

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:9&10**

### Chapter 18- The Manifest Love of God

#### 184- The Manifest Love of God- Part 8

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WAOY Friday-Monday 05/02-05/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Manifest Love of God". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:9&10** again together:

**9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.**

**10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Now here in verse 10- John tells us that God sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins. Now just what does that mean? Now the word, "propitiation" is only used three times in the New Testament- once by Paul and twice by John- but the *concept* that Jesus is our propitiation is taught by every writer in the entire Bible.

The word, "propitiation" comes from the Greek which means: appeasement or satisfaction and John is using this word in the sense that what Jesus did and Who Jesus was satisfied God's requirement for both the vindication of His Righteousness in the judging our sins and by allowing the fullness of God's Grace, Mercy, and Love to be expressed towards us.

Many times when we are discussing the death, burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ we only talk about this in light of the benefit that we receive from it- namely eternal life. But there is another side to all of this that to God is as important as saving our soul and we need to understand this other side and discuss it.

You see, beloved, God is holy. God is the ultimate expression of Purity and Righteousness. Nothing is as pure and Righteous as God is and nothing is as Holy or Separated than God is. God is unlike

anything else. God is higher and more beautiful and more valuable and more important and wiser and more glorious than anything else. God is better than His Creation- which is why all of Creation is required to worship God.

God is the best thing that God knows and so God is the gift; God is the prize; God is the Treasure; God is the goal. It isn't what God does or what God gives that is the prize- it is God Himself and so we worship God- not just because of what He has done or just because of what He has given to us- but we worship God because of Who He is.

And God does everything that He does in the earth for one reason- to bring to Himself Glory. You see if a man thought that way about himself- we would rightly say that that man was self-righteous- and we would be correct to denounce that man. But when God speaks that way about Himself- He is only doing what is proper and right because God is Righteous.

If God did anything in the earth for the purpose of bringing glory to anyone other than Himself- God would be in idolatry because no one is more deserving of Glory than God. So for God to do what He does in the earth for no other reason other than to bring Himself Glory is only the right thing for God to do.

But because that is true- then everything that God does is designed by God to bring Himself the maximum amount of Glory. In other words, God would be sinning if He *could* have done something other than what He did that would have brought Himself more Glory and He didn't do that other thing.

So even though many times it appears to us that what God has done has brought us pain or sorrow or loss or trials or afflictions or persecution- we can rest assured that the Bible teaches that God did what He did because by doing that- or by allowing that- He was brought more Glory than if He had done something else. And because now that we are saved- we live only to bring honor and Glory to God- that should be okay by us.

So when we are speaking about Salvation- we are speaking about two aspects- not just one. And it is the one aspect that we really don't talk about much anymore that is the most important part of it all. The two parts of Salvation that are both dealt with by the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are God's Justice and God's Grace.

Now I'm going to say something that may surprise some of you. Imagine that- me saying something controversial. We hear about Grace all the time. We sing about it; we talk about it; and we preach about it all the time- but I really believe what I am going to say to you. I don't believe that we understand Grace very well today. I really believe that fewer people today understand the concept of Gods' Grace now than they did when John wrote His Epistle. And I am going to go even further to say that a whole lot that we do understand about Grace today is not even true and has nothing to do with what Grace really is. Let me explain.

For example- many today believe that Grace means that God no longer cares whether we sin or not. These people look at Grace as being *leniency*- that Grace causes God not to look at sin the same way that He looked at sin- say in the Old Testament. You may have heard these people say something like, "*God used to hate sin but now God looks at sin with Eyes of Love.*"

Please hear me, brothers and sisters, when I say to you that Grace is not leniency; God is not one bit lenient about sin; God does not tolerate sin at all; God hates sin with just as much passion and just as much anger as He did 6,000 years ago; not one single sin will go unpunished; and the punishment for every single sin is eternal death.

Now many people define Grace as being "unmerited favor" and that definition is fine- but let's examine that a little deeper. Another way of saying "unmerited favor" is saying "favor that is unmerited" or "love that is undeserved" or "special treatment that is unearned". Now what may surprise you is that, by definition, when we say "unmerited favor"- we are talking about something that is patently unfair.

You see, if you didn't earn it- if you didn't deserve it; if you didn't merit the love and favor and special treatment that God gives to you- then what was the basis on which God granted it to you?

Many would answer that question by saying that God looked down through the corridor of time and saw that you would one day give your heart to Jesus and so God backed up and chose you because He knew that you would choose Him later on.

But that concept- even though it is quite popular- makes absolutely no sense at all in regard to Grace. If Grace is unmerited favor- then not only don't you deserve it now- but you can never deserve it at any point in time no matter what you do or don't do.

