

So That You May Know

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

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

79. Part 4

WAOY Friday/Tuesday 08/31-09/04/07; WOSM Thursday 01/19/23

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 we are coming to a point in our study where many of you have been anxious for me to get into- the issue of the antichrist. But one of the things that we need to keep in mind as we move into the discussion of the antichrist- is that in order to properly understand the antichrist- we need to understand the whole context of what John is talking about in these verses that I just tread to you and we need to take these verses as a whole subject and not break them up.

Up until now- John has told us that there are things *inside* of us that trouble us. John says that there are things that are *internal* that can cause us to lose out with God.

We read earlier where John said that if we do not love and keep God's commandments that we do not belong to God. That is an *internal* issue. When I keep God's commandments, that obedience on my part denotes that my heart has been changed by the miracle off the new birth and that I love God more than I love my sin and my pleasure.

Then John told us that if we do not love the brethren- that we do not belong to God. That too is an *internal* matter- which also proves whether or not my heart and nature have been transformed.

Then John warned us about loving the world and the things that are in the world- and that too- is an *internal* issue that has to with our hearts.

All three of these issues- keeping God's commandments; loving the brethren; and loving the world; are *internal* matters and John teaches that how we deal with *these* issues proves whether or not we have been truly born from above or not.

But now John comes to a place in his letter where he tells us that our danger doesn't just lie *internally*- but that we also have a danger to confront *externally*- in those who seek to pervert the right way of the Lord- the antichrists.

This is an issue which rises from the very atmosphere in which we live, because you see, the issue of the antichrist pertains to the danger that comes to pass in and from the very life of the Christian Church herself.

In other words, we not only have to watch ourselves- our own personal lives- to see to it that we keep God's commandments and love all the brethren and that we do not love the world or the things in the world- not only are we held accountable for *those* things- but we also collectively- as the Church of Jesus Christ- must take heed to ourselves

to be aware of certain common general dangers that we must face together as the body of Jesus Christ that are *external* from ourselves. And that is the subject that John deals within these verses.

John tells us why he writes this passage in verse 26:

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

So, you see, there are those who are doing their very best to deceive you- this word comes from the Greek word, *planaoe* (plana/w), which means: *to mislead on purpose; to cause to err; to lead astray by a willful act; to deceive by wrong teaching.*

In the Bible, these false teachers were *inside* the Church-although they were not saved- holding themselves out to be teachers and leaders and prophets and pastors- while in fact they were what Jude calls them in **Jude 4**:

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, we can see, brothers and sisters, that these people were not well meaning people who were just a little off on their doctrine- but that *these* people were real serious heretics and apostates- who were ordained to damnation- who had snuck into the Church for the sole purpose of destroying the Christian Faith.

And they were very busy seducing God's people into many evil ways. For example- this very same word that was translated as "deceive" here in **1John 2:26** is the same word used to describe how these heretics deceived people into rebellion (**John 7:12; The Revelation 20:8,10**); they deceived people from the truth (**2Timothy 3:12; 1John 2:26**); they deceived people to go astray (**James 5:19; 2Peter 2:15**); they deceived people to go astray (**Titus 3:3; Hebrews 5:2**); and they were particularly adept at deceiving people to idolatry (**The Revelation 2:20; 12:9; 18:23; 19:20; 20:3**)

Now we must be aware, beloved, that the *reason* that heretics and apostates and false prophets have been so successful down through the centuries at deceiving people is that they what they say sounds good; it

sounds right; it makes sense; it *appears* to be reasonable; it sounds like it *could have* come from God. But it *didn't* come from God because it is a lie, and it is wrong, and it is sinful, and it is evil and wicked and terrible, and it will destroy you.

So the fact that something that is a lie makes sense to us; the fact that something that is evil sounds reasonable to us; the fact that something that will destroy us and that comes from satan sounds like it might have come from God- proves to us that we are fallen, and depraved creatures who are miserable and poor and wretched and blind and naked- and that if God does not sovereignly open our eyes and if God doesn't mercifully unstop our ears and if God doesn't graciously give us a heart to believe- we will not see; we will not hear and we will be deceived.

So, we would do well to pray to God to give us eyes to see and pray that He would graciously unstop our ears so that we can hear Truth; and pray that God will be merciful to us to give us a heart to believe what He has said so that we will not be destroyed.

You see, you don't have to do anything to be deceived, beloved. Our default setting is that by nature it is easier for us to believe a lie than it is for us to believe the Truth. It is far easier for Man to *not* serve God than it is for him to serve God. If you are to be deceived and if you are to be ungodly; if you are to live your life in open and hostile rebellion against God- all you have to do is nothing- and presto- you are automatically there.

But if you are to please God- you have to be taught *how* to please God- because it doesn't come naturally to us. Because loving and serving Jesus Christ runs counterintuitive to human nature and is so very different from all that we are as human beings. If you are to serve Christ- you must be born from above and you must receive within yourself the new divine nature which is created in righteousness and true holiness. It is that new nature that always come to all of those who are saved- which gives us both the desire to serve God and the power to serve God- because we do not possess either the will or the ability to love and serve God on our own. That will or desire and that ability or power is what comes with Salvation and that is why saved people love differently and live differently from the lost world.

And this is not because we are better than anyone else- it is that we have been regenerated by a supernatural miracle from God and they

haven't. To lost people- God and the things of God are silly and foolish and a terrible waste of time. But to saved people- God and the things of God are paramount and are of infinite value.

Lost people predominately love *themselves* and so they do what is right in their *own* eyes- with only periodic and temporary moments of "cleaning up their act". But saved people predominately love God and so they obey Him and Serve Him with only periodic and temporary lapses into sin.

Look what God Himself said about this in **Isaiah 55:8&9:**

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

So, the thoughts of God are different from our thoughts and the only way for God's thoughts to *become* our thoughts is for us to be saved and to be born again. But also notice that Isaiah said here that God's *ways* are also not our ways. This means that the way that God looks at things and the way that He carries out His Justice and Mercy is not the same way that we would do that.

So, because that is true- we cannot trust our own human logic and our own human sense of fairness when we try to comprehend God and His ways. What we must do, therefore, is consult Scripture for only in the Scriptures does God reveal this information to us.

So, in order for us to know God properly and correctly- God must reveal Himself to us- because we cannot fashion our opinions about God based on anything other than His Word. And if we are to love God- God must give us that love for Himself- because we do not possess that love for God on our own. And if we are to obey God- God must put it in our hearts to do so- other than that- we are no different than the world.

So, Salvation is all about God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves and giving to us what we do not possess in ourselves and by studying Scripture- we can know God and comprehend God and worship God in the way that He really is.

So, we must be aware that there are ways that seem to be right to our own natural minds; and they seem to be true; and they seem to be of God- but they are not of God, and they are false, and they are

destructive. Read with me **Proverbs 14:12:**

There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

The measure of whether something is of God or not is not just that it makes sense to our human minds. There are many ways that are taught and preached today that make a lot of sense to the natural mind- but they are in opposition to what Scripture teaches and therefore- they are not of God.

Simply because a teaching brings happiness to you; or simply because a way causes you to gain in this life- does not necessarily mean that that teaching is of God. Just because something supposedly “works” doesn’t mean that it is of God. Just because it brings prosperity and material gain to you doesn’t mean that it is from God.

We have to remember that God is much more interested that we are holy than He is that we are happy, and God is more concerned that you and I are glorifying Him than He is that you and I are made much of.

So be careful , beloved with what you are hearing and what you believe and make sure that you are actually following Jesus and not being seduced by evil and wicked men.

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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