

So That You May Know

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

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

90. Part 15

WAOY Wednesday 09/26/07; Friday 02/03/23

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, I finished the discussion of John's test of Truth and today I want to look at what John taught were the defining elements of being a Christian. Now you have to remember that John was doing battle against the antichrists- who were invading the Church to pervert the right way of the Lord. So, in this passage- John defines for us what a true believer is- so that a clear distinction can be made between those who are truly saved and those who are yet in their sins.

So, I want to read again verses 20, 21, 24, 25, & 27:

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.

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.

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 the opposite of being saved is being lost; the opposite of being born again is to have been born only once; the opposite of being regenerated is remaining in the Adamic nature; and the opposite of being a believer is being an unbeliever; and the opposite of being a Christian is being an antichrist. Both of these groups have certain characteristics which identify them. So, John was faithful to give us the defining characteristics of believers so that we may see if we qualify to refer to ourselves as Christians or not.

In today's permissive climate- we say that a person is saved if they do something. If they walk down the aisle; if they pray the prayer; if they get baptized; if they speak in tongues; if they join the Church; if they do something- we say that they are a Christian. But John taught that being a Christian is defined by who you are- not by what you do- that Salvation begins internally; invisibly- and then is manifested outwardly.

Today- believing that some type of Supreme Being exists would qualify as being a Christian in some circles. Others say that if a person accepts whatever anyone says or does without criticizing or rejecting them- that that is what makes that person a Christian. I have met people who had intellectually and mentally agreed with some information about God- and they told me that that was the secret to being saved.

Today being tolerant of the views of other people is deemed to be the greatest of all virtues- even if those views are diametrically opposed to Scripture.

Even though we would consider ourselves to be an advanced society and culture- the confusion surrounding Salvation was just as vivid in John's day as it is in ours.

So, in his office as an Apostle of the Christian Church- John had the obligation to settle the matter of what classifies a person as being truly saved. Now some would consider John to be arrogant about this. I mean who was John that he has the right to say that some people are born again while others are not?

People who would make comments like that don't really understand Christianity nor the Bible because in his capacity as an Apostle- John- as well as Peter and Paul and James and the others did indeed have the God given authority to define for the rest of us just what Salvation is and what characteristics a saved person should have.

I was approached recently by a nice woman who told me that nobody can say things like this. When I began to read the Bible to her- she said that what I was reading was violating her freedom and her rights. I explained to this precious soul that what I was reading came right out of the Mouth of God- and that as far as God is concerned- she doesn't have any rights- that she and I both deserve the wrath of God due to the fact that we both are sinners and it is Grace that saves us- that it is Mercy that forgave us- and that God does not owe Salvation to anyone.

So, what did John teach about this? Was salvation defined by anyone and anyone in John's day? Was Truth simply matter of one's own opinion? Did John teach that? Read with me **2John 4:**

I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do* from the Father.

Well, how in the world did John know that the people of this Church were walking in the Truth- unless Truth was something that could be recognized? John says here that he rejoiced when he found that the people of this Church were walking in the Truth. But if Truth is vague and unknowable; if Truth is simply a matter of what *we* think is right or a matter of our *own* interpretation- then how could John *possibly* know that the people of this Church were walking in the Truth?

The only reason that John could make a statement like this is because Truth is not vague; Truth is not a matter of our own opinion or our own interpretation. John could say this because Truth is definable; Truth is objective; Truth is constant; Truth is steadfast; Truth is unchangeable and unmovable and unbendable.

In fact, Divine Truth cannot originate from Man. By definition- Divine Truth must come down to Man from God. So, we can rightly say then that Divine Truth- Absolute Truth is imposed upon man by God.

This is interesting- because we look at God many times being as Lord and King and Father- and He is- but we must also consider that in addition to being these things- God is also the Owner of everything that is made. And in His capacity as Owner- God has the right and the prerogative to do whatever He pleases with what He owns- and that includes Man.

So, it has pleased God to limit the behavior of His Creation- and God limits our behavior by defining for us what pleases Him and what offends Him. God has chosen to reveal to Man- a portion of His Own Character and Nature through the 10 Commandments. And God has said that if we act or even think in violation of these Eternal and Absolute Truths- that we are offending Him. These offenses are what are called sins. And because God is holy- God is right to judge us when we sin and when we act contrary to His Absolute Truths.

Also, in God's Economy- it pleased Him to wrapped Himself in human flesh and be born of a virgin and live a perfectly sinless life and then die with the sins of the whole world upon Him- so that all who trust in Him by Faith may inherit eternal life.

And when that event happens; when that occurs- when that black heart is washed in pure red Blood and made whiter than snow- when that wretched sinner is saved and born from above- there is a

transformation that constitutes the greatest supernatural jaw dropping miracle that ever existed.

And there are certain unmistakable characteristics which begin to be true about that person which were not true before he was saved. Godly fruit begins to be born where there was only ungodly fruit; life begins to come forth out of death; spiritual sight is given to eyes that couldn't see; spiritual hearing is given to ears that were deaf; the ability to believe and understand and love God and the things of God begins to spring forth as a direct result of this divine miracle that we call Salvation. And there bubbles up from the very souls of the born again believer an overriding and ever growing love that makes obedience seem to be just our reasonable duty.

John's picture of believers as those who walk in Truth stands in stark contrast to the lies of the antichrists. And so, John teaches that ultimately there are two very obvious reasons why truly born again believer are not led astray by the false teaching of these antichrists:

1. True Christians Accept and Believe and Acknowledge the Faith
2. True Christians Remain Faithful

John said in verses 20, 21, & 27:

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.

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.

The Gnostics that John dealt with in the first century taught that Salvation was simply a matter of correct knowledge. These heretics taught that a person could be saved by becoming aware of secret codes and secret information that was found both in and out of Scripture with absolutely no change in personal behavior.

So, John responds to this false teaching by rebuking the lies of the Gnostic and by giving comfort to those who were saved. And John did this by saying these words found in verse 20:

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

By saying this- John as rebuking the concept that only Gnostics have the knowledge of God, and he was also reassuring the true believers that God the Holy Spirit did indeed dwell inside them.

Because it is true that born again people have received the unction or the anointing or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit- they have no need for any external and secret knowledge that the Gnostics were peddling. In this verse- John was confirming that the Work of God the Holy Ghost inside redeemed souls is to bring the illumination of the Scriptures to their minds and hearts so that they may find themselves faithful to God.

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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