

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

78. Part 3

WAOY Thursday 08/30/07; WOSM Wednesday 01/18/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now when many people speak about Truth today, they do not mean the same thing that John meant when he wrote this passage. Most people actually mean the word, “opinion” when they use the word, “truth”. And the reason that we know that this is true is because of what they say right after they use the word, “truth” in a sentence.

When many people use the word “truth” in a sentence- they almost always qualify it with another sentence that goes something like this: “*Well, that may be true to you- but that is not necessarily the way that I see that*”. Or “*Well, that may be your truth- but that is not my truth.*”

Statements like this show that the definition of the word “truth” is not known by these people. The word, “truth” is not the same word as “opinion” or “interpretation” or “viewpoint”. The word, “Truth” doesn’t mean what these other words mean.

And when you speak of truth in a *Biblical* sense as John uses it here- you narrow the definition even further. Look- we all have opinions. Every human on earth has opinions. I have opinion and so do you. So did John. But what John wrote here was not his opinion or just a good idea that he came up with.

No, what John wrote here came out of the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God. And these Words are not Words that just sounded good or clever to John- these words are inspired; they are God breathed. And that means, by definition, that these Words- along with all the other Words of Scripture are infallible; inerrant; authoritative; relevant; and eternal.

And that means that these Words are unique and special above and beyond any other words of any other book that has ever or that will ever be produced by any other human being.

The Words of Scripture are Truth. But they are not just *our* Truth- they are not just Truth to Christians or to the Church- no, these special Words are Divine Revelation from the Creator and Owner of the Universe and are universally true.

Therefore- the Words of Scripture are true for every man under every culture who lives in any nation for any period of time in history. And they are true- whether they are believed or not. Every single human being who has ever lived will be judged by the Words of the Bible- precisely because they are Divine Truth.

And so, as John was writing this part of the Bible down- he knew what he was doing. He understood that, along with the other Apostles, and the other writers of Scripture- that God the Holy Spirit was using him to formulate Divine Truth- not just to believers- but to the entire world- and not just during his lifetime but for all time.

Now what I just said may seem harsh or legalistic to some of you- but it isn't- and please allow me to show you why it isn't legalistic to say what I just said.

If I was the one who made that kind of bold claim on the Scriptures- you would do well to disregard what I just said. But I didn't make that claim- Scripture itself makes the claim that I just spoke to you.

For example, turn with me to **Hebrews 4**, and let's read verses 12&13 together:

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

So here the Bible makes a claim about itself that is almost fantastic to comprehend. The Bible says that the Bible all by itself- without any assistance from any man is both living, and it is powerful, and it is sharper than any two edged sword.

Now it wouldn't take long for anyone to do just a little research to find out that a two edged sword is different from a one edged sword. A one edged sword was used for dress and formal occasions- while a two edged sword was used for battle because it is able to cut from both directions.

So, the purpose then of the Word of God is not to compliment- but to cut past the human being's natural tendency to hide from God and to make excuses and to throw up barriers and to try to make things appear differently than the way they really are.

And God knows that we all do that. So, in His Mercy, God gave us a marvelous tool- the Word of God- that is sharper than any other two edged battle sword so that the Word of God has the ability- all by itself- to get past all of the junk and get down to the real nitty gritty of where

we all live.

Look at what it says about itself. The Bible says that the Bible is able to:

...pierce (ing) as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Wow! Now notice that the Bible doesn't say that the visiting evangelist is able to do this. Notice that the Bible doesn't make this claim about any living human being. But the Bible makes this fantastic claim about itself.

Now I know that there are some people who say that God has given them this ability- but the Bible doesn't make this claim about any living human being- not me- not you- not anyone- but reserves this claim solely for itself.

This is why people get so angry when the Word of God is preached. This is why they react with such hostility to what it says. The Word of God all by itself has pierced their heart and divided between their soul and spirit and the Word of God has discerned the very thoughts and intents of their hearts.

Now here is the great divide. Lost people cannot stand it when the Word of God does this. But saved people love it. Wicked men who love their sins will boldly reject the Word of God and harden their hearts as the Word does its great work in them. But saved people who love God will be convicted as the Word of God is preached and they will humbly and graciously repent and embrace the fullness of God.

So lukewarm and lost people do not want to be in an environment where the Word of God holds preeminence and where it is preached rightly, fully and thoroughly. It isn't because anything is wrong with God's Word- there isn't- God's Word is perfect- it is simply because lost people love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

Now for almost 6,000 years- that was the way it was. People got angry over God's Word 6,000 years ago- but everyone knew why, and everyone knew that the only hope for these people was for them to continue to hear it and be exposed to it.

Everyone knew that for anyone to attempt to change or silence God' Word because it offends the lost and lukewarm is like removing the fire hose from a burning building because it puts out too much

water and might damage the carpet.

So, to alter the Word of God; to smooth over the Divine Message; to try to make a patently offensive Gospel to be non-offensive so that it doesn't offend the lost is to take away from the lost their only hope of Salvation.

One of the main reasons that we know that the Bible came out of the Mouth of God and was not the product of a group of religious geniuses is because they would have been raving lunatics to write a book that condemns the entire human race who lives outside of Jesus Christ. Writing a book like the Bible is not the way to make friends and influence people.

But if man really is lost and if Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ- then preaching and teaching that Truth becomes paramount if anyone is to be saved. And if that is true- then any attempt by anyone for any reason to monkey around with that Truth is to doom them all to remain lost.

So, to John and the other the Apostles, Divine Truth was not an opinion- it was fact- and it was not their facts- but God's. And since that is true- knowing this Truth; comprehending this Truth; studying this Truth; loving this Truth; and then proclaiming this Truth and defending it against every attempt at changing it or whitewashing it or silencing it became their highest priority.

Like today, John was faced with an ever present temptation to dull the edge of the sword so as to make the sword more appealing to the lost.

There is no doubt that many people said to John, *"Why don't we just love people as they are and quit worrying about silly little theological points like the Deity of Christ and human depravity."*

But John would have none of this foolishness and he constantly set the bar higher and higher rather than lowering it so that Divine Truth was put where it belongs as the definer and judge of all men.

For example, John made one of the most amazing statements that any human being has ever made when he said that those who desired to be in a right relationship with God, must also be in a right relationship with that which John and the other Apostles wrote. In essence, John was saying, *"We Apostles are right about this and what we are saying is right and if you desire to be right with God- you must also be in agreement with what we have written down."*

Now I could never say something like that and no other living human being can say that- but John, in his position as an Apostle could say that and so could Paul and so could Peter and James and Moses and all the other writers of Scripture.

John taught that for anyone to know and love and be in agreement with Divine Truth proved that God had saved you and had given you the new divine nature and that you were, in fact like Christ-or a Christian. And likewise, John also taught that for anyone to reject or to change or to disregard or to silence Divine Truth proved that they were lost and yet in their sins and unlike or against Christ this is what John meant when he used the term- “antichrist.” “Anti”- means against. These people were not followers of Jesus Christ- they fought against Christ- they were anti-christ.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.