

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

212 The Believer's Confidence- Part 8

WAOY Thursday 07/03/08

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 over the last several broadcasts- we have been exploring just *why* a true believer could have confidence in the Day of Judgment as John teaches here in verse 17. And the only reason why any frail human being who struggles constantly with sin could ever hope to have any confidence at all in that terrifying Day of Judgment is if Salvation is a sovereign Work of God alone that comes to pass *outside of* and in many cases *in spite of* anything that lost people can do for themselves.

And we have also been exploring the fact that many of the terms that people use today to describe Salvation like "human free will" and that Man is a "free moral agent" are *not* Biblical terms or concepts but are actually unbiblical humanistic concepts and terms that were put

forth 1700 years ago by a heretic who fought *against* Biblical Christianity.

So we must understand that it is not true that we are “free moral agents” precisely because it is a myth that we are “free” in any capacity. No one is totally or completely “free” either before or after his Salvation.

The Bible clearly teaches that we are *not* the Master of our own destiny nor are we the Captain of our own ship. No, the Bible teaches that lost people are slaves to sin because sin dominates and controls the decisions and choices and loves of every lost person.

So it isn't true- as so many teach today- that God has to stand back and only *offer* Salvation to us while the decision about who will or who will not be saved is left up to us. That is a pagan humanistic teaching that cannot be found anywhere in Scripture.

The Bible teaches that God is absolutely Sovereign. That He alone is God and He alone controls every single aspect of His Own Creation- including us. God is Sovereign over the earth; over Man; over Heaven and even over Hell. A bird does not fly through the air; a blade of grass does not turn green; a star does not fall; a baby is not born and a soul is not saved except God is totally and completely in charge of that event.

God is Sovereign in Creation; God is Sovereign in Salvation; God is Sovereign in our trials and temptations. And in the hardest times of our lives- God is fully and completely in control. God is Sovereign in our sufferings and in the great traumatic mysteries of life that are so hard for us to grasp and understand and God is completely Sovereign in our tragedies and in all natural disasters.

God never loses; He never gets nervous; He is never bewildered; God never fails; He is always faithful; He is sure and certain and confident and strong and He sits in His Throne in His Omnipotent Majesty and the entire universe bows before Him.

The Bible says in **Matthew 4** that it was God who led Jesus to go into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil- now God did not tempt Jesus- but God *led* Jesus to be tempted of the devil; the Bible says in **Genesis** that it was God who allowed Joseph to be unjustly thrown into jail where he rotted there for nearly thirteen years; The Bible clearly teaches in **Exodus 4** that it was God who created the blind and the deaf and the dumb and the cripple. The Bible tells us in **Job** that it was God who bought forth the trials of the most righteous man in all the earth

and it also tells us that Jesus and Joseph and Job all knew that God was Sovereign in their trials and each one made comments that show us that they were well aware that God was absolutely in charge of their sufferings- even when things looked real bad.

It is God Who made Man's mouth and Who gave light to the earth and it is God Who graciously and wonderfully brings Salvation to those whom He chose from before the foundation of the world. God is Sovereign in sex; God is Sovereign in birth and God is Sovereign in death and God is Sovereign in all of eternity. All things came from God and all things exist for no other reason other than to bring God glory and everything will go back to God. God is in charge and He is not only Omniscient in that He knows who or who will not be saved- but God is also effectual- meaning that what God wants – God gets.

Humanists hate the Sovereignty of God because God's Sovereignty insults the arrogance of wicked, fallen Man; God's Sovereignty breaks the staff of the pride of self- righteous Man. So a true humanist rebels against any notion that Man is not totally in charge of everything. To the Humanist- Man is in charge of every aspect of human life.

And the focus of godless humanism is the so-called "free will of Man"- because that is the preeminent aspect and glory of Man. So a real humanist will fight and die on the hill defending the notion that Man's free will is Sovereign. But to a genuine Christian- the epitome of all that He is- is found in the Blood stained Cross- where Jesus calls that man to come and die.

So we must be careful, beloved, that we guard our hearts and watch what we say about Salvation. We have to realize the great influence that pagan humanism has had on us in our culture and on television and in the movies and sadly even from the pulpit. And we need to check the words and terms that we use to make sure that we have not adopted humanistic concepts to describe Salvation.

So John taught here in verse 17 that truly saved people who love God; who confess that Jesus is God; who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead; and who love each other- that every single one of these people will have great confidence in the Day of Judgment.

