

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 22- The Apostolic Witness and Testimony

#### 203 The Apostolic Witness and Testimony- Part 4

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WAOY Thursday 06/19/08

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 John says here in verse 14 that he and the other New Testament writers publicly and boldly testify to all who read what they wrote that God the Father sent God the Son to be the One and Only Savior of all those in the world who will be saved.

John is not saying here that everybody in the entire world will be saved- because John writes in great detail in **The Book of the Revelation** about those who will be cast into the lake of fire. So, everybody is not saved now and not everybody is going to be saved. But what John is saying to us is that all those who will be saved; will be saved only because God the Father sent God the Son to be their Savior and so the only way *anybody* is going to be saved is by coming to the Savior- Jesus Christ.

So true genuine Salvation is not found by doing our own thing; or by doing what is right in our own eyes; neither is Salvation found by

trying to be good or by keeping the Ten Commandments or by living by the Sermon on the Mount or by keeping the Golden Rule.

No, John is making sure that we know that true, genuine Salvation is found solely in Jesus Christ- in this Man- Who is God- and Who lived and died and rose again. And there are very specific things that John teaches here in this passage that must be understood and believed before *anyone* can be saved.

Now I realize that when I say things like this- some people will say, “*Not so!*” These people insist that Salvation is very simple and that we don’t have to believe or do anything specific in order to be saved. But all I can do is point these people to what the Bible says here in 1John and in Romans and in Ephesians and all over the place and remind them that I didn’t write this Book- but the God Who saves did write it and so we need to be careful that we believe and what we teach about Salvation is taught in Scripture and not something that we picked up at the dime store.

And it is also very important, dear friends, that we realize that we don’t have the right to make this stuff up or to alter this stuff to suite our fancy. Christianity and how a lost man is justified before God and how sinful people are made righteous are not issues that are up for grabs or that are based upon human logic or Church teachings. These things are not opinions that two people can differ about and still both be right.

No, God the Holy Ghost moved upon 40 men to pen down inspired, inerrant, infallible Words that came right out of the Mouth and Mind and heart of Almighty God and whatever we believe and teach about God and the things of God- including Salvation- must come from these Words or else it is not true.

Now over the last couple of broadcasts- I have been dealing with the issue of our Confession and what the Apostle John taught that Confession must be if we are to be saved. And again, it is important to remind all of us that our Confession is not simply repeating certain words down at the altar- but is what we genuinely and honestly believe and speak out of our mouths and which guides our lives.

For example- the Bible clearly teaches in several places that in order for anyone to be genuinely saved- they must do two things:

1. They must confess something
2. They must believe something

... and so, John says in verse 15:

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

So John establishes here that in order for any person to dwell in God or for God to dwell in anyone- they must confess- that is they must believe and speak that Jesus is the Son of God.

And as we already learned on previous broadcasts- when you confess that Jesus is the Son of God- you are saying one of two things. Either you are saying that there are now two gods and that both Jesus and God are gods that we must now worship, adore and obey- or else you must realize that in the Middle East during the time that John wrote this Epistle- for anyone to say that Jesus was the Son of God was the same thing as saying that Jesus was God.

Now the confession that Jesus is Deity; that Jesus is God wrapped in human flesh; that Jesus is God is not something that I just thought about over the weekend- but this Confession has been the cornerstone of the Christian Church for 2,000 years. It is this confession that Jesus is Yahweh that divides between Christians and Jews. It is this Confession that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh that divides between Christians and Muslims. It is this Confession of Jesus' Deity that separates between Christians and Humanists.

It is this one single Confession that has been continually believed and taught and confessed by the Church for two millennia that is the reason why missionaries are persecuted and killed all over the world and why hostile such anger and hatred is directed at preachers and ministers of the Gospel throughout history. So if the Confession that Jesus is God and that Salvation cannot be attained by anyone other than Jesus is not true- why have all these people throughout history been persecuted and martyred? All they would have had to do to stop their torture was to denounce Jesus and yet they didn't do that. They were willing to suffer and die rather than to change their confession about who Jesus was.

We believe that Salvation can be attained in no other Name other than Jesus. Now to us- that sounds faithful because that is exactly what the Bible teaches. But to the billions of people in the earth today-

being dogmatic and assured and confident about that fact sounds arrogant and self-righteous and bigoted and narrow minded. But, in fact, it isn't any of that- it is simply being faithful to what the Bible teaches. And it only shows us just how confused the lost world has become.

