

# Behold What Manner of Love

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:9-12**

### Chapter 26- The Divine Witness 247 The Divine Witness- Part 4

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WAOY Thursday 09/11/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about the Divine Witness- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

**9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.**

**10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.**

**11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**

**12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

Now on our last broadcast- we were looking very closely at verse 9 – so I want to read that verse again together today:

**If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.**

Now what John is saying here is that as reliable and trustworthy as the witness of the Apostle is about Jesus- the witness that God the Father gave to us about Jesus is even greater. But what is the witness that God gave to us about Jesus? On our last broadcast- we were looking at a very familiar passage concerning the Baptism of Jesus that is found in **Matthew 3:13-17** and I want to read that passage again today:

**13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.**

**14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?**

**15 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.**

**16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

**17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

Now we saw last time some interesting things about Baptism and today I want to look at what happened as soon as Jesus was Baptized- so let's read verses 16&17 again together:

**16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

**17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

Now this passage ties in with what I was teaching about The Doctrine of the Trinity earlier in our journey through **1John** as we can see here all three Persons of the Trinity present at this Baptism. In these verses- God the Son is being baptized, while God the Holy Spirit comes down upon Jesus, and God the Father speaks from Heaven and says:

**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

The Doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is One in Essence but is eternally manifested in three Persons of God the father, God the Son,

and God the Holy Spirit. These verses show us all three Persons operating simultaneously during Jesus' Baptism.

Now if the ancient heresy of Modalism that has been adopted by many in the Jesus Name Pentecostal Churches was right- then this event could not have occurred. Modalism, you might remember, was an ancient heresy brought forth by a Roman named Sabellius who taught in the third century that God operated in what he called "modes" throughout History. Sabellius taught that Jesus was God but that Jesus was Father in the Old Testament, He was Son in the Gospels, and Jesus operates today as Spirit. These verses expose Modalism as being untrue. The only way that Modalism could be true here at the Baptism of Jesus would be for Jesus to have been a ventriloquist and bounce His Own Voice off a cloud when God spoke because clearly the Voice of God came from Heaven while Jesus was in the water. So God the Father and God the Son had to exist simultaneously- destroying the very foundation of the heresy of Sabellianism or Modalism.

Likewise, the ancient heresy of Arianism that challenged The Doctrine of the Trinity in the fourth century, and adopted by the organization called Jehovah's Witnesses, is also disproved in these verses. Arius, you may remember, taught incorrectly that Jesus was not God at all but was a created being and yet here at the Baptism of Jesus- God calls Jesus His Son – making Jesus to be equal with God.

So what we have is a far greater witness about Who Jesus is from none other than God the Father Himself as God testifies or witnesses to the fact that Jesus was God by calling Him His Son, and that Jesus was sinless by saying that Jesus pleases Him perfectly.

So this event of Jesus' Baptism was a powerful moment when false ideas about Who Jesus is were forever torn down and right ideas about Who Jesus is were forever established.

Now I really don't believe that we have the right to argue with anything that is in the Bible. We are not to disagree with what Moses or David or Isaiah or Paul or John or any of the other 40 writers of sacred Scripture said. No, as sons and daughters of the Lord Christ- we have a duty to bow our knees to the authority of the Bible and change whatever we have to in order to come into alignment with what God has spoken through the pages of the Holy Bible.

As I have said many times- you are perfectly free to disagree with me about a whole host of issues and still be in right standing with God-

but you are not free to disagree with anything that John or Paul or Peter wrote in Scripture and still be in right standing with God. What Scriptures teaches about God and the ways of God and Salvation and Who Jesus is- is what we are to accept and believe and teach and preach and love and obey and defend.

Nobody has the right to disagree with anything that John wrote in this Epistle and still think that he can be in right standing with God- in fact, John himself said this very thing in **1 John 1:1-4**. In that passage, John said:

**1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;**

**2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)**

**3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

**4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.**

John says here that what he has written in this Epistle is not something that he read out of some garden catalog- but what he personally saw and heard and physically touched. And then in verse 3 John says that the purpose of him writing this Epistle was so that we could have fellowship with him and the reason that John wanted us to have fellowship with him is because John says that his fellowship is with the Father and Jesus.

Now this is an amazing statement that no human being on earth can make today. In his Divine authority as being the last living Apostle of Jesus Christ- John said that what he wrote and how he lived his life and how he conducted Church and what he believed and what he taught were right and was correct and was exactly what we need to believe. So John says that if any of us ever hope to be in right standing with God

and with Jesus- we must be in right sanding with John- because John was right.

Now I could never make a statement like that because I have been wrong about many things- but John *could* make a statement like that because he was one of the men who were specifically chosen By Jesus Himself to establish Christianity on the earth. And the way that the Apostles established Christianity on the earth was by what they taught in the 21 New Testament Epistles. We do not establish Christianity today; we do not receive new revelation today; we do not set up the church today- we teach and preach the already established Revelation that is contained in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible. We love and defend the already existing Church that is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets with Jesus Christ being the chief Cornerstone and against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. We do not develop or formulate new truth or stamp a "new and improved" sign on the Gospel. We preach and teach and obey and love and defend the very same Gospel that Paul preached and we are not ashamed of that Gospel and we earnestly contend for the very same faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

So our offices and our ministries and our anointing and our gifts and our authority differs from those of the Apostles- precisely because our roles are different. They set up the Church and they established the Gospel- we carry on the Church that they set up and we preach the Gospel that they established.

So what John wrote in this Epistle is infinitely more important than anything that I would write or that anybody else on earth today would write because what these men wrote in these Books is inspired- it is God breathed, it is infallible in that it cannot contain any error, and it is inerrant in that it doesn't contain any error. What John and the others wrote is authoritative and it is relevant and it is eternal.

So while what I say and what I teach about Jesus may in some small way be true and even helpful- what John and the other Biblical writers said and wrote about Jesus is infinitely more valuable than anything that I would say.

But then John goes on to say that while what he and Paul and Peter said was extremely true and very valuable- John said that what God has personally said is of even greater value and is even more

important than anything they said. That is what John meant when he said in **1John 5:9**:

**If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.**

Now lest anyone think that they can now say that what God says to them personally overrides what John taught in this Epistle- John says this in the last part of verse 9:

**... for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.**

John is saying here that what he and the other writers of the New Testament have written in the 27 Books is the correct and full witness of God concerning Jesus Christ. So no other so-called "revelation" about Jesus that adds information to God's Witness as contained in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible or that takes away from this Witness is to be accepted by genuine believers. John says, "This is God's Witness of Jesus Christ".

So we need to take heed to ourselves, dear friends that we do not believe and we do not teach any other revelation about Jesus other than that Divine Revelation or Witness contained in the 66 Books of sacred Scripture that came directly from the Mouth of God concerning Who Jesus is.

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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