

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 30- What We Know
287 What We Know- Part 13

WAOY Tuesday 12/02/08

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 we are in the middle of studying 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".

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 on the last broadcast- we were looking at the second Truth that John says that we should know and today I want us to look at the third thing that John says that we know- so let's read **1John 5:20** again together:

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 last time we saw how that what we believe about Jesus determines whether or not we are saved. And to emphasize this point- I want to look at **Romans 10:9**. In this verse – the Apostle Paul says:

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Now we must understand, dear friends, that Paul did not say here that we must confess with our mouth, Jesus the “angel” or Jesus the “arch angel” or Jesus the “prophet” or Jesus the “moral teacher” or Jesus the “good example” or Jesus the “social activist” or Jesus the motivational speaker or Jesus the psychologist.

No, Paul said that if we are to be saved- we must confess Jesus as LORD; we must confess with our mouth that Jesus was God; that Jesus was Yahweh manifest in the flesh.

And this is precisely why Jews and Buddhists and Muslims and Hindus and Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses are not saved- because they do not believe that Jesus is Lord; they do not believe that Jesus is the Incarnate God- and Paul said that if they do not believe that and if they do not confess it openly with their mouths- they cannot be saved.

Now let me clarify what I just said. It may be possible that there are some who physically attend the meetings of those organizations who honestly do not believe the official doctrine that those groups teach. They may be attending their meetings for a number of reasons that are beyond their control. And so it is possible that even though they sit where false doctrine is being taught- they reject what is being taught by those people- especially about Grace; the Character and Nature of God and the Person of Jesus Christ and they reject the basic tenets of the Doctrines of those Organizations. And so those people may well be saved. But please hear this. The only reason they could be saved is because they are real bad Muslims or real bad Jews or real bad Mormons or real bad Jehovah’s Witnesses because there is absolutely nothing in the basic Doctrines of those organizations that will ever lead anyone to Salvation.

So we must not be naïve and we must realize, dear friends, that not everyone who says to Jesus, “Lord, Lord” will enter in. And we must realize that everybody who thinks well of Jesus is not necessarily saved; and everybody who honors Jesus to some extent is not necessarily saved; and everybody who believes that a man at some point in history named Jesus actually lived are not necessarily saved.

It is true that saved people will go to Church because saved people desire to be obedient to Jesus Who saved them by Grace through Faith alone. But we must understand that simply going to Church does not save you anymore than sitting in your garage makes you an automobile.

Saved people will give money to the Church because they desire to allow the ministry of that Church to go on- but giving to the Church doesn't buy you a place in Heaven.

Saved people will read their Bibles and they will pray without ceasing and they will look for every opportunity to share Jesus with lost sinners- but simply reading your Bible and praying does not wash your sins away.

No, we need Jesus. And we need Him to be Who He said that He was or else we cannot, and we should not trust Him with our eternal souls. If Jesus lied about being God- then why would I trust Him with my eternal soul? If Jesus was mentally deranged and only thought He was God- why in the world would I ever submit to His Authority?

No, it is very important that Jesus be Someone Whom I can fully trust and fully depend on and Someone Whom I judge to be worthy and deserving of my Worship and Allegiance. So it really matters a lot that Jesus is everything that He said that He was and that He is everything that the almost 400 Old Testament prophecies said that He would be or else we've got the wrong Jesus.

And the Old Testament prophets and the 500 eye witnesses of the Resurrection and the Apostles and Jesus Himself said that Jesus was God and that He was always with the Father from the very beginning and that there was never a time when Jesus was not with God and there never will be a time when Jesus will not be with God and that Jesus was not an angel and He was not just a good man or a teacher or a moral example or a social activist- but that He was in fact God Almighty draped in Humanity.

And it is also very important for us to know that it is impossible for anyone to believe properly about Who Jesus is and then deny the

Doctrine of the Trinity. Because God cannot be one and Jesus cannot be God and Jesus cannot be with the Father from the beginning unless The Doctrine of the Trinity is true.

So that is why proper Theology and proper Biblical teaching is so vital and that is why the Apostles wrote some much about studying the Scriptures and getting the Gospel right. Because wrong living springs from wrong believing and correct believing leads to correct living. We cannot live contrary to what we believe- long term. And so what we believe and why we believe it is very, very important.

