

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:6-8** Chapter 26- Understanding and Valuing the Doctrine of the Trinity 229 Our Triune God Part 1

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WAOY Wednesday 08/06/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to begin to look at what John taught about the "The Doctrine of the Trinity". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5: 6-8**- together:

**6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.**

**7 For there are three that testify:**

**8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.**

Now there is some controversy surrounding this section of **1John** that we need to address before we examine what John taught here. There is evidence that has been discovered over the last 100 years or so that suggests that part of this section of Scripture was not actually written by the Apostle John but was written many centuries later by an unknown scribe- who penned these words in the margin of the copy of **1John** that was used to translate the King James Version.

There is just no record of these particular verses in any earlier copies that we have uncovered. So, while the King James Version has these three verses saying one thing- other translations, like the NASB and the NIV read somewhat differently.

Now I have three things to say about this issue. First of all- even though I greatly admire and respect the King James Version- I do not belong to the camp which says that the King James Version is the only English Version of the Bible that is accurate. That is just not factually true. In fact, the NASB is the single most literal English Version of the Bible in existence today. But I will say that the King James Version of the Bible one of the top five English language translations that are

absolutely reliable and accurate and trustworthy. So, if you use the King James- *continue* to use it. You just have to be stable enough to understand that whichever English Version you use will contain some “translation difficulties” in it that have to be explained.

You see, dear friends, the Scriptures were not originally written in English. The Old Testament was written primarily in ancient Hebrew while the New Testament was written primarily in Greek. And there are a few areas of both the Old and New Testaments that were originally written in an ancient language called Aramaic. But neither Moses nor any of the prophets nor Jesus nor any of the Apostles spoke, read, or wrote *anything* in English.

The first English translation of the Scriptures came about after Christianity had been established on the earth for over 1,500 years and so having a Bible in English is a relatively new thing seeing as how the New Testament itself is over 2,000 years old and the first five Books of the Bible date back to 1500 years before Jesus was born.

And that is why any preacher or theologian or Bible student worth their salt went to school to learn how to read, write, and speak fluent Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic because these were the languages of the Bible. Even today- any person is going to really study the Bible to the point where we actually understand what God the Holy Spirit meant when He wrote a particular verse should always take that verse or word or passage or even chapter all the way back to the original languages, because without doing that- there is just no way that the interpretation that you will get will be complete.

Now please hear me when I tell you that it is this area alone- of understanding what the Words of Scripture actually mean- more than almost anything else- that facilitates all the bad theology and bad doctrine and the off the wall interpretations that we have today. Thank God that we have many tools available to us today that earlier generations did not have- which allow us to use the power of computers to find out the meaning of the words that came out of the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God.

But for anyone to just skip over the step of going back to the original languages simply because it takes some time or because we are too lazy is to guarantee that you are *not* going to fully understand what God said and what He actually meant by what He said.

Now many people think that by virtue of the fact that they are saved or because they say that they have been filled with the Holy Spirit- that they are somehow *exempt* from having to put the time in to study the Scriptures. These people teach that God will sovereignly show them what the Bible means- without having to take the time to study and learn.

And I can't even begin to tell you how wrong this thinking is and how off base this thinking is and how dangerous this thinking is. How many times do you hear people say today on radio or on TV or even in Church that God Almighty spoke directly to them about what a particular verse means and then these people go about to preach a sermon on that interpretation or write a book or even formulate a Doctrine based on what they say God told them? And while their interpretation is inconsistent; contradictory; and can even be at odds with other Scriptures- this doesn't seem to bother them at all.

And the best example of how dangerous this approach to Bible interpretation is- is by looking at what is going on right now in our country over the Supreme Court.

This nation separated from Great Britain and began this 230 year old experiment with Democracy with a Document called, "The Declaration of Independence". It is in this Document where the Founding Fathers proclaimed the reason *why* they were doing what they were doing. This nation began because the Founders declared that Liberty does not come from any Man or any King or any Government but that Liberty- true freedom- comes from God. And they called this fact- "Self-Evident"- meaning that it was crystal clear by looking at Creation and was without any doubt.

And so, since that was true- therefore- no Government; no man; no king had the authority to deprive its citizens of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without due process of law. So, these men set up a Government that was based upon the premise set forth by The Declaration of Independence and which would operate according to *another* document called, "The Constitution".

Jefferson, Adams, Madison, and the rest never dreamed in a million years that anyone would ever try to *separate* these two Documents as though The Constitution rose up out of the ground all by itself without being based upon the premises set forth in The Declaration. And so the only reason why the Constitution does not

mention anything about God was not because the Founders hated God- but because The Constitution was meant to be used as it sits atop The Declaration of Independence which clearly spells out the very purposes of our Republic.

