

So That You May Know

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

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

84. Part 9

WAOY Thursday 09/13/07; WOSM Thursday 01/26/23

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 continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again 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.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first point- Realizing the Danger and I want to continue that first point today. So, in order to understand just what danger John is talking about- let's read again verses 18 & 19 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.

Here, in verse 18, the Apostle John is passionately warning the Christian Church about the danger of Divinely inspired Truth being lost; stolen; twisted; changed or altered by these “**many antichrists**”- who move into the Church to preach and teach deception. And he says that the very fact that many of these people are alive and well and are operating inside the Church- that this fact proves that we are living in the last time.

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first group who qualified to be what John terms here as “**antichrists**”. The Judaizers were a group of men who were inside the Church during the time that John and Paul were yet alive- who began to teach that in order to be a good Christian- Gentile converts had to first become good Jews by keeping the Sabbath and the ceremonial and dietary laws of Moses.

These Judaizers were the forerunner of the modern day Legalists who teach that in order to be saved- a person must do good deeds or keep Church sacraments or be baptized or perform some other work- which in effect causes them to believe that through performing these actions- they become good enough to earn Salvation.

On the last broadcast- I showed you that the crux of the matter with these antichrists is over the issue of Righteousness and just whose Righteousness makes person fit for Heaven.

The Judaizers taught that a person can “better himself” or develop his own personal righteousness to the degree that it becomes good enough for him to enter into Heaven through these works. But John and Peter and Paul and James taught that a man can never improve his own personal righteousness to that degree through any human effort.

The Apostles taught that a Person is Saved by Grace through Faith- without any human work at all. But the Judaizers were playing on the fallen nature of man which says that we need to do something to earn Salvation.

These two views of Salvation are diametrically opposed to one another. There is no middle ground between them; no common ground upon which the two sides can agree. They are opposite views of Salvation that cannot be reconciled. One of these views is Biblical Truth and the other is a lie. And since we are not talking about making pancakes, but we are talking about how a man is justified before God- we need to get this right- because if we get it wrong- if we believe or teach wrongly about Salvation- we are dooming souls to hell.

If Salvation can be earned; if that is true; if Eternal Life can be paid to us like *wages* as the result of what *we* do; if it is true that if we keep certain laws or sacraments; or if we are baptized; or if we speak in tongues; or if we take Communion- if it is true that the *act* of our doing these things is what causes us to be righteous enough to go to Heaven- then we are left with a very important question to answer.

If it is true, that Salvation can be earned by anything that we do- then why did Jesus die?

I mean if all that it takes for us to be saved is for *us* to do something- then why did God go to all the trouble to wrap Himself in human flesh and come down and be born as a human being and live 33-1/2 years on earth and then die and then rise from the dead?

I mean if Jesus was bored in Heaven- why didn't He just come down on Friday as a full grown man and die that night and go back up to Heaven on Sunday? Why 400 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus? Why did Jesus live a perfectly sinless life? Why was it

important for Jesus to be tempted in every point like as we are yet without sin?

If Salvation is just a matter of will power; if all that we have to do to be saved is make up our minds to do right and shun the wrong- then why was Jesus arrested and brutally beaten and Crucified?

You see what the Judaizers taught involved a lot more than simply squabbling over whether the Sabbath is still viable or not. This heresy- if left uncorrected would eliminate the need for Grace. If all we need to do is develop a strong will power to serve God- then why would we need Grace, Mercy or faith?

Also, if the Judaizers were right- then what about the Fall of Adam in the Garden? Because if sinful man has the ability to simply do good by and through his own human will- then where did Man get that ability since that ability was lost to him in the Fall.

You see, Man didn't just lose his immortality and become mortal as a result of what Adam did. No- it involves much more than that. Because it is true- that in the loins of Adam rested the entire human race- when Adam sinned- we all sinned with him. And when Adam fell- every human born of woman since that time also fell- even before he is born.

You see- we don't become sinners simply because *we* do something wrong. Most people believe that- but the Bible doesn't teach that. We are sinners at the very moment of conception- because it is the *nature* of sinful, rebellious, fallen Adam- not the nature of God- that is imputed to us at the very instant we are conceived in our mother's womb.

So, we are conceived as fallen human beings and we are born as enemies of God- completely and utterly separated from God with a nature that operates in open and hostile rebellion to God- at the very instant we are conceived.

This is called the Doctrine of Original Sin and although this Biblical Truth has gone out of fashion recently and has fallen on hard times in our day- it is nevertheless Divinely inspired Truth that we must understand if Salvation is to be properly understood.

Most of us were taught that Original Sin means that we are born with the sinful *nature* of Adam- but that we are not *personally* guilty of any sin until we *personally* act on that sinful nature- and actually do something wrong ourselves- after we reach the age of accountability-

which is said to be somewhere around the age of twelve. But this is only partially true.

Original Sin *does* teach that every human being born after the Fall does have the sin nature of Adam and that as we grow- we all will eventually personally act on that sinful nature, and we will commit sin- and at that point- we will be personally guilty of the sins that we personally have committed. But the Doctrine of Original Sin teaches more than this.

This Biblical Truth says- that in *addition* to having the sin nature of Adam- we also are personally guilty of the sin that Adam committed in the Garden 6,000 years ago. So, the guilt of Adam's sin is imputed to us at the very moment of conception- and in effect- we are all born sinful and guilty. King David knew this to be true when he wrote in **Psalms 51:5:**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

The result of this being true is that we don't have to personally do *anything* to deserve God's wrath against our sin- because we are *already* guilty- even before we are born! This causes *all* men to be guilty before God- and helpless to correct the problem on their own- and in desperate need of a Savior- even before they are born.

The Judaizers of 2,000 years ago as well as the Legalists of today hate this Doctrine because the Doctrine of Original Sin states that since we are fallen sinful human beings- that we do not possess the ability- through our own efforts- to correct that problem.

In fact- since we are lost at birth and since we are fallen at conception- this "lostness" and this "fallenness" is so pervasive and affects every aspect of our lives to such a degree and is so utter and so total in its affect on us that unless and until God Sovereignly changes our nature by a supernatural miracle first- we do not even possess the *desire* to love God or to serve God or even care anything at all about God.

Original Sin teaches that because the Fall of Adam was entire and total and that because the Fall affected every area of human existence- that no lost person has the ability to fix himself by and through anything that he initiates, and that lost man doesn't even have the

inclination to even *want* to love or serve God. This is how fallen – fallen man really is.

And because that is true- then Salvation becomes wholly a Sovereign work of God without respect to any work by any human and therefore- no man can boast about what he did to be saved- and all glory and all praise for Salvation goes to God alone.

So, for the Judaizers to teach that fallen man can simply utilize his own so-called free will and conjure up love for God on his own and the desire to serve God out of himself- makes the whole case for what it means to be being fallen- null and void.

So, the Apostles fought against the Judaizers by writing verse after verse of inspired Divinely revealed Truth that Salvation was a Merciful act by a Sovereign God to undeserving sinners that is brought about- not through human effort – but by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone. And John says that if anyone teaches anything about Salvation contrary to that- they are antichrists.

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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