

So That You May Know

An Expository Journey through the Epistle of **1John**

Chapter 1- **1John**

2- An Introduction to **1John**- Part 2

WAOY Tuesday 04/03/07; WOSM Friday 09/26/08; WOSM Tuesday 10/04/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse-by-verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**. And on the last broadcast, I was giving you the parameters that I will be following as we go through this amazing Epistle- and today, I want to continue discussing that with you.

Now as I said on the last broadcast- this "journey" through the Epistle of **1John** will be *expositional*- meaning that we will go verse- by-verse through the entire Book. So whatever subject God the Holy Spirit put into that particular verse or passage is what I will be dealing with on that particular broadcast.

Also on the last broadcast, I began to show you that there should be three goals to every study of the Bible:

1. What do the Scripture say?
2. What do the Scripture *mean* by what they say?
3. What is the practical Application of that Divine Truth to my Life in the 21st Century?

We also saw last time- how that it is very important for us to find out exactly what the words of Scripture actually say by looking back at the original Greek or Hebrew meanings of the words themselves. We also need to take into consideration just who was speaking; who was being spoken to; the cultural and historical context of that verse or passage and the timeline of events. This gives us the truest examination into just what the verse or passage actually says.

Secondly, we need to look at what Christian Doctrine; Spiritual Revelation; or Divine Truth is being taught or expressed in the verse or the passage. The particular passage may be confirming, for example the Divinity of Jesus Christ. It may be speaking about the Tri-unity of God or the Sovereignty of God. The verse or passage that we are

studying may be dealing with Salvation or how God views sin or what God loves or what God hates. So, after we find out just what the verse says- we have to examine that verse to find out just what the verse means- or what Truth is being taught in that verse.

Now in doing this, we must be careful that we do not read more into verse than it says or that we do not take away from the verse something that it says. For example, we know from previous studies that Jesus Christ was both human and Divine. We know that Jesus was the most unique Person who ever lived because he was fully God and fully man in the same body at the same time without conflict or contradiction. So, when we read passages that speak to Christ's humanity- we must be careful to put those verse into context, or we will get off base real quick.

The Bible gives us insight into Christ's humanity by speaking about Jesus being born; growing in wisdom, favor, and strength; weeping; hungering; bleeding; and dying- things that God cannot and will not do. So, if those are the only verses that we read- we would get a warped sense about Jesus that may well lead us into the same heresy that the Jehovah's Witnesses have gone into- denying Christ's Deity.

So a rule in Biblical Interpretation that we must keep in mind is that anytime we read a particular verse that gives us a characteristic about the Person of Jesus Christ; or the Character and Nature of God the Father; or a verse which teaches how a man is Justified in God's sight- we must be careful to take all of that the Bible says about these issues and interpret the one verse or passage by the whole Bible- not the other way around.

So, after we find out what the verse says and then we find out what the verse means- then we go to step three and study to find out just how do I apply this holy and divine Truth to my own personal life. Since I am saved- God has placed within me the desire to do what God says to do. I seek to be obedient. Although I am not always successful in being perfectly obedient- I desire to apply the Truth and the meaning of God's precious Word to my life so that I may please my wonderful Savior.

This portion of Bible Study may be easy to do- but it may also involve quite an elaborate process. It may involve me simply meditating upon that verse or passage- now that I have the correct meaning about what that verse says and what it means- I can sit and ponder it for a while until I can see just how to apply it into my own life. It may also involve me consulting with other godly people who I know and trust to give me

reliable information. It may involve me consulting with trusted commentaries from giants of the past like Charles Spurgeon; Jonathan Edwards; the Puritans; AW Pink; John Calvin; Matthew Henry; or one of the early Church Fathers. By doing that and opening myself up to an historical perspective of how others in the 2,000 year old Christian Church saw that verse or passage and see how they applied that very same verse to their lives and not relying on my own limited knowledge and experience and wisdom- I minimize the chances that I have of getting off base and coming up with some off the wall interpretation.

For example, let's take a familiar verse in **2Timothy 2:15**, and let's go through the three steps as I actually did them for this verse. First of all, let's read that verse all the way through:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

So, step one says that I am to find out just what does that verse say. It seems to me that it says that I am to study. Who is supposed to study? Study what? So, upon examination, we find that the Apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Ghost to write this letter or Epistle of **2Timothy** to a young Pastor, by the name of Timothy, who was shepherding the Christian Church at Ephesus in the first century.

So, Paul is instructing this young Pastor on how he is to conduct his ministry. So, Paul is telling this young man to study. Study what? Study the Scriptures. Okay, Paul wants Timothy to study. My only experience in studying before I became a Pastor was how I studied in school. So, if I was to just use my own limited personal experience about studying here- I would apply the same techniques of my own personal study habits in college into my ministry. So that means I would basically goof off during the week and right before I had to preach, I would cram real hard and real fast taking as many shortcuts as possible in order to get ready to preach- because that is how I studied in college.

But is that what Paul was saying? No, it is not. How do I know that? First of all, what does the word that Paul used here that was translated into English as "study" actually mean? Paul used the Greek word, *spoudazo*, here which according to Kittel's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament means: *to be diligent; to do my best; to strive or*

labor; to be earnest and as this word is used here this Greek word gives the connotation of doing all of this on a planned; programmed;; set aside dedicated; uninterrupted basis.