Grace is predicated on the Biblical Truth that it pleased God to set His love upon you before you were ever born; before you did anything good or bad; and even before He created the world. Grace means, by definition, that you don't deserve it; that you didn't deserve it; and you can't ever do anything to deserve it. If you could ever in any way do anything to deserve God's Love- then it wouldn't be Grace- it would be God paying you what you rightfully earned. But Paul said that Salvation was not a wage that was paid to people who had worked to earn it- no, Paul taught that Salvation was a free gift that is given to people who do not and who cannot earn it. Let's read **Romans 6:23**:

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Unmerited favor is a phrase that was developed by the Reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century as they were denouncing the Roman Church's unbiblical teaching that merit and favor with God was earned through infant baptism or by faithfully attending the Mass or by going to Confession or through the rite of Penance.

The Reformers correctly taught that Scripture clearly reveals that merit or favor with God is not earned by what we do and cannot be earned by what we ever do- but that we are favored by God for no other reason than God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.

Now by definition- that makes Grace to be patently unfair because God gives you what you do not deserve based upon something that you did not do for the glory of Someone other than yourself. Now this point bothers many people. To think that God is not fair seems to be sinful to many people today and they are quite vocal about it.

But beloved, we have to understand that God is not in any way concerned about meeting up to artificial standards that we have set for Him. God is only interested in being exactly what He has revealed in Scripture about Himself and although we may not like it- we cannot say that God has not clearly revealed over and over and over that He is not fair.

If God were fair; if God gave us what we deserve- if God treated us fairly- then no one would be saved because all men sin and all sin must be judged and punished with eternal death.

So, God is not fair and we are saved by Grace- a cause that we had no control over and we are saved through faith-a gift that we did not naturally possess so that we may love and serve a God that we have never seen and go to a Heaven that we didn't build.

And God based His choice to set His love upon us on that which would bring Himself Glory- not because He had a lack and not because He was lonely and not because He was like a jilted woman on Friday night hoping that somebody would call and talk to Him.

So now we can see that we have been chosen to be saved so that we may love God with the Love that God gave to us and so that we may know God with the knowledge that God gave to us so that by loving Him and by knowing Him we might worship Him in the manner in which He is entitled to be worshipped so that God is glorified and our joy is made full.

You see every single human being as created to worship God. That is the only reason we are alive. And so, the greatest satisfaction that any human can ever have; the greatest amount of fulfillment and contentment and joy that any human being can ever attain to is when we are doing what we were created to do and that is to love and serve and worship God. So only by being saved can we truly worship God in the manner in which He deserves to be worshipped so only saved people have the fullness of joy.

Now God's Justice demands that all sin be punished. Every sin must be punished with the full fury and wrath of an Almighty God- Who has been Personally offended by each and every sin. Because Jesus was our propitiation- God imputed every single sin that we have ever or will ever commit on Jesus- even though Jesus was Himself personally sinless.

Now Jesus did not deserve to have our sins imputed to Him. Jesus didn't do anything to earn that or to merit God laying on Him the sins of us all- but God imputed them on to Him because that was Gods' Will for Jesus. Again- this imputation of our sins on Jesus was patently unfair- Jesus didn't earn it and he didn't deserve it- but it pleased God to bruise Him.

This is the part of imputation that everybody likes. God took our sins and imputed them on Jesus- even though Jesus didn't do anything to deserve that. Now even though that is not fair- we like this part of imputation. The part where God takes the sin of Adam and imputes

both the fallen nature of Adam and the guilt of Adam's sin upon us- even though we didn't do anything to deserve that- that's the part of imputation that we don't like and for the same reason- it isn't fair.

So be careful when you object to the Doctrine of Original Sin and be careful that you don't say that it isn't fair for God to impute the guilt of Adam's sin on you so that you don't do away with the fact that God also imputed your sins on Jesus because that isn't fair either.

Now here's the kicker. When God imputed all of our sins on Jesus- God then poured out the full fury of His wrath against all of our sin on Jesus- Who now stood in our place as our scapegoat or our propitiation.

So Grace doesn't teach that God is lenient at all- no, we didn't get away with sinning at all- no, every single one of our sins were paid for and they were paid for in total and God's Justice against our sins was vindicated because all of our sins were judged with eternal death- even though we ourselves were not judged.

So our sins were rightly condemned and judged by God and God's Justice was completely satisfied and so therefore there is no more wrath from God left toward us and so because Jesus was our propitiation- because Jesus was the means by which God's Justice and God's Grace met together at the Cross- our sins are forever judged and we are free!

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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