them His prophets to call them to repent when they went astray, and He dealt with them to the exclusion of every other nation on earth.

And what was even better than all of that- God gave them His Word- the Absolute Truth that was the foundation of their entire civilization.

And Western Civilization also bought into the notion that through Jesus Christ- the highest, best, and final Revelation of God was given to Man. And so Western Civilization was based upon a Biblical ethic. So since stealing and murder and sexual perverseness and the dishonoring of parents and the mistreatment of women and children were sins according to sacred Scripture- and since they were deemed to be immoral behavior by God- therefore- at least in the West- they were deemed to also be crimes.

Even in other cultures which did *not* base the foundation of their civilizations on Scripture- they also believed that Divine Truth was a real tangible concept. Now their “truth” was based upon their various writings from their various gods- but even though these so-called “truths” were wrong and were not inspired- they were nevertheless firm and unchangeable and absolute.

But around the First Century- men began to do exactly what God said they would do. God said that if a people will not worship and love and honor and obey the one true living God- that they will be turned over to a reprobate mind and they will worship and serve part or all of Creation rather than the Creator.

So, Man began to worship himself; and he began to worship his mind and his own ability to build and to plant and to invent and so Science and Discovery and technology and finances became the gods to whom Man honored and obeyed and loved and served and worshipped.

But there was an unforeseen consequence to Man leaving God and going after his idols. Suddenly Truth- Objective; Propositional Truth; Absolute Truth; Truth that was firm and steadfast and reliable and dependable suddenly changed.

Truth became variable. Truth became less sure; less reliable; less trustworthy; and less dependable. And everything became relative.

Objective Truth became subjective Truth. Authoritative Truth was stripped of its authority. Absolute Truth lost its absoluteness.

And the best way to look at this issue is to use an analogy of a

Baseball game. Under Objective Truth- the kind of Truth that the Bible gives- a ball is a ball and strike is a strike. And under that system- it doesn't matter who is at bat; it doesn't matter how well meaning the batter is; it doesn't matter how popular he might be or how badly he wants to win- A ball is always a ball, and a strike is always a strike. And so, under that absolute system- if the batter gets four balls- he goes to first base and if he gets three strikes- he is out. That is objective, propositional absolute Truth.

And while to some- the concept of Objective Truth seems to be harsh and unmerciful and unkind and unloving- in actuality- Objective Truth is reliable and trustworthy and dependable and steadfast and like a rock- and curiously enough- Objective Truth is the only way that we can play the game or live in this world without chaos.

But in spite of that- people soon sought after a "kinder and gentler" "truth" that would not be so clear and that wouldn't be so cut and dried and so under the new "modern" approach to Truth- Truth was not so clear as it once was. And suddenly people began to say how naïve and foolish it was to say that a ball is *always* a ball and that a strike would always be a strike. These people said that Truth had to take into account other factors such as how much the batter had trained and how badly he need to win and what a great guy he was- and so it no longer mattered what the pitch actually was- under the new way of looking at Truth- a ball might very well be a strike or even a home run and a loser could actually be a winner and winner could actually become a loser.

And the result was that "truth" became so complicated that only a few elite people were able to interpret it. The common man became confused about Truth and that confusion filtered down into what was right and wrong and was acceptable to God and what was not acceptable.

And this is the confused mess that the Apostle John was born into. During his life- Truth was trampled under foot and everybody had their own opinions and their own interpretation of Truth and so men did what was right in their own eyes.

So as John and the other Apostles were establishing Christianity in the earth- they were moved long by the Holy Spirit to write down inspired words which re-defined what was Absolute Truth and what was simply the invention of Man.

So, it was the writers of Scripture who defined what Salvation is and what Heaven is and how a lost person is justified before God and How God converts the human soul. It was through the pen of these writers and from these writers alone that we learn all that we know that is true about the Character and Nature of God; the Person of Jesus Christ; and the Gospel.

And so here in this passage at the end of Chapter 2- John gives us another test of genuine Salvation. As you may recall- John has already given us his moral test of true conversion- that anyone who has been born from above- will serve Jesus Christ. And John has given us his test of love- in that everyone who is saved will love all of those who are also saved. And we just finished the worldly test that John gave us in verses 15-17 when he said that if any man love the world- the love of the Father is not in him.

And now here in this passage- John gives us the test of Truth. And John teaches that all those who are truly regenerated by a Sovereign miracle from God will love and seek after and comprehend and obey and follow after and honor and proclaim and defend Divine Objective Propositional Absolute Truth.

And as we will learn from these exciting verses- people who are truly saved don't just *know* the Truth- saved people *love* the Truth because you cannot separate between Who God is from what God said and so because we love God- we also love what God has said.

And part of our responsibility as believers- yea, part of our great honor and privilege as we worship God is to willingly and graciously submit ourselves to that which God said and inspired and supernaturally preserved for us in Scripture.

So, hold on to your hats as we go into John's test of Truth and 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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