

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 30- What We Know 278 What We Know- Part 4

WAOY Tuesday 11/11/08

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".

And 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 intelligent person believes; the enlightened person trusts; and the open minded thinker accepts 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 to examine this verse again 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.

Now we have gone over in great detail that the Apostle John – along with the other New Testament writers all agreed that saved people do not dwell continually in sin. So the notion that is prevalent today in the modern Church that being saved doesn't affect the way that we live- is foreign to the Bible, dear friends. It just isn't taught anywhere. Being saved has been so watered down today that any type of emotional response to the Gospel is considered to be the same thing as being born again- and that is simply not true.

Since Salvation is God's idea to begin with- and not Man's- then God- not Man- is the One Who can define what being saved actually means. And to get God's view of Salvation- we must turn to His Word. So let's look at **2Corinthians 5:17** to see what God said that Salvation was:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Now the word that was translated here into English as "creature" here actually means: *creation*. So the Bible teaches that every single person who is saved is a brand new creation. So what are we to make of that statement?

Well, first of all- we are to say that since Salvation makes us new creations- that God is the One Who is Sovereignly in control of Salvation and therefore we must not say that Salvation is the result of human choice. Secondly, we must say that since Salvation makes us a brand new creation- that therefore Salvation is not merely an "improvement"- but a "re-creation". In other words- when I am saved-

God doesn't simply *improve* me- He doesn't take me and make me "better". No, the Bible teaches that God takes me and throws out the old and creates the new. And the reason that God does this is because before I am saved- there is nothing good in me that God can salvage. And of course that goes back to the Truth about the human condition before we are saved.

You see, dear friends, we have been handed a bill of goods about the human condition through the ungodly public school system and through ungodly movies and television shows and ungodly music and even, sadly, real bad teachers in the modern Church. And the bill of goods that these people have sold us is the false notion that Man is born basically good with just a few flaws and that all we need to be in right standing with God is to exercise human willpower to modify our behavior. The lost world teaches that through education; and the redistribution of wealth; and through opportunity- we can tap into that inner power that lies within us- so that we can "be all we can be" and fulfill all our dreams. And that, dear friends, is pagan Secular Humanism and not Biblical Christianity.

The Bible teaches that we are all born sinful and wicked in our natures and that we need Grace and Mercy to save our wretched souls. The Bible teaches that there is no good thing in any lost person- at all or in any way. So when we are saved- we don't become "better" people; we are not improved versions of the same old man. No, when we are saved- we are completely and sovereignly and supernaturally *re-created* by the miracle of the new birth.

And the centerpiece of that re-creation is the removal of the old nature that pertains to Adam and his rebellion and the insertion of the new Divine Nature that is the seed of Christ that pertains to the submission and obedience of Jesus- the second Adam.

And so while I am still fully capable of sinning just as much and just as often as I did before I was saved- I no longer *desire* to sin; I no longer *love* my sin; and I no longer *enjoy* my sin because that new Divine nature will not allow it.

Now here is the part that even people in the Church find offensive: It is true that before I was saved I did what I wanted to do. I chose to sin; I loved my sin; and I desired it. So it is true that I did what I freely chose to do. The Bible agrees with that. And that is why God can rightly judge me- because I am guilty of wanting to sin and of freely

choosing to sin and of loving my sin. So, all of that is true. But while most people stop right there and rest their case- the Bible doesn't stop there.

You see, the Bible goes on to teach that the reason why I wanted to sin before I am saved; the reason why I loved my sin when I was lost; and the reason why I desired to rebel against God- is because that is the normal outflow of my fallen nature which was radically ruined by the Fall.

You see, we choose what we love. And we love what pleases us. We choose what we want. And what pleases us and what we want- is determined by our nature. So, if the nature of a person is fallen – then that nature is not “free”. It is in bondage to the sin of Adam. So how we have to look at this is that we are not sinners because we sin- no, we are already sinners in our hearts; down inside our natures and that is why we sin.

And all babies are born with the very same rebellious and sinful nature of Adam and therefore the nature of every child conceived in the womb is not “free”- it is in bondage to that fallen nature of Adam. And because that is true- all of our choices; all of the exercise of our will is based on a corrupt and fallen nature so that left to ourselves- we will always choose to do what is right in our own eyes and we will never naturally choose to love and serve and obey God- unless God first rescues us from that corrupt and fallen nature by the miracle of the new birth.

