

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13** Chapter 23- The Believer's Boldness in the Day of Judgment 208 The Believer's Boldness- Part 4

WAOY Thursday 06/26/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Believer's Confidence in the Day of Judgment". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:17-21**- again together.

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

19 We love, because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over the issue that is so popular today- that Physical Healing is part of the Atonement. And last time I told you that this teaching is false- it is *not* true. And my problem with this teaching is very narrow- so listen up- this is important.

The one true living God of the Bible is Almighty. He is Sovereign. And that means that God can heal sick bodies. Okay- you just heard me say that. God *can* and He periodically *does* heal the physical bodies

of sick people today. But as I told you last time- saying that “God can heal” and saying that “healing is part of the Atonement” is *not* the same thing. The Atonement is the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. *That* is the Atonement. And the main Purpose of the Atonement was *not* to heal sick bodies. The main Purpose of the Atonement was not to bring financial or material blessings into your life. Physical healing and Material or Financial Blessings are wonderful and are of God- but they are demonstrations of God’s Goodness and His Mercy and come to some people on occasion and by times. They are not guaranteed and they don’t always come.

And that is a fact. And it isn’t a fact simply because I said it- it is a fact because it is true. There are times you pray and God answers your prayer and bestows on you what you asked for. And that is because God is Good and He is Merciful and He is Kind- *not* because you have such strong faith. Because many times, God gives you things you didn’t ask for.

So don’t be so quick to pat yourself on the back because of how strong you think your faith is. Because if you will be honest- the overwhelming majority of the time you pray- God does *not* give you what you ask for. And that is because what you asked for was *not* His Will. Read with me what James said about this in **James 4:3**:

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

So the Bible says that any prayer request that is given from the wrong motive will *not* be answered. And I would suggest to you that human beings- even saved human beings- have the wrong motive about our wants and our desires and our prayer requests much of the time.

How many genuinely saved people in your town will honestly say that they are not ever motivated by greed or by the love of money or by pride or by sinful lusts and covetousness? Simply because something looks good to us doesn’t mean it is the Will of God. And for anybody to suggest that God is obligated to give us whatever we can lust after- is blasphemy.

Saved people should only want the Will of God- even if that means that we will suffer personally because of it. And that is the Power of the Holy Spirit, dear friends- for a human being to be so radically

transformed by Sovereign Love that he will genuine enjoy *whatever* God wills to give him- even if that means he will suffer because of it. Any lost person can desire what looks good or what feels good or whatever makes much of him. It doesn't take the Holy spirit to lust, my beloved- any old sinner can do that.

So the Atonement is not about God giving you whatever you can dream up. Thinking like that only feeds our carnal desires and promotes our base instincts- things that God would never do. I would remind you that it was God the Spirit- Who led Jesus to go into the wilderness to fast- away from everybody. It was satan who wanted to make Jesus famous.

So the Atonement was carried out by Jesus to save lost souls. The priority of the Atonement was to rescue God's people from the Wrath of God that was against them because of their sins. That was the primary focus of the Atonement. Listen to what the angel told Joseph in **Matthew 1:19**

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Notice that God was not going to save His people from "low expectations" as Robert Schuller used to say or that God was going to save His people from having to endure hardships as the Prosperity preachers say.

So Jesus came to live and die and rise again to rescue people from the unthinkable Damnation that God rightly and correctly will place upon all those who do not repent and trust in Him for Mercy. And all of His miracles and all of His Healings and all of His supernatural signs and wonders were carried out for one reason- to prove that Jesus was God Almighty in human flesh and that he was the Messiah that the Old Covenant pointed toward so people would trust in Him and be saved. Please read **The Acts 2:22** with me:

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

So when you say that healing is part of the Atonement- dear friends- you are saying that the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ made it possible for *all* saved people to always and in *all* cases be healed from *all* diseases- and the Bible simply does not teach that.

Sometimes it is God's Will to perform great and mighty miracles and to heal sick bodies. But it is not *always* God's Will to do that. Sometimes God's children are delivered from terrible circumstances. But then sometimes they are not. Sometimes God brings about great supernatural manifestations to rescue God's people out of calamities. But *most of the time*- God's people are called upon to suffer for the Glory of God. Now I realize that this is not popular to say these things- but it is true.

Hebrews 11:32- 35 teaches us that great faith manifested in and by God's people brought about great and mighty miracles and glorious supernatural manifestations. But then **Hebrews 11:35-38** goes on to say that equally great faith manifested in and by God's people also brought about great sufferings and torment and persecution and even death.