And that has always been true. The lost world has never had this right. The overwhelming majority of people on earth have never known the Truth about Jesus. But the Church did. And the people of the Church did know; and they were not confused; and they had a single confession- and that confession was agreed to and believed on by everyone who named the great Name of Jesus.

But I announce to you today that we cannot assume that any longer. Because Sound Biblical teaching has been so downplayed in the modern Church- we have an entire generation of people who have never been taught the fundamentals of what it means to be a Christian and what the essential Doctrines of the Bible are. So they honestly don't know and when they are confronted with false teaching about Jesus and even outright blasphemy- they fall for it very easily and quickly because they do not have a right confession about Jesus that is Biblical.

During the Christmas season last year- I heard with my own ears a very famous and popular teacher say three separate times in one message that Jesus was really not sinless. And after blaspheming Jesus Christ three separate times- there was not one soul in that huge congregation that offered a single objection. But even though not one single person objected to this false confession about Jesus- they did shout, "Amen!" and they did give that man an applause; and they did nod their heads in agreement to what he said.

I was asked the other day by a group of people who were interested in joining my Church if I thought that every single person who goes to Heaven must come through faith in Jesus Christ. And I replied that that was exactly what the Bible said. These people were highly insulted and left angry with me because they said I was too narrow minded for them to join my Church. They said they were looking for a Church that would allow them the liberty to believe what they said that the Spirit had showed them about Jesus and Salvation. And I assured them that God's Spirit didn't show them anything any different about Jesus or Salvation than what God's Spirit wrote in this Book. We want all men everywhere to bow before Jesus and to worship

Him and to adore Him and to obey Him and to love Him and follow Him.

So for us to confess that Jesus is the Son of God as John teaches here means something dear friends. It means that we accept and believe and confess what the Scriptures reveal about Jesus. That He was virgin born; that He was the fulfillment of almost 400 separate prophecies in the Old Testament; that He is superior to the angels; that He is superior to Abraham and Moses; that He is superior to David and Joshua and the prophets; that Jesus is a superior High Priest Who brought in a superior Covenant that was based upon superior Promises and that was sealed with a superior Sacrifice. Read with me **Hebrews 1:1-4:**

**1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

**2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**4** having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

In this passage- God the Holy Spirit gave the writer of **Hebrews** very specific details about Jesus that we need to know and believe and confess if we are to say that Jesus is the Son of God. In verse 2- the writer says that God the Father has appointed Jesus to be the heir of everything that was made. And then in the last part of verse 2 he says that Jesus was the instrument that the Father used to make the worlds. In verse 3, the writer says that Jesus is the very center of the Glory of God; that Jesus is the epitome and essence and fullness of God's Glory; that Jesus is the very mirror image of God Himself in a body; and that all things that are made are upheld by the Word of Jesus' power.

Then the writer tells us in the last part of verse 3 that all by Himself- Jesus purged every single one of our sins and is the only One in all of human history to be able to sit down at the right hand of God's

majesty. And then the writer tells us in verse 4 that Jesus is so very much superior to any angel and all of the angels combined.

Now the *reason* that all of this information about Jesus matters is because if you believe what the Bible clearly teaches about Jesus and if you agree with what it teaches and if you confess what God's Word says about Jesus- then you will not accept the Doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints; and you will reject the Doctrine of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society; and you will reject the Doctrine of the Church of Christ Scientists and the Doctrine of the Scientologists and you will reject the Gnostic cults and what is taught in the Koran and the Bagava gita and the lost Books of the Bible. You will also reject what the atheists and the humanists teach about Jesus and you will reject what the American Psychological Association teaches about Jesus and what Psychiatrists and the Sociologists and what the College Professors and Government leaders teach about Jesus.

And they will call you narrow minded because of what you confess; and they will call you a bigot and they will say that you are mean spirited and unloving and that you are full of hate; and they will reject you; and they will cast you out; and they will shun you; and they will throw rocks at you; and they will stay up late to pass laws to make your life hard- but be encouraged dear friends, because when you confession about Jesus is true- then Jesus will stand by your side and Jesus will call you faithful.

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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