

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:9&10**

Chapter 18- The Manifest Love of God

179- The Manifest Love of God- Part 3

WAOY Thursday 04/03/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Manifest Love of God". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:9&10** again together:

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Now on the last broadcast- we saw that understanding and appreciating God's great Love is only brought forth by a correct and Biblical comprehension of the wrath of God. You see, dear friends, if you do not believe that you are deserving of eternal damnation for your sins- you will not in a thousand years appreciate the fact that God's Love rescued you from that deserved damnation. And this is why the Gospel- the Good News- is defined as being the Love of God providing for us an escape from the Wrath of God by sacrificing the Son of God to vindicate the Glory of God in forgiving sinners.

So without the surety of Divine vengeance and fury upon all sin- the Good News is really only just news. But what makes this news about Jesus to be good- is that because of God's love manifested towards us- not our love towards God- we are forever set free from God's wrath and condemnation. Now that is really good news!

So if we are to walk as God's children in humility and appreciation for what God has done for us- we must not shy away from what God Himself says about His Judgment and punishment against sin. We must acknowledge brothers and sisters that the Bible told us that part of the signs of the times; part of those last day warnings that would tell

us that the return of Jesus was immanent would be that God's people would become unthankful about the Love of God. Let's read **2Timothy 3:1**:

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

Now we have studied this passage before- but I want to remind you that the word that was translated here as "difficult": comes from the Greek word which means: *something that is dangerous; life threatening or deceptive*.

So when you realize that Paul is telling Timothy here that what he is about to say to him in the next few verses is life threatening; that it is dangerous and it is very deceptive- you might be tempted to think that Paul is going to talk about major things like wars or terrorist attacks or financial ruination or pestilences or extreme persecution against the Church or terrible heresy that false teachers bring in. You might think that Paul is going to talk about the antichrist or the Temple being destroyed or the abomination of desolation. But Paul didn't talk about any of those things in the next few verses. Look at what the Apostle Paul did call dangerous, life threatening, and deceptive by reading verse 2:

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Paul told Timothy here under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that for Man to love himself was life threatening- that it is difficult. Paul taught that self- love was deadly to the believer and that it was deceptive to those who love and follow Jesus Christ. But isn't self- love the result of much of what we are taught today? Isn't the entire pagan concept of self- esteem that is so enormously popular today and that we hear taught so often in both the world and the Church designed not only to teach us just how we can love ourselves- but that loving ourselves is good and productive and even spiritual?

But if what Paul taught here is true- and self- love is not only evil and dangerous- but if it is also a sign of the great falling away that is to happen in the last times- why do born again believers listen to teachings and teachers who teach us contrary to what the Bible says?

Why would any believer buy into a pagan and sinful concept if God's Word specifically says that that concept is dangerous, life threatening and deceptive?

Let me put this another way. According to what God spoke through Paul here- much of what is extremely popular today and much of what we are being fed today in Church is exactly the opposite of what the Bible teaches and is actually fighting against God and the ways of God and is in fact life threatening, dangerous, and deceptive to us.

Let's look at the very next thing that Paul mentions here in verse 2. In addition to self- love being dangerous and life threatening- Paul said here that for anyone to be covetous was extremely dangerous also. Now just so you won't think that I am blowing this up out of proportion- let me read to you how Webster's Dictionary defines covetous. Covetous is "*enthusiastically desiring wealth or possessions.*" In other words- to be covetous is to be greedy; it is to want what others have; it is to keep up with the Jones's; to be covetous is to enthusiastically long after wealth and possessions so that those things will fulfill a longing in your heart and satisfy your lust for more of this world's goods.

The Bible says that covetousness is one of the greatest and most wicked sins that a human being can engage in. God condemned covetousness in **Exodus 20:17**, when He said:

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Our Lord Jesus repeated this condemnation when he said in **Luke 12:15**:

... Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

And Jesus was very clear about the great danger that wealth and prosperity brings to the soul of Man when He said in **Matthew 6:24**:

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

The Apostle Paul was faithful to instruct Timothy about how life threatening covetousness is when he wrote in **1 Timothy 6:3-11**:

3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

4 he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

And we can spin this any way we want to; and we can rationalize this any way we want to but God and Jesus and the Apostles and the Prophets all said over and over that to be covetous was to sin and to dishonor God and to be wicked. So covetousness- in all of its hideous forms and all of its various styles is wrong; it is never right; it cannot be sanctified; it cannot ever be made to be acceptable to God in any way shape or form.

And the good minister faithfully warns the sheep about the danger of coveting and how that covetousness is life threatening and how that it is deceptive while those ministers who are false and those who seek to deceive the sheep will teach that covetousness is not only a good thing- but that covetousness is actually a sign of being spiritual and of exercising faith.

Here is how we have to tie all this together. John gives us a very narrow definition of what the Love of God is here in **1John 4:9&10**. And ever since John defined just what the manifestation of God's Love actually is- we have sought to expand that definition to include all kinds of things that God never spoke about. For example, John says that God's Love is manifested in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ and is not the self-love that we have all been taught about. That self-love, the kind of love that loves the self of Man is not from God and is not of God- but is dangerous and life threatening and has nothing to do with the Love of God. And John also says that God's love is not found in the abundance of those things that we possess- that isn't a sign of God's Love either- that is the sin of covetousness- that is also dangerous and deceptive. And there are many other ways that we have set up in which we describe God's Love that have nothing to do with God's Love at all.

When two people decide to move in together to live together as though they were married- they call this act an act of love- but in reality- this is not love either- it is sin and sin can never be love in God's Eyes because God is Love and God cannot sin and does not tolerate sin. It is good that anyone would try to pursue after Love for Love is of God because God is Love. But we must understand that God's Love is not manifested by engaging in what God has called sin- because that isn't love at all- that is rebellion and so True Love is manifested when we agree with God and we say that something that dishonors God is not love at all- but is in reality the manifestation of hate.

And when we realize that what we want to do is wrong and when we realize that what we want to engage in dishonors God- because God's Love was manifested toward us through Jesus Christ- we are saved and God has miraculously and supernaturally put love for Himself inside of us- and so based upon this Love and empowered by this love we turn from those things that we desire that are wrong and we repent of those sinful desires and we sacrifice them to God and we live by and through and in Jesus Christ.

I was asked recently why it is wrong for two men who love each other and who are devoted to each other and who care about each other are called sinners

No, John says that God's Love is forever wrapped up in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ and this Love cannot and must not be

separated from the Person and work of Jesus Christ in saving our sinful souls.

So John teaches here that God's Love is manifested toward us in that God took all of our sins- even the sins that we haven't even committed yet- and placed every one of them upon Jesus- even though Jesus didn't do anything to deserve that. And God placed or imputed all of our sins upon Jesus so that God could pour out all of His righteous anger and fury against Sin upon Jesus so that God's Justice against all our Sins would be forever satisfied. This one act that was done one time to One Man accomplished two powerful and eternal things:

1. God's righteous and holy anger against all sin would be forever vindicated
2. We who are saved could be spared God's Wrath and go to Heaven forever based solely upon God's Grace and Mercy and not based upon anything that we did.

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 Lockmann 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.