

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:18-20**

Chapter 30- What We Know 277 What We Know- Part 3

WAOY Friday-Monday 11/07-10/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we are going to continue to look at the summary of all that we know- based upon this great Epistle of **1John**- so let's read **1John 5:18-20** again together:

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one.*

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over how that in these three verses- the Apostle John is giving us a summary of all that he has taught in this great Epistle. And he begins each of these three verses with the phrase, "We know".

So by that we understand that John is telling us that Biblical Christianity is not based on blind faith or mystical secrets but is based in fact and it is based in provable evidence and Christianity is based in concrete substance- so much so that the truly intelligent person- believes; the truly enlightened person- trusts; and the truly open minded thinker- has confidence in the claims made in Scripture while those who are darkened in their own imagination doubt the Truth of God's Word.

Now last time we saw that in these three verses- John wants us to know three things:

1. That the person who has genuinely been born of God does not

dwell continually in sin

2. That those who are saved are truly born of God
3. That the Son of God has come and has given us knowledge of the one true living God.

And we were going over the first truth that John says that we should know and I want to continue in that vein on today's broadcast- so let's read **1John 5:18** again together:

We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

So John says here that the first thing that we should know without any doubt is that those who are saved do not dwell continually in sin- but the domination of sin that was over them when they were lost has been forever broken by the Power of God and they are now free to live the remainder of their lives as a bond-slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now it is important to know here, dear friends, that we are not saved so that we can "fulfill all of our dreams". And we are not saved so that we can "fly like an eagle and do whatever is in our hearts" and "be all that we can be". Now even though these things make for a good motivational speech- this is not the elements of the Biblical Gospel.

Jesus does not call us to come to the Cross so that we can "live our best life" now. No matter how wealthy or powerful we might be- this life is *not* our "best life"- unless we are lost. And if we are lost- then whatever kind of life that we can have here- is infinitely better than the lake of fire that awaits us in hell. But to a genuine believer; to a soul who has been truly born from above- this sinful world is not now and never will be our "best life" even if we are financially secure.

Heaven is infinitely better than *anything* that we could ever hope to have down here. And so we need the same mentality that the people of the Bible had about this. They did not consider themselves to belong here. They considered themselves to be strangers and pilgrims just passing through this life. And so, they sought after a City whose Builder and Maker was God.

And the result of that Biblical mentality was that they did not seek after acceptance with the lost world. They did not seek to be approved of by the lost world. They didn't need to be first or to be recognized

down here. They didn't seek to become wealthy and prosperous and to have more of this world's goods- that was not their goal. Their goal was to see sin in their life and repent of it so they would not insult God. Their goal was to walk in humble submission to the Word of God. Their goal was to be found faithful. Their goal was to graciously accept whatever God had sovereignly allowed or caused to come into their lives and to serve and worship God faithfully in that condition. Their goal was to live their lives with abandon to the Glory of God.

So to truly saved people- the greatest obstacle to fulfill these godly goals was not a lack of money or a lack of material goods. And so they really didn't pray much about those things. And if you carefully read what the Bible says about these people- their main goal was not even physical health. No, these people saw their greatest need was to know God; and to love God; and to enjoy God forever. And so they walked in this world in such a way that they could see their own personal wickedness more easily so they would not sin against God.

So sin was their enemy; sin was their problem; sin was their hindrance; sin was the obstacle that held them back from being obedient to God and bringing Him Glory. So they prayed about sin and they talked about sin and they looked at sin and they meditated about their own hearts and they considered what the Bible said about their own loves and desires.

For example- the people of that small little Church in what is today modern Turkey to whom the unknown writer wrote the Epistle of **Hebrews**- these people considered sin to be a real big deal.

