

So That You May Know

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

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

91. Part 16

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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 on the last broadcast, I was going over the two reasons why truly born again believers are *not* led astray by the false teaching of these antichrists:

1. True Christians Accept and Believe and Acknowledge the Faith
2. True Christians Remain Faithful

So, we were looking at what John said about this, and I want to continue in that vein today by looking at verses 20, 21, and 27:

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.

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 in verse 21, John reminds the believers that they have a genuine and real knowledge of God by saying that the *reason* that he was writing to them was *not* because they *didn't* know the Truth- but precisely because they *did* know the Truth. Once again this proves that Divine Truth is not a matter of personal interpretation and Truth is not something that cannot be known and understood and articulated and discussed as so many claim today. But because John reaffirms that the people he was writing to already knew the Truth, John was confirming that Divine Truth is something strong and sure and steadfast and which can be both taught and learned.

Then John ends this verse by saying something that is very important to us today. John tells these people that part of correctly understanding Truth is knowing that no lie is of the Truth.

Something cannot be both true and a lie at the same time in the same way. Something is either True or it is a lie and John is reinforcing a very important cornerstone Doctrine about Christianity here that has really gone out of style in our day.

Truth – Divine Truth- the Truth that is revealed by God is *never* a lie. It is *never* wrong; it is *never* off base; it is *never* incorrect. Divine Truth *always* applies to us today; it is *always* relevant to human beings-

no matter how technologically advanced they think they are. If something is wrong; if something is false; if something is incorrect- then God the Holy Spirit didn't reveal it. This is true because Jesus said in **John 16:13** that the Holy Spirit that comes to dwell inside the believer is in actuality- the Spirit of Truth – Who comes to lead us “**into all Truth**”.

So, when we are talking about Scripture; when we are discussing Divine Truth or what God has said or what God *means* by what He says- it isn't a matter of what I think or what you think, beloved. How I look at a particular verse of Scripture really doesn't matter at all and should play absolutely no part in how I interpret that verse.

My opinion may count for something in a lot of places – but when it comes to Divine Truth- my opinion does not matter in the least. The only thing that matters is what the man who was moved upon by the Holy Spirit meant when he penned down inspired Words from God.

And the people who lived in the first century were blessed in the sense that when they had a question about an issue- they could walk up and ask Paul or Peter or John what they meant by what they wrote. But these men are all dead now and we don't have that luxury. So, all we have are the words that they wrote down. So, we must approach the Scriptures very carefully so that we are certain that what we get out of it is what God has said.

If we twist the Scriptures to mean something that God has not said- we are in effect giving credibility to a belief or a teaching that God did not sanction. And we do not have that right, brothers and sisters. If we change what the Bible says or if we add to it or take away from it- then we have become part of the problem that the Apostles faced as they defended the Christian Faith against those who were trying to change it.

We have the very same Holy Spirit in us that they did- and we have the very same unction and anointing as did the believers in John's day and if we appropriate the Spirit of Truth correctly and don't quench the Spirit – we will always be warned and protected from false teaching.

But because of so much abuse in this area- I must say this: The Spirit of Truth always leads us into all Truth- but because so much bad doctrine has been floating around for so long- many times- we don't hear the Spirit clearly; we don't understand what the Spirit is saying to us; we don't respond correctly to what the Spirit leads until and unless tragedy occurs. This is so strange, and it is very dangerous- but why is

this happening? Why don't born again believers hear the Spirit clearly? Why don't Christians understand what the Spirit is saying? Why is so much false teaching so easily and so readily accepted today?

I believe that due to the proliferation of bad teaching that has become the majority voice today- we listen to the Spirit through the filter of what we have been taught. Most of us get saved and join a church and then just start feeding on whatever it is that they are serving. We love God and love people and think that everybody besides us already knows all this stuff. So, we are just what Jesus said that we are- children. We are naïve; immature and easily led.

Sadly, many times our leaders are not nearly as equipped to lead us as they should be, and they are simply a product of what *they* were taught as they grew up in Church. In most churches, whoever volunteers to do something gets appointed. And so, the modern Church is filled with ill prepared people who are teaching babes the issues of God and Scripture.

Now I am not challenging anybody's sincerity here. Many people love God, and they are trying with all their heart to do right. But with a set up like that- we cannot expect good to come out of it- long term. Jesus said if the blind lead the blind- they both will fall into the ditch.

False teaching; bad doctrine; heresy; New Age philosophy; and godless humanism will enter in and be taught from the very same people who teach good solid things. It is inevitable. This happens in the best of Churches with the most sincere of people.

So, God gave John and Paul and Peter and James specific qualifications which they wrote down which are mandatory for anyone to meet if they are going to lead in the Church. Part of those qualifications is that the men who teach must be men who have been taught. Now that doesn't necessarily mean that they have to have to have a degree from Seminary before they can teach- but it *does* mean that those who teach must know what they are talking about.

So, there should be *some type* of systematic process in place in every Church that has definable doctrines that are taught and explained and believed and adhered to by all of the leaders. And these men must have been *proven* to be faithful and loyal to God and to the Church and to their wives and families and to the Truth. These men must be the crème of the crop- men about which there is not the

slightest hint of scandal or ungodly reputation both inside and outside the church.

So even though they are the smartest person in the Church and have the best personality and be a great public speaker- but if they cannot control their children- they cannot lead in the church. If they are a slave to pornography or gambling or drink or they prove to be irresponsible with money- they cannot be put in charge of leading the souls of men- no matter how sincere they may be.

If they cannot speak about vital issues of the Christian Faith clearly and prove that they understand essential Truths about the Character and Nature of God; the Person of Jesus Christ; and Salvation- why would you ever give these people credibility to ruin other people's lives?

Reading from the latest best seller in Church or picking up a few clever phrases from television doesn't make you a good Bible teacher. It is assumed that the average person who sits on the pew doesn't know about these things- beloved- but we should expect that the people who get up to lead us do know what they are talking about.

We have an obligation and a duty to those little lambs not to lead them astray and woe unto those who use the people of God for their own selfish ends. People are not tools that we can use to further our ministry- people *are* the ministry and the souls of men are what is precious in God's Eyes and so we must be sure that we are leading them correctly.

When I stand to deliver a sermon or why I stand to teach God's precious Word- I must look at that sermon or that teaching as worship toward God. So, I must have put in the time to study and to struggle over the Scriptures to make sure that what I think God says is indeed what God has said. And if you don't have the time to study- then don't get up to speak. Charles Spurgeon said that he would rather get up into the pulpit naked than to go unprepared.

If the leaders of the Church don't think enough about Scripture to take the time to prepare to deliver them correctly- why would anybody think that somebody needs to hear what they have to say? My sermon must not be about the hot topic of the day- those issues change all the time- but the Word of God endures forever. My sermon or my teaching should be an exposition and an explanation of what God has said in Scripture and a detailed examination about the only Book that God

gave to Man. Everything else may tickle our ears and make us hoop and holler- but it will not save our souls.

In addition to very rigid training of leaders- the Church should also have some mechanism in place whereby they can honestly examine what they teach and believe- because it is certain that over time bad doctrine will creep into the best of churches. So, the Reformers taught that the church must be “ever reforming”; ever vigilant; ever testing; and ever examining as to what is taught and what is believed- so that at the end of the day- we can stand before Jesus and hear those wonderful words, **“Well done good and faithful servant”**.

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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