

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 3- The True Test of Salvation- Part 1

#### 19. Belief in God and Belief in the Reality of Sin Part 2

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WAOY Thursday 05/03/07; WOSM Thursday 10/27/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what the Apostle John taught about “A Genuine Belief in God and a Belief in the Reality of Sin”. So, let’s open our Bibles and look at **1John 1:5- 10** again together.

**5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

**6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**

**7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**

Now on the last broadcast, we were studying the concept that John promotes in these six verses, and we saw that it is the responsibility and duty of the leaders of the Church to identify those who are truly saved and those who are only deceived into thinking that they are saved. And we saw last time that we- as leaders- are held accountable by God if we do not warn the wicked to repent. If and when God’s sure Judgment against the unsaved comes- they will fall under God’s Wrath to be sure- but their blood will be upon our hands- unless we were faithful to warn them.

We also saw last time how that this carefree attitude about sin in the modern Church that says that being deceived is a “private” issue between that person and God and is nobody else’s business cannot be backed up with either Scripture or Church History.

So, we saw that the real question is not do Church leaders have the duty and responsibility to warn the wicked- because the Bible clearly teaches that we do- no, the real question is just *how* do we identify people who are deceived into thinking they are saved when they are actually lost- *how* do we do this in accordance with Scripture?

Well, in these six verses of **1 John**- the Apostle gives us the answer to that question by presenting two crucial doctrinal tests to determine who in the Church is genuine and who is not. Those two doctrinal tests are:

1. An accurate and Biblical belief in the Character and Nature of God and
2. A genuine belief in and Biblical understanding of sin

So, we need to look again at verse 5 to see what John is saying about this issue.

**This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

Now last time, we were looking at the last part of this verse which says that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. So, I want to explore that statement by John again today.

The Bible reveals two very fundamental Principles about God being “light”. First of all- Light represents Truth and Purity while Darkness represents lies or error or sin. And this has never been more clear than when we see that Gods’ Word is called “light” over and over throughout the Scriptures. And God’s Word is called “light” because no words are more true than the Words that come from God. Look at what David said about this in **Psalms 119:105**:

**Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.**

And in **Psalms 119:130**:

**The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.**

So, we can see that both life and light are eternally connected to God and to His Word. And this is a principle that runs through all human existence. That which promotes darkness; that which is sinister; that which promotes wickedness and evil; that which feeds or encourages darkness is sinful and is of the devil. That which is light and that which brings forth life and purity and goodness and is the opposite of darkness is of God and is wonderful.

So, there is a reason why bars and nightclubs are always dark. There is a reason why sin is accomplished more late at night than it is at noon day. And there is a reason why every man of God in the Bible got up early in the morning to pray and study God's Word.

There is a reason why many of the video games that young children play today are sinister and encourage darkness and wickedness and violence. There is a reason why so many today want to wear dark clothes and paint their fingernails black and dye their hair black- this isn't simply youthful rebellion- this is evil- because their music and their games and their activities and their books and their conversations are all centered around the devil and discerning parents should be faithful to teach their children that dwelling with darkness isn't being cool- it is glamorizing sin and is dangerous.

Secondly, the Bible also links Light with great virtue and high morality. Look what Paul said about this in **Ephesians 5:8-15:**

**8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

**9** (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

**10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

**11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

**12** for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

**13** But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

**14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."**

**15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,**

So, these two properties of Divine Light- truth and virtue- are very important in distinguishing true faith from deception. If anyone professes to have faith in God- and since John says that God is Light- then that individual must have a real and serious devotion to both Truth and Virtue or that person's faith is just talk.

So, there is no such thing as being saved and being and acting and living in opposition to Truth and Virtue. Salvation is part of the God- Who is Light- therefore no saved soul can dwell continually in darkness.

Now as I say that- please keep in mind that I am not talking about sinless perfection here- and neither was John. But what John *is* telling us and what we all have to agree with- is that every born again believer *will not* and *does not* justify anything that promotes darkens and deception. A truly saved soul will love and uphold and obey and defend Divine Truth and holy Virtue- or else that person is really not saved.