And so they looked at themselves and they judged whether they were really saved or not based on what they loved and what they hated. Let's read **Hebrews 13:1-5**:

1 Let love of the brethren continue.

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, *and* those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

4 Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be undefiled*; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "*I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU,*****

NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Now here the writer of **Hebrews** calls these people to five things in this passage:

1. To love the brethren
2. To open their houses to strangers
3. To remember those who are in prison because of the Gospel
4. To keep marriage honorable
5. To not love money

And he doesn't just arbitrarily say to do these things but that there is an underlying reason *why* they should do all those things that is found in verse 5- because God has said:

... "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

So if we really believe that God will never leave us nor forsake us- the proof that we believe that; the proof that we trust in that Promise; the proof that we judge God to be telling the Truth- is that we will love the brethren; and we will entertain strangers in our homes; and we will visit those in prison; and we will keep marriage honorable; and we will not love money.

Therefore, since that is true- the only way that we have to prove that we actually believe that God will never leave us or forsake us is to do those five things. In other words- for us to not do one or more of those five things proves that we really don't trust in the Promise that God gave us here in verse 5 at all. It proves that we really don't believe that this Promise is true and it proves beyond any doubt that we think that God is a liar and His Promises are not true.

And that lack of trust; that lack of faithfulness; and that lack of obedience is sin. It is transgression; it is wrong.

So we should so highly value God's Promise here in verse 5 that He will never leave us nor forsake us- that we will work real hard and pray real hard and exhort each other daily and encourage one another and strengthen one another so much that we actually love each other; and that we would be careful to entertain strangers in our homes; and that we would not neglect to visit the saints who are imprisoned for the

Word of God; and so that we would not shack up with anybody or condone homosexuality or engage in adultery or fornication but that we would honor marriage; and that we would be so careful not to love and trust in money because the Bible says that if we believe the Promise that God will never leave us or forsake us- then this is how we would live our lives.

And so, for anyone to live in rebellion or contradiction to these five things- is to sin and it is to prove beyond any doubt that we really don't believe the Promise of God.

And so John teaches here that we know that those who are truly saved do not walk in ongoing sin. So if you are saved and you are shacking up with someone- you must repent and move out today. If you are saved and you are holding a grudge against another brother- you must repent and begin to forgive and love him. It means if you are saved and you are not visiting those who are in prison for the Word of God- then you need to repent and go visit them; it means that if you are saved and you do not open your homes to people- you must repent and open your door; and it also means that if you are saved and you trust in money and you love money and you are covetous- then you must repent and begin to trust in God.

That is the reality of what John is saying here. Listen- it isn't that believers never sin. We sin because even though our souls are saved- our bodies are not. And so we wrestle with the sinful desires of our flesh. But that is precisely why we need to engage ourselves in those various "Means of Grace" that God has provided that will strengthen our souls and not put gas on the fire of lust in the body.

So make no mistake about this dear friends- John says here that truly born again people do not continue in sin- so that is exactly what it means. So, if you are continuing in sin- if you sin without remorse or you sin without conviction; if you sin with impunity- then you have reason to doubt your salvation.

And we can crawfish all around this issue we want, dear friends, and it will not change what John wrote here. We can excuse our behavior- but God will not. We can whitewash this issue- but rest assured that whether you believe this or not- you and I will stand before God and this Standard will be used to either verify our Salvation or condemn us.

John said here that we know that saved people do not dwell continually in sin so that makes sin very important doesn't it? And the

fact that he begins this verse with the phrase, “we know” proves that this Standard that believers do not dwell in continual sin was common knowledge in the early Church.

Now keep in mind that John was not saying here that some people believe this while others don't- no, John said, “We know” so everybody knew that the main difference between the saved and the lost was that the saved people didn't dwell continually sin and the lost people did.

So I suppose we need to ask ourselves the very same question here:

Do you dwell continually in sin?

Does sin rule you?

Are you a slave to sin?

Is your normal way of life marked by righteousness with periodic seasons of sin or is your normal way of life marked with sin with only periodic seasons of righteousness?

Do you hate sin?

Do you love the brethren?

Do you open your home to strangers?

Do you visit those believers who are imprisoned?

Do you honor marriage?

Do you love money?

Do you fully trust that God told the Truth when He Promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you”? John said that true believers do not dwell in ongoing sin- so where do you stand?

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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