But, Brother Blair- what happens if a genuinely saved person dies with unrepented sin in his life? The Bible is crystal clear about this, dear friends. If a truly born again believer dies with unrepented sin in his life- that person will have confidence in the Day of Judgment and go

straight to Heaven to be with Jesus forever. With unrepented sin in his life? Yes with unrepented sin in his life.

You see, beloved, every single human being who dies- whether he is saved or lost- dies with unrepented sin in his life. Unrepented sin is sin that we commit that we did not specifically repent of before we died. Since we cannot and since we do not plan the hour of our death- most people go into eternity with unconfessed sin in their lives. But even though a saved person does indeed die with some unrepented or unconfessed sin in his life- he does not die with any *unforgiven* sin in his life.

You see, there is a difference between *unrepented* sin or unconfessed sin and *unforgiven* sin. For example- if I do not know that something I am doing is a sin- I will not confess it or repent of it- because I don't even realize that I am sinning. Now that doesn't make it okay- it is still sin. But because of my ignorance- I will not know to confess it before God or to turn away from it unless and until God the Holy Spirit brings that conviction into my life. And in some cases- that takes time and it requires me to grow in Grace and grow in the knowledge of the Word.

So it is very conceivable and very probable that when even a saved person dies- he will stand before God with unconfessed sin in his life that he wasn't aware of. Now I realize that that is a scary proposition- but look at what John continues to teach us. Let's read verses **1John 4:17-19** 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.

Now it is very common for verse 18 to be taken completely out of context by many well-meaning people to talk about some poor person who is scared of their own shadow or who is afraid to live alone or that lives in fear. And the usual remedy is for us to bring that person up front and lay hands on them and cast out the "spirit of fear". But in reality, dear friends, **1John 4:18** isn't talking about that kind of fear at all. The fear that this verse is talking about is the fear of us standing

before God with unconfessed sin in our lives- which is *exactly* what we have been talking about.

And John says here in verse 18 that perfect love casts out that fear. And in verse 17- John tells us what perfect love really is- that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment. Or in other words- the only reason that any sinful human being could ever hope to be able to avoid the unbelievable terror of standing before a holy God with any degree of sin still in his life is if he knows beyond any doubt that while it may be true that he has not specifically repented of every sin- he *has* been totally *forgiven* for every sin.

Again this is an area where godless humanism has influenced how we look at things. Many believe and teach today that Salvation is only as good as we ourselves make it out to be. In other words- these people teach that Salvation is so fragile and so weak and so frail that when we sin or if we sin *certain* sins- that we lose our Salvation. And please let me tell you that this concept does *not* come from Scripture. Thinking that truly saved people can lose their Salvation comes from humanistic teachings that put more faith and security on what we do for *ourselves* than it does on what God has sovereignly done for us.

Listen, dear friend, if the sinless Life and the horrific death; and the glorious Resurrection of the spotless Lamb of God did not do the job- please don't be so arrogant to believe that something you do will fix that problem.

Now if the heretic Pelagius was right and Humanity is *not* fallen and Original Sin is a *myth* and God is *not* Sovereign and Salvation is the result of us exercising our own free will to choose to love and serve God- then I would agree that Salvation would be flimsy at best. And that would mean that we need to do a whole lot of things to keep ourselves saved. But even though many people believe what I just said- the Bible simply does not teach that.

The Bible teaches that God sovereignly took all my sins and placed them on Jesus- even the sins that I haven't committed yet. And since all of the just and holy Wrath of God was poured out against my sins that were on Jesus and since Jesus died with every single one of my sins upon Him and since God showed to the entire universe how much He approved of what Jesus did by raising Him from the dead in the very same Body in which He died- then my Salvation is a done deal and there is no sin that I have ever or that I will ever commit that has

not already been completely and utterly paid for by this magnanimous expression of God's Love.

And so, John teaches that it is my understanding and comprehension and acceptance of this perfect Love that Jesus has absolutely and fully forgiven me for every sin- past, present, and future that gives me the confidence to stand before God in the Day of Judgment.

And even if I did not know that something I was doing was wrong and thus did not confess it or repent of it; even though I may stand before God with unconfessed sin- I will *not* stand before God with any *unforgiven* sin. And so when fear begins to creep up on me because I know myself all too well and realize that I am not perfect and that even though I love Jesus and I am trying with all my heart to serve Him- I still fall short of His Glory and I still sin and when the fear that perhaps my sin may exclude me from the eternal joys of Heaven creeps back in to me- I look at the Cross and I see Jesus hanging there in His agony and I see the full fury of God's Wrath that *should* have been poured out on me- being poured on Jesus- I regain my confidence that God has saved me to the uttermost! And this doesn't give me a license to sin with impunity- it merely allows me to escape the fear that eternity brings.

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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