*"But Brother Blair- I know lots of people who have gone down front and who have prayed the prayer and yet their lives still linger in darkness and lies- are you saying that these precious souls are lost?"* No- because what I say really doesn't matter. The Apostle John is saying that people who walk in darkness are lost- not me. The Holy Bible condemns them- not me. But questions like this show that we really don't believe what the Bible teaches about Salvation, beloved. Because "going down front" does save anyone's soul, in the first place. "Praying a prayer" doesn't save anybody. "Shaking the preacher's hand"; or "joining the Church"; or "raising your hand"; or "being baptized"; or "speaking in tongues"; or "singing in the choir"- all of that is real nice and peachy keen- but none of those things has the power to forgive a single sin or save a single soul.

Unless there is genuine conversion- a sovereign regeneration of that individual- the nature of that person remains lost and if the nature of that individual has not become regenerated or given life- then that person may temporarily modify his behavior- but eventually-

he will revert right back to being what he really is- which is dead in trespasses and sins.

Only by changing the nature of the beast can anyone be truly saved. And if that nature has been changed by a sovereign Act of God- then the Bible- not Blair Bradley- but holy, inspired, inerrant, and infallible Scripture says:

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2Corinthians 5:17)**

So, John says here that if Truth and Righteousness are absent from a person's life- it is because those people are not saved. And if they are not saved- they are *not* in the family of God and they do *not* possess one of the attributes of the Father of the family- which is eternal life. Someone who lives continually in un-repentant sin *cannot* belong to God John says, because the last part of verse 5 says:

**... in him (Jesus) is no darkness at all.**

For anyone to say that they are "in" Christ and then for that same person to live- as a normal function of his daily life- in darkness- is to say that Christ had darkness in Himself. But John says here clearly that God has no darkness at all in Himself. So, anyone who is "in" God must- by default- live and function and operate and conduct his life in the Light that God is – namely Truth and Righteousness.

John says that Almighty God is perfect in both Truth and Righteousness. There is not one bit of darkness in God at all. He is total Truth and Total Righteousness continually. And while it is true that we humans can and do sin- nevertheless- all saved people have the internal craving and desire to manifest this same Righteousness in their own lives and in addition to having the desire- all saved people also have the supernatural power or ability through the Holy Spirit that dwells inside of them to actually follow after God; to actually live in accordance with God's ways and to literally put on the very Image and Likeness of Christ day by day as we grow in the Grace that saved us.

So, without either the desire or the power present in our life- John says that we must know that we are not born again. Turn with me to **Philippians 2:13** that says:

**for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.**

Do you see here that Paul says that it is God that works in all saved people to do two things:

1. God gives every saved soul the *will* or the *desire* to do God's good pleasure and
2. God gives every saved soul the *power* or the *ability* to do of God's good pleasure.

Now why is all this important? This is not just a lot of interesting information. No, this is vital to our walk with God and our understanding of genuine Salvation. Here's why. Since it is true that every single soul that is saved has both the will and the power to do of God's good pleasure- then if someone doesn't have this godly will or this desire to do of God's good pleasure; or if someone doesn't have this holy power or ability to do of God's good pleasure- that is a sign that they are not saved- no matter how they prayed and no matter what religious activity they are involved in.

John and all the other Apostles taught that being saved is not just a matter of opinion. No, being saved is a tangible and provable and observable fact based on the miraculous transformation of that person's nature through a sovereign Act of God. And so what John is telling us here in verse 5 is that because there is no darkness at all in God- there cannot be any darkness and any deception in us either that would dwell and operate in us and through us on a continual ongoing basis.

And so the first tangible proof of genuine Salvation that the Apostle John give to us here in verse 5 is the unarguable fact that everyone who is in Jesus Christ loves and desires and follows after and obeys and defends holy, inspired Truth and godly Righteousness; and John says here that in addition to loving and desiring Truth- we who are saved have the ability and the power to actually manifest that Truth and Righteousness in our lives.

So, examine yourself today, my friends and see if your life is in alignment with what John says because John is clear to us today- God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

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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