

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 14- The Second Line **1John 3:11-18**

120. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 4

WAOY Tuesday 12/11/07

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 Distinction between Love and Hate". So let's read **1John 3:11-18** again together:

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over the general differences between Love and Hate and today I want to zero in on what John was teaching in this passage- so let's look again at verse 11:

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

Now John is saying here that what he is teaching about Love is nothing new. John is simply quoting what Jesus Himself taught about the supremacy of Love in the believer's life. Now look at verse 12:

not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

So, John says here in this verse that we are indeed to love one another- and then very quickly- John shows us a great contrast in how we are to love each other by reminding us of an example from the Old Testament of true genuine hate in the life of the man named- Cain.

Now we know that Cain was the son of the fallen Adam and he was also the brother of Able as Moses describes for us in the Book of **Genesis**. But in addition to being the son of Adam and the brother of Able- Cain holds the distinction of also being the very first *human* to commit murder. Now I say it that way because in **John 8:44**- Jesus said that satan was a murderer from the very beginning of Creation- so we see that the devil was the very first murderer- while Cain was the first *human* murderer.

Cain murdered his own brother Abel and John gives us the reason *why* Cain slew his brother in this same verse:

... And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

Once again, God the Holy Spirit moved upon a New Testament writer to give to us the full and correct interpretation of an Old Testament event. John rote down these inspired words which the Holy Ghost gave to him here in this verse which unlocks the fullness of what happened between Cain and Able 6,000 years ago.

Genesis 4 gives us the inspired words that God gave to Moses a he wrote down the account of what happened between Cain and Able. But nowhere in that account from Moses do we read that Cain's works were evil and Abel's were righteous as John tells us here in this verse. So where did John get that information from? Was this simply John's best guess at what happened 40 centuries before he wrote this?

No, God the Holy Spirit did for John here exactly what Jesus

promised He would do in **John 16:13**, when Jesus told His Apostles that the Holy Spirit would “**guide you into all truth**”. Now the phrase “**all truth**” that Jesus used in that verse means the full, final, completed and finished Revelation that God. And John, like all the other Apostles of Jesus Christ, were the instruments by which God gave to Mankind all that He wanted to reveal to us and in addition to that- God gave these men special insight into the true and correct interpretation of Old Testament events so that we could understand them fully.

Now I have said this before and this is a good place for me to repeat it here: Unless you have at least a working knowledge of the 21 New Testament Epistles- you will not correctly understand the Old Testament. And unless you have at least a working knowledge of the 21 Epistles – you will not fully comprehend all that Jesus said and did in the four Gospel accounts.

The final completed and full Revelation of God that was penned down by the Apostles in the 21 New Testament Epistles is what correctly interprets the Old Testament and they also give full meaning to the Gospels. Without knowing what the Epistles teach- you will get off base real quick when reading the Old Testament and you will be taking things out of context.

This is where so many people today who promote the Sabbath and the dietary Laws of Moses and the misuse of the Law make their mistake. They correctly read the Old Testament- but they *misapply* its Truths because they either *reject* the Epistles outright or they do not correctly understand what the Epistles teach.

Now don't get me wrong. I didn't say that the Old Testament was wrong or that it wasn't true. Every single word of the Old Testament is true and every word came right out of the Mind and Mouth and Heart of Almighty God. But it is also true that the Revelation of the Old Testament is also incomplete and the OT itself promises that there was a superior Revelation that was coming after the OT was written down. And so if you understand the OT through the lens of the NT- you will see that many things written in the Old Testament were for the Jew and the nation of Israel until the Messiah could be born and do not apply to us today because Jesus fulfilled their application. And we know that Jesus fulfilled their application by what God gave to the Apostles in the 21 New Testament Epistles.

For example- we no longer slay animals when we sin today. Now

everybody would agree with me that not only is it not necessary to slay an animal for our sins- but it would in fact be *wrong* for us to do so. But where do we find out that we no longer need to sacrifice animals? Why don't believers sacrifice animals anymore? The Old Testament commands and *requires* God's people to sacrifice animals and yet we do not do that today. Why? What made the change?

Why of course, Jesus made the change. Jesus Christ is our sacrificial Lamb and His death on the Cross was a far *superior* Sacrifice than any animal could ever be. But wait a minute. We did not live in Jesus' day so how do *we* know that we are not supposed to obey the Old Testament command to sacrifice animals anymore? How do we know that we are correct to ignore the many Old Testament verses which command animal sacrifices and trust in Christ's Sacrifice alone? In other words- from where do we get the Authority to ignore an inspired command of God that is clearly spelled out for us in the Old Testament to slay animals when we sin?

From the 21 New Testament Epistles. You see beloved, we know from reading New Testament verses and passages from the 21 Epistles that Jesus Christ *was* our sacrificial Lamb and that His sacrifice was an infinitely *superior* Sacrifice than any animal and we also get the correct and full understanding of what Jesus' death on the Cross meant by those same Epistles. But we got that information from the NT- not from the OT.

So without the final, full, and completed Revelation of God as revealed by the Apostles in the 21 New Testament Epistles- you and I would not have a clue about the great impact that Jesus' Life and Death and Resurrection had in eliminating not only the animal sacrifices- but the entire Levitical priesthood.

And that is why when you study the Bible today – special emphasis should be placed upon the NT Epistles- because those 21 Books give you the correct interpretation of all the Old Testament.

And that is what is happening right here with this verse that John writes. God the Holy Spirit has supernaturally given us great understanding of what happened between Cain and Abel and *why* this murder took place because of what God has revealed to the Apostle John.

John says very clearly here that the *reason* that Cain slew Abel is because Cain's "deeds" were evil and Abel's "deeds" were righteous.

Now what “deeds” is John talking about here? The “deeds” that John is referring to here is the sacrifices that both Cain and Able offered to the Lord. The Bible teaches that Cain’s sacrifice was evil and Abel’s sacrifice was righteous.

But how do we know that? For that information- we need to go back to **Genesis 4** and read about this event. So, turn with me to **Genesis 4** and let’s read verses **1-8**:

1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the Lord.*"

2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Now notice here that Cain was a tiller of the ground and gave an offering to the Lord from the fruit of his field. Now many people today would say, "*Well what in the world was wrong with Cain giving God an offering from his field? At least he was acknowledging God and God should have received Cain’s offering because he gave it in good faith to the Lord.*"

But a statement like that stems from an incorrect view of what offerings are all about. You see, brothers and sisters, when we give God an offering- that is worship. And worship is much more than singing songs in Church, beloved, worship also involves our offerings.

Now the prevailing sentiment today is that we can come to God any way we want to and we can give to God an offering of our own choosing and God should be grateful for whatever we choose to give Him. That is the current arrogant attitude about God and the things of God that so many people have today in the modern Church and it is very frightening.

The truth of the matter is that people have *never* been free to worship God anyway they choose. God has *always* spelled out for Man in great detail what He expects from us and what He is entitled to receive from us.

How, when, where, and in what way our worship is given to God has *always* been God's idea based upon God's prerogative all for God's Glory and God has *never* left worship up to Man to decide. In the Old Testament- for anyone to come to God in a way that God did not prescribe- meant sudden and sure death to those who tried it.

And that is true because worship is God's idea- not Man's. The whole concept of worship originated from God and God is the One who gave worship to us. Humans did not originate worship and therefore we do not have the right or the authority to worship God any other way other than the way in which God says to worship Him.

And Cain tried to circumvent God's order for worship by offering God an offering of Cain's own choosing rather than God's. And the result was that God said that Cain's offering was evil and God didn't accept it.

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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