And since this is true- those who have been rescued; those who have been born again- no longer have that corrupt and rebellious nature of Adam. They now have a new nature; a Divine nature which is created in righteousness and true holiness and which automatically loves God. So the free will choices of a lost person are really not free at all. And they will never be toward God or the things of God. And the choices of a saved person- will never be toward self and sin.

And people don't like this Biblical concept because it places God in total charge and removes Man from being in charge and we really don't like that. So we rebel against what God's Word clearly teaches and we accept what pagan humanism teaches about Man's so called free will and we end up with a Theology about Salvation that makes perfect sense to us and meets up with our human sense of fairness but which is not Biblical and which robs God of His Glory.

So even though we may not like it dear friends, the Truth of the matter is that our free will is not really “free” at all. Our will is in bondage to our nature. And if our nature is fallen- if we are lost- then our choices will always reflect that fallen condition. And if our nature is Divine- if we are born from above- then our choices will reflect that.

And we have got to realize that God is not interested in the least about having to live up to our imposed human sense of fairness. God is interested in being God. And as God- God expects us to live up to His Divine sense of Righteousness. So, God is not fair. God has never been fair. And God will never be fair. God is God. And that means that God is right and just and holy. And it also means that everybody on earth has to bow their knees to Him because God is not going to bow His Knees to us.

And I really don't believe that many people want God to be fair. And the reason that I say that is because if God was fair- then everybody would go to hell and nobody would be saved. And that is true because neither Grace nor Mercy is fair. Fairness would demand that we get what we are owed; what we deserve. And that means that every single person who has ever sinned even one time in thought word or deed would be sent immediately to an everlasting lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever. And that would be fair- precisely because we are all guilty.

And so even though that would be fair; and even though God would be perfectly Just to do that- the Truth is that God does not do that. So instead of giving us what we deserve- God issues Mercy toward people who do not deserve it. God issues Grace to those who cannot earn it. And God sheds forth His great Love upon us- even when we have sinned against Him.

So please don't talk about fair when you talk about Salvation, dear friends, because that eliminates Grace and that eliminates Mercy and without Grace and Mercy- nobody gets saved.

Fallen man rebels against the Absolute Sovereignty of God precisely because we are fallen. Our unwillingness to accept the fact that God shows Mercy on whom He will show Mercy and our repulsion against that Biblical fact because it doesn't meet up to our standard of human fairness does not in any diminish it from being true, dear friends, it only proves that we are fallen and it proves that we live our lives in hostile rebellion to God's Ways that He said were higher than our ways.

And the reason that you need to get this right, beloved, is because if you see that Salvation is not the result of human choice but is the result of God's Own Sovereign Election- then you will understand why Paul and John wrote what they wrote.

Paul says that Salvation always results in us being recreated precisely because Salvation is not a work of Man but is wholly a marvelous Work of God. And John teaches here that we know that saved people do not dwell continually in sin precisely because God has Sovereignly taken the sinful heart of stone out of us and replaced it with a heart of flesh.

So if Salvation is nothing more than a human choice- like which color socks I am going to wear- then that supernatural recreation and transformation could not be true.

And it is also true that if Salvation was the result of human choice- then Salvation would not be certain; it would not be assured; and it would not be eternal because just as easy as I chose to be saved in the first place I can always change my mind and choose not to be saved later on- which sadly, is exactly what many people believe today.

So if Salvation is a work of Man's own free will choice- then it is not a free Sovereign gift of God. And if Salvation is the result of what Man chooses for himself- then Grace is unnecessary and Jesus wasted His time to die- which is exactly what Humanism teaches. If Salvation is the result of what Man chooses for himself- then he can at any time choose not to be saved and can walk away from Jesus. And if Salvation is the result of the choice of Man- then Man deserves the credit and sin is not destroyed and Salvation is not eternal.

Only by Salvation being a Sovereign Work of God alone can my fallen nature be replaced by the new Divine Nature, my dear friends, and only by Salvation being a Sovereign work of God alone can I be recreated and sin is destroyed and God's Wrath and condemnation against me is forever removed and Salvation is eternal and Grace becomes magnificent and Christ is exalted and God is glorified and Man is humbled.

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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