So, because I did my correct word study, I found out that I could not copy my college study habits in my Bible study at all- but that I am told here to do my best; to be diligent; to set aside dedicated; consistent; consecrated; planned; and uninterrupted times of deep; serious; line upon line and precept upon precept study of the Scriptures in order that I may prepare myself to preach the Gospel correctly.

Now what does that verse say next? It says to study: **to present yourself approved to God**. Now this is “**approved to God**” as opposed to being approved to Man. So this portion of this verse reminds us that preaching is really not about getting everybody all fired up like a pep rally but the Apostle Paul is reminding Timothy here that his preaching is actually worship and that Timothy as well as all other pastors are to do his preaching as well as his study unto God as a form of obedience and labor of love for God’s glory- and not for the success of his own personal ministry or in order to raise a big offering or to manipulate people into doing what you want them to do. So the approval here is on God’s side- not Man’s because it could very well be that very few men would approve of Timothy’s sermons. But as long as he is approved to God- he is fine.

And this also shows that the Pastor is answerable to God and is accountable to God for what he preaches. So, the Pastor should preach what is pleasing in God’s sight rather than what tickles the ears of men.

Now the next important word in this verse is “**workman**”. And this word comes from the Greek word, *ergates*; which means: a skilled craftsman as opposed to a novice. So that means that a Pastor cannot be satisfied with occasional dabbling in the Word of God- but he has to become as a skilled craftsman in the Word of God.

The next word we should look at is “**ashamed**”. And this word comes from the Greek word, *anepaischuntos*, which means *irreproachable or beyond reproach* and is used only this one time in the entire New Testament. Every other reference of the word, “ashamed” in the New Testament uses another Greek word- but this word is best translated as being beyond reproach.

The next phrase in our verse says, “**accurately handling the word of truth**”. This phrase says that we are to do all of this so that we may

“rightly”- as opposed to inaccurately handling the Word of Truth. This verse tells us clearly that there is a right way and a wrong way to interpret the Bible and Paul is telling Timothy that unless he does all of the above he will wrongly interpret the Bible.

So, let’s put this all together and see what this verse actually says: **2Timothy 2:15** actually says that:

Not only Timothy, but every single person who is going to stand in the office of Pastor must do his best to be diligent to set aside dedicated, consecrated, planned time of uninterrupted deep, serious line upon line; and precept upon precept study of the Scriptures both the Old and the New Testaments so that he may be accepted or approved by God- not man to the end that he may no longer be a novice, but he can become a skilled craftsman in the Word of God so that he will be beyond reproach in the sight of God so that he may correctly interpret the Bible so that what he preaches will be exactly what God has said.

Okay that is what that verse says- now what does that verse actually *mean*? First of all, this verse is not a suggestion- it is an apostolic command inspired by the Holy Spirit. And that means that it is a *requirement* for ministry. So, if a man cannot dedicate himself to that level of study- then he has no business getting up and preaching. Now he may well be saved; and he may well have something interesting to share- but we are not talking about sharing a testimony here- we are talking about teaching other people what God has said and leading them to repent and obey it.

That means that Pastors have an obligation to get it right and not play around with other people’s souls. So, you cannot wing this. If a man doesn’t value the Bible enough to labor over it- you don’t want to be following that man.

Now this may sound hard or drastic, but beloved, the reason we have so many scandals today in ministry is because ministers are so ill prepared to preach and teach the Bible because they do not study the Bible. If you ever hold someone in your arms whose life has been shattered by a fallen pastor- you will know that we need to raise the bar when it comes to ministry- not lower it. Any Pastor who refuses to study to show himself approved is not being individualistic- he is being rebellious to what the Bible itself demands of him.

Now the third step I will follow in our journey through 1John will

be to discover just how we all should apply what this verse says and what this verse means to our daily lives in the 21st Century.

My brothers and sisters, what the Bible says and what the Bible means is not up for discussion. It really doesn't matter how you or I view the verse- it says what it says, and it means what it means. It really doesn't matter what you or I think about it either. The only thing that really matters is what the Biblical writer meant when he was moved upon by the Holy Spirit to write it.

We do not have the liberty, dear friends, to make a verse say something different from what it actually says; and it is a great sin to say that a verse means something that it really doesn't mean. You have no license and I have no license to wing this. And the Holy Spirit doesn't give you a new fresh revelation about a verse of Scripture that is unique to you. We are all bound by the established rules of Biblical interpretation, and we must realize that every single verse in the Bible has only one correct meaning. And correct study will bring to light what God the Holy Spirit meant in that verse.

Now while it is true that there is only one correct *meaning* of every verse of Scripture- it is also true that there may be many different ways to *apply* that one single Truth of that verse to our lives.

So, some Pastors may study every day; others may take one day a week and spend all day in study. Some may study at night while others study in the day. These various applications of *how* he studies are all fine and perfectly in order. But he has no option about whether he is to study. He is *required* to study- but he does have leeway in just *how* he would obey this verse.

So, I pray that you can begin to see that genuine Bible Study is very involved because it is very important, and Lord willing I will apply these principles to our study of the Epistle of **1John**.

Well, I have to stop right here- but please join me again on the next broadcast as we continue our "Journey" through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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