And **Hebrews 11:39** says that the faith that brought about the great healings and deliverances was the very *same* faith that brought about the great sufferings and persecutions and death. And the distinction as to why some were healed and delivered while others were not- was strictly decided by God- and not by anything that they did or did not do.

It is false teaching to say that strong faith always and in all cases brings forth healing and deliverance. That has *never* been true. The Bible does not teach that.

There are times that God chooses to bring Himself Glory by honoring powerful and strong faith to heal and deliver some of His people. But there are times that God chooses to bring Himself Glory by honoring *equally* strong and powerful faith in equipping other believers to endure hard and terrible sufferings- to the Glory of God- as they are *not* delivered from them.

And the difference as to why *some* believers are healed and others are not- has absolutely *nothing* to do with their faith. It has to do with the Will of God in that particular situation. And so those people who are teaching that the only thing that believers need to get out of every uncomfortable trial or to be healed from whatever diseases may be plaguing you- are leading you astray. The Holy Bible does not teach that.

And so, as believers face hardship or sickness or trouble- we pray. And we ask God to help and to intervene- but only according to His Will. And when it is God's will to heal and deliver- then praise be to His Holy Name! But when it is not God's Will to heal or deliver and when it is the perfect Will of God for you to suffer- the Bible says for you to suffer as a Christian- and to face the problem head on- with great confidence that Jesu has washed all your sins away and that God is not angry with you and that this problem and this trial and this suffering will be to the Glory of God- and ultimately to the fulfillment of your own Joy as well.

And so we are to trust in those hard times that God is good and that all things work together for good and we are to trust that God chastens those whom He loves and we are to trust that God prunes those who are bearing fruit and that being delivered is *not* a plum in our hats even as not being delivered is not a lack of faith. The biggest reason why God heals or does not heal has absolutely nothing to do with our faith or the exercise of our faith- the Bible does not support that teaching. Godly and saved people get sick and die every single day and it was *not* because they lacked faith or because they did something wrong.

Now I realize that what I am teaching right now is certainly not popular and may well contradict what many of you have been taught or what many of you may believe- but the fact of the matter is that what I just said is true and the point that I am trying to make here is that while it is true that Salvation rescued our souls – Salvation did *not* rescue our bodies.

Our bodies a came from the clay and our bodies are going to go back to the clay and there is not anything that we can do about that. We can watch what we eat and we should. We can exercise and we should and when get sick or some of our body parts begin to fail- we can pray and we should- but eventually we are going to keep the appointment that we have with death. 100% of all men – saved or lost will keep that appointment with death. And the reason that this is true is because healing is not part of the Atonement. The wonderful Atonement of Jesus Christ paid for our sins and saved our souls- but it did *not* provide continuous and constant deliverance for our bodies. And that is why you and I both will die and that is why we will get *new* bodies- because these old cursed fleshly tabernacles can't make the trip.

The glorious Promise of Scripture is *not* that every single time saved people get sick that God will heal us because there is something far worse than disease that Salvation has delivered us out of. The Promise of Scripture is *not* that every time we go into a trial that God always delivers us out of it- because there is something far worse than any trial that Salvation did deliver us out of. My dear friends, there are things far worse than poverty and far worse than suffering and far worse than persecution and far worse than a lack of money and a lack of possessions and far worse than sickness or even death itself.

The certain and assured Wrath of God against all sin is far worse than any problem; any trial; any disease; any persecution; and any death and thanks be to God that when I deserved for God to pour out the full fury of His Righteous anger on me for the sins that I committed- Jesus Christ took my place and all of God's Fury and all of God's Judgment against every single one of my sins- even the sins that I haven't even committed yet were totally and completely paid for and all that God has left for me is Mercy and Grace and Love.

Please understand, dear friends, that nothing even comes close to the value of true Salvation. God may heal your withered arm- but if you are not saved- you and your strong arm will burn forever. God can bring riches and wealth into your life- but if you gain the world and lose your soul- you have accomplished nothing. God may well allow you to prosper and to be in good health- but if your souls does not prosper in right relationship with Jesus - it is all for naught.

Some will say- "*Ah, but I can have both! I can be blessed and be saved.*" But I will respond to you that you need to take heed to your soul because very few people in the history of the world have ever done that successfully because Jesus said that human beings *cannot* serve both God and money. So please hear me beloved and be watchful and quicken your pace. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.