

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13**

Chapter 22- The Apostolic Witness and Testimony

201 The Apostolic Witness and Testimony- Part 2

WAOY Tuesday 06/17/08

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 what John taught about "The Apostolic Witness and Testimony". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:14-16** again together.

14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Now this passage that the Apostle John gives us here is so rich in telling us just what it means to be truly saved and to be born again and to actually belong to God. And as we read this passage- we need to remember that all that John writes here has come out of the very Mouth and Mind and Heart of Almighty God. God the Holy Spirit moved upon this Apostle and gave to him the words that we read here.

So like all the other Words in the 66 Books of the Bible- these Words that John gives us here are inspired- the Greek word is *theopneustos*- meaning that they were literally exhaled by the Mouth of God. God breathed out these Words and that makes these Words to be special and unique and different from any other words that are in any other book.

Now in our day- the term, "revelation" has been used so often and has been used to mean almost anything under the sun that it has been diminished and cheapened. Today everybody has their own personal

revelation and the only thing this has done, dear friends is to make revelation nothing more than a personal opinion.

But genuine and true revelation is much, much more than a personal opinion. In the Bible, when the term, “revelation” is used- it is not talking about a personal opinion- but when “revelation” is used in Scripture- it is used to mean propositional, objective, and absolute Truth that comes directly to certain men from God Himself- and that Truth is always right; and it is always true- it is never wrong- and it is unchangeable and unmovable and it is, in fact, eternal.

You see, part of what it meant to be a Prophet in the Old Testament or an Apostle in the New Testament is that these are the people who received directly from God- the special or the specific Revelation that they wrote down and put into the pages of the Holy Scriptures. So every single area of Christian Truth that God gave to Man was written down and we can find that Truth or that Revelation in the pages of the Holy Bible and that means that we cannot find it anywhere else.

All Prophets and Apostles were servants of God and all were saved but all servants and all saved people were not Prophets and Apostles. That calling and that office; and the anointing that came with that office and that calling; and those gifts that went along with that office and that calling was unique and special to those particular people of which there were only hand full in the entire history of mankind.

In the case of the Apostles- their job was not only to be saved and to follow Jesus- but these men were specially chosen by Jesus Himself to receive from God the final, full, and completed Revelation of God to Man. And they formulated that Revelation and they put it down in writing- and this is the Revelation of God that defines Christianity. So these men didn't just serve God like each one of us is called to do- but these men actually *established* Christianity on the powerful Revelation that Jesus is the Christ- the Son of the living God!

Now if you will remember, back in **Matthew 16:13**- Jesus asked his disciples:

Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

And in verse 14, they begin to tell Jesus that some of the people thought that Jesus was Elijah; while others thought that he was

Jeremiah; while some even thought that Jesus was a Resurrected John the Baptist. Now this shows us that the general public had no clue as to Who Jesus really was. Now the people weren't trying to be bad about what they said- in their minds- they were honoring Jesus by equating Him with one of the great prophets. And this confession about just Who Jesus is goes to the very heart of the matter. Every single person born of woman is going to confess one thing or another about Jesus. It is inescapable. Everyone believes something about Jesus and what they believe about Jesus is their confession.

You see, most people in the earth today believe that Jesus was a great Man. Even Orthodox Jews will agree that Jesus did noble and good things. Buddhist's accept that Jesus was special; Hindus call Him a great example of someone who reached Nirvana. Muslims easily accept that Jesus was the Christ; that He was virgin born; and that He physically rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven.

Mormons teach that Jesus was a great teacher while Christian Scientists believe that Jesus was a powerful spiritual force for good. Even atheists who deny the existence of God will praise Jesus for His high morality and His good deeds.

So in some way or another and in some fashion or another- all of these groups acknowledge that Jesus was a real live human being who said and did great and wonderful things. All of these groups believe in Jesus to some extent. So are we then to assume that because all of these people believe in Jesus to some extent and because all of these people say nice things about Jesus that therefore all of these people are then saved and are our brothers and sisters in Christ? No, we are not. Well, why not? Because their confession of Jesus is not full; it and it isn't complete and therefore it is not enough. Why? Here's why.

After Jesus listened to what His disciples told him was the opinion of all the people about Who He was- He then turned to His Own disciples and asked these men the greatest question that anyone could ever be asked in verse 15:

But who do you say that I am?

Okay it is real nice that people are equating me with great prophets and good men- but who do you say that I am? And that is the \$64,000

question that we all need to be able to answer in our day. Who do you say Jesus is?

