

So That You May Know

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

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

92. Part 17

WAOY Friday/Monday 09/28-10/01/07; Tuesday 02/07/23

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 was going over the two reasons why truly born again believers 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

So, we were looking at what John said about this, and I want to continue in that vein today by looking at verses 20, 21, and 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.

Now in verse 27, John is going over the fact that the anointing- which is the Spirit given knowledge of Divine Truth was received by the believers from God the Holy Spirit- Who abides inside them. John teaches here that these believers possessed the Truth- it resided in them permanently and because of that- they had no need for the Gnostics or the Greek philosophers to teach them some “new thing” that would tickle their ears.

Now some read this verse and then come to the wrong conclusion that because they are saved- they have no need to sit under the authority of any man. And some even teach that that they don't even need to go to Church at all. Of course, this view conveniently ignores all the other parts of Scripture that are equally inspired as this verse from John which teach that all believers must humbly and graciously submit to the authority of the Elders who have the charge to teach them and guard their souls.

These people twist what John was saying here to believe that since they are born again and have the Spirit dwelling in them that God will speak directly to them all Truth. That is *not* what John is teaching here at all.

The problem with believing this is that God has already given all the direct Revelation that He is going to give, and that Revelation has been written down in the sixty –six Books of the Holy Bible.

And so, John was not telling his first century audience that they didn't need pastors or teachers in the Church; and neither was John saying that saved people don't need to be faithful in their attendance and participation in Church.

John was simply saying that since these people were already saved- that they didn't need heretics and other unsaved people to teach them anything because they can have full faith and confidence that what they heard directly from the Apostles in the beginning was true and the Holy Spirit- Who dwells in them will lead them into understanding all of inspired Scripture.

God the Holy Spirit moved upon Paul and others to write down special Words that were God breathed which say that God has ordained ministries in the Church precisely to teach and propagate the Gospel of God. And God also said that being unfaithful in any way- with sin or with your lack of obedience or your lack of attendance in Church; or with your money- that being unfaithful in any way was being disloyal to God.

Jude wrote in verse 3 of his Epistle that the Christian Faith was “the common Salvation”. This means that Christianity was the same everywhere. So, what was taught and believed in the Church at Ephesus was also taught and believed by the Church at Thyatira and Philadelphia and Corinth and Antioch and Jerusalem.

When Paul or John or another Apostle heard about another Church- these men went to that Church to bring to them the doctrines and beliefs that qualified them to be called followers of Jesus. Most of the New Testament writings are precisely that- instruction manuals for the Church on how to operate; what are the qualifications to lead; what to believe and what to reject.

People who were gloriously saved both Jews and gentiles all brought with them their own preconceived ideas and concepts of God and Jesus and Salvation and Heaven and Hell. We all have those things. They had them 2,000 years ago and we have them today.

The problem is that most of our ideas and notions about these issues are wrong- they do not line up with what God has revealed to us in Scripture and therefore- they are not to be taught and they are not to

be believed by those in the Church- no matter how popular they may be or how logical they may appear.

And it was John and Paul and James and Peter's duty as Apostles to seek out those areas of heresy; those Churches which taught incorrectly about God or about Jesus or about Salvation and they either went to that Church personally to fix them or they wrote letters to that Church which addressed the areas that needed correcting. Those letters are called Epistles and they are the teaching Books of the Bible.

Some say today, *"Well I don't need all that. I have a brain and I am saved and God can show me whatever He wants to show me"*.

This kind of attitude is not indicative of a person who is free in Christ and unencumbered by legalistic rules and regulations, beloved- this is an example of a spiritual renegade- a rebel- who refuses to be held accountable to the authority of Scripture and who does what is right in his own eyes and who is living and operating in isolation to the Word of God. Run from those people- they are dangerous.

John taught very clearly that Christianity- the Christian Faith was defined and articulated by the writings of the Apostles. And any deviation from this; any attempt by anyone for any reason to alter or change or add to or take away from this God given Divine Truth was heresy.

And John also taught that the indwelling Presence of God the Holy Spirit in every believer would teach them these things and keep them in the Truth and guard their hearts and convict them and deal with them so that those in the Church would be in one mind and one accord with Jesus Christ- the King!

So, John's point in these verses was that genuine believers must not rely on human wisdom and man- centered philosophy and man-made religion. Look what the Apostle Paul said about this in **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:8:**

18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "*I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.*"

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31 so that, just as it is written, "*LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.*"

2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

8 *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

John said that we as believers must rely on the teaching of Gods' Word by Spirit gifted human teachers- who do not preach for vain glory but who preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified- and we must rely on the glorious and miraculous illuminating work of the Holy Spirit.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockmann Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.