And what I am trying so hard to convince you about is that this is not just some pointy headed theological debate about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. This stuff really matters.

For example- according to Ministries Today Magazine a full 40% of all preachers who stand in the pulpits of American Churches today deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

Now that may sound like an argument reserved only for academics- but let me show you how this affects all of us. Because if Jesus was not virgin Born- then Jesus was not the Messiah. And if Jesus was not the Messiah- then we are still lost.

Another issue is the sinless life of Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus never sinned- ever- not even in His thoughts- not even for one second. Jesus perfectly kept the Father's Law in thought, word, and deed 24 hours every day and 7 days every week. And we need to know that nobody except Jesus ever kept God's Law- not Abraham; not Moses; not Paul; and not you or me. Jesus was and is the only man born of woman who ever kept the Law of God in every way- perfectly.

Now many people have told me that this doesn't matter- that this is just fluff and window dressing- that the big deal about Jesus was His Death and Resurrection and not His sinless life.

And I have no problem agreeing that the Death and Resurrection of Jesus was indeed enormously important. But I would argue that His sinless life is equally important. And here's why.

Because Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life- He literally *earned* His way into Heaven. By keeping all the Law of God- Jesus developed His Own personal Righteousness to the point where He *deserved* to go to Heaven by His Works.

And that is vital to us because we have two problems by being lost- not just one. And because we have two problems- we need two

solutions- not just one. We are sinful and we need forgiveness- that is problem number one. But we are also unrighteous, and we need to be made righteous and that is problem number two.

We cannot go into Heaven as sinners and we also cannot go to Heaven unless we are righteous. So we have a need to be both forgiven *and* to be made righteous. The shed Blood of Jesus washes our sins away and we are completely forgiven by the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. So need #1 is met by Jesus' Death and Resurrection. But that still leaves us unrighteous and unfit for Heaven.

So we are made to be righteous by the miracle of God *imputing* the sinless, spotless Righteousness of Jesus to us by the agency of Faith alone. Where did Jesus get that Righteousness? From His sinless life! So if Jesus sinned- even one time- He would need to be forgiven and to be made righteous like we are. But because He was perfectly sinless- His Righteousness is not imputed to us and we are made fit for Heaven- even though we are still sinners! This is an example, dear friends, of why all of this matters.

And so, here in verse 20- John tells us three things that we are supposed to know:

1. We know that the Son of God has come
2. We know that the Son of God has given us a true understanding of God the Father
3. We know that we are in Jesus Christ

And then John finishes this verse by saying that what we know about these things shows us the fullness of the One true living God and proves to us that we have eternal life.

So it is impossible to be saved and not know that Jesus has come and that He is exactly Who He said that He was; and it is impossible to know God without knowing Jesus; and it is impossible to be right with God and not be inside Jesus Christ.

People who say that they know God and yet deny Who Jesus is are deceived. You cannot know God the Father; you cannot contact God the Father; and you cannot have a relationship with God the Father without going through God the Son.

I hear that some people teach today that saved people can develop an intimate personal relationship directly with God the Father- one on one.

That is not true. We have absolutely no relationship with God the Father outside of going through God the Son. Jesus Christ is our mediator and without Jesus- we are still separated from God because we are still sinful. And so if we ever tried to approach God Himself without going through Jesus, the Mediator- God would destroy us immediately.

God cannot and God will not be anywhere near sin. And because we are none perfectly sinless- we must always go through the Savior- Who is perfectly sinless. So we have no inherent righteousness in and of ourselves. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. We have no claim on Heaven; we have no plea but Mercy; we have no rights and no authority to stand in God's Presence other than we are draped in Christ's Righteousness and bathed in His Blood.

So John taught that it is in Jesus that we have life; in Jesus we have the forgiveness of sins; in Jesus we are made whole; in Jesus we are imputed Righteousness; in Jesus we have boldness to enter into God's Presence; in Jesus we have perfect love and it is in Jesus that perfect love casts out all the fear of eternal Damnation and the Wrath of God against our sins.

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 Lockman 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.