So the Supreme Court was created so that when a Law is passed by The Congress – that new law can be judged to either be in accord with the Constitution or ruled to be in violation of what the Constitution says and means.

So what those nine black robed judges are supposed to do is to interpret what the Constitution actually says- not what they want it to say. And so interpreting the Constitution based upon a literal, grammatical interpretation of what the words in the Document actually say and mean is called a “strict constructionist” or a “conservative” method while interpreting the Constitution by ignoring what the words of the Document actually mean and going by the wisdom or the foolishness of the judge himself is called a “loose” or “liberal method”.

So the name of the game in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America is that what people could never get in a million years passed through Congress by letting the people actually vote on it- is now being mandated by fiat through nine or four or two or even one judge- who sets himself and his opinions *above* the clear meaning of words. This liberal philosophy says that by virtue of the fact that he is a judge- that he has the ability to say that the Constitution means whatever he wants it to mean.

And it is from this warped philosophy that we get such off the wall rulings that undermine our culture and promote ungodliness. And please remember where all these bad and awful rulings come from, dear friends. They come from renegade judges who absolutely ignore the clear meaning of the words of the Constitution and assign an interpretation to the Constitution that is based upon what is in their own heart and their own mind- completely disconnected from reality and historical context.

And this issue has gotten so bad- that organizations like Focus of the Family, the Family Research Council; and The American Family Association were started so as to confront these judges and these illegal rulings that came from judges who believe that the Constitution means whatever they say it means.

We must understand that nothing good ever comes forth from people who ignore grammatical and historical context when

interpreting a Document where the people who wrote it are dead. If Jefferson was alive- we could solve all this by just walking up and asking him what he meant when he wrote a particular part of the Constitution. But Thomas Jefferson is dead. And so all we have to go by- are the words that Jefferson used and what those words meant at the time that he wrote them.

Now I have used this illustration to make a point. What is happening in our country right now with renegade judges is also happening in the Church. And the same thing that these misguided judges are doing to the Constitution- misguided preachers and teachers are doing to the Bible.

You see, dear friends, the Bible actually means something. And just what the Bible means is of the utmost importance to us. If we get the Bible wrong and we turn left when the Bible says to turn right- we could really get into serious trouble- so this is a real big deal.

In our limited earthly experience and our own finite minds- we are not qualified to assign a meaning to Scripture unless we have done what the Bible tells us to do. Please read with me **2Timothy 2:15:**

**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.**

God said here for those in leadership in the Church to study the Scriptures so that they can be approved- not by Man- but by God and so they can be a skilled craftsman who is not condemned by God and who can properly and correctly interpret the Word of God.

But even though this is a Command in the New Testament for all Church Leaders- inexplicably, many Pastors and Elders and Deacons and Cell Group Leaders today say that they can just skip over this step because they are saved or because they are filled with the Holy Spirit or because they are too busy and God will show them what the Bible means without doing what God said to do.

But with all due respect to those who believe this way- just who do you think you are? Who are you to privately interpret the Bible based upon limited 20<sup>th</sup> Century American knowledge absent any research or any study or any struggling or any labor? This is exactly the very same logic that liberal judges use to do their damage to the Constitution but

in this case, we are not talking about the governing Document of a nation- we are talking about a governing Document about eternity.

By abdicating their duty to study- Church Leaders are saying that they don't view the Bible to be important enough to study and yet strangely- they do view what they have to say to be important enough for you to listen.

Many Bible Studies are conducted today whereby everyone gives their own spin on what the Bible says and a very popular question to ask in modern Bible Studies is, "*What does this verse mean to you?*"

Again, with all due respect- it doesn't matter what that verse means to you or what it means to me. All that matters is what that verse means to God- Who Authored it and Bible Study is supposed to be where we find out what God said and what God meant- not what we humans think.

Now there may be hundreds of different ways that we can apply the Truth of Scripture to our lives- but there is only one correct interpretation of every single verse in the Bible. One right meaning and every other meaning is wrong. And that right meaning is not what I say it is or what you say it is- it is what God says that it is. And the only way that you can arrive at the one correct interpretation of Scripture is by studying and by struggling and by seeking and by laboring and by valuing the Bible enough to deem every effort to be worth it all through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

But a noun is still a noun and a verb is still a verb and who was doing the talking and who being told what and in what context was this said or done are all things that we cannot and must not ignore if we are to rightly divide the Word of Truth and the Holy Spirit will not invalidate those things either.

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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