

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13**

### Chapter 22- The Apostolic Witness and Testimony

#### 202 The Apostolic Witness and