Never to be one who was shy- Peter spoke up as the rest looked on in silence and Peter said this in verse 16:

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

In this great confession- Peter told Jesus that he was *the* Christ- now notice that Peter didn't say that Jesus was *a* Christ- but Peter said that Jesus was *the* Christ- the anointed One; the Messiah. Peter was saying here that Jesus was not just another Deliverer like Gideon; that Jesus was not just another great warrior- like Joshua; He was not just another good King like David; and He was not just another High Priest like Aaron and the Levites.

But Peter said that Jesus was *the* Christ- the very One that all the prophets foretold; the One Who fulfilled almost 400 separate Old Testament prophecies; the One Who is the focus of every single Book in the Bible. With this confession- Peter was acknowledging that Jesus was the One that they had been waiting on for so long.

Now if Peter would have stopped there- it would not have been enough. But Peter didn't stop there and neither should we. As we talk about Jesus being a great example and as we say that Jesus is our Leader and our Friend and our Co-Pilot and our Boss- we need to remember that Peter didn't end his confession about Who Jesus was by saying that Jesus was the Christ- but he continued to add something to that confession that shook the world.

Peter boldly and without reservation also said that in addition to Jesus being the Christ- that Jesus was also-

the Son of the living God.

Now wait a minute, Peter. Isn't it enough for you to say that Jesus was the Son of David and the Son of Man? Isn't it enough to say that Jesus was a good person or that Jesus was your example? Isn't it enough for you to say, Peter, that Jesus was like Moses or like Jeremiah or like Elijah? No, it wasn't enough. And Peter crossed the line here. In these six simple words- Peter spoke out a Revelation of Jesus; and Peter gave a Confession of Jesus that was so powerful and was so

unlike what anyone had ever said about anybody else that from that day to this the very course of human history was changed and the eternity of countless millions of souls was altered throughout the earth.

Peter's confession about Who Jesus is shook the world. And with that one single revelation- the Church was born and Christ Himself established the very foundation of the Christian Church on that one single powerful revelation – that Jesus and Jesus alone is the Son of the living God!

And this confession and this revelation was so great that Jesus said this about it in verse 17:

Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

This Revelation is the Rock that the Christian Church is built on- the Confession that has been believed and has been confessed for over 2,000 years by literally billions of people from every imaginable walk of life; who speak every tongue; and who live in every nation on earth- that Jesus the Christ is the Son of the living God!

And so as you hear the statement that so many people make today that what we believe does not matter- that all that matters is that we believe in and that we love Jesus- and we will be fine- you will now ask the next question- "*Who do you say that Jesus is?*"

And if those people accept *everything* else about Jesus and yet deny or reject the fact that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh; if they are willing to accept His virgin birth; His good deeds; His humble life; His excellent teachings; His selfless attitude; His noble example; and even if they are willing to accept His Resurrection and His ascension into Heaven- but if these people do not believe; and if they do not accept; and if they do not confess that Jesus is the Christ and that Jesus is Deity; and that He is God wrapped in human flesh; then they are not saved; and they are not born from above; and they are not our brothers and sisters in Christ because these people love and believe in a Jesus that is different from the Jesus that is Lord and Master and Savior.

For over 2,000 years the Confession of the Christian Church has been that Jesus is God; that He is Immanuel; that Jesus is the most unique and special Person Who ever lived because Jesus is 100% God

and 100% man in the same body at the same time without conflict. For over 2,000 years the Confession that Jesus is the Son of the living God which makes Jesus to be equal with God has been the Rock upon which Jesus built His Church.

And it is absolutely ridiculous to think that Christ would build His holy Church on Peter or any Man for that matter. No, the Church of Jesus was not built upon frail, pathetic sinful Man- it was built upon the unmovable and unchangeable Rock of the greatest Confession and Revelation the world has ever known- that Jesus the Christ is the Son of the living God and that is why the gates of hell cannot prevail against it!

So it is not enough to believe that some man in history named Jesus lived and died. It is not enough to believe that the son of Mary was Crucified. It is not enough to believe that the Son of Joseph was born in a manger; or that a man named Jesus spoke great poetic and thrilling words. It is not enough to try to live by the Sermon on the Mount. And it is not enough to try to live by the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule. All of those things are true and all of them are wonderful- but unless and until a human being is graced by God to receive and Confess the Revelation that Jesus the Christ is the Son of the living God- he cannot be saved.

And here the Apostle John is reinforcing this great Confession and this great Revelation- the Rock upon which the church is built by telling us in verse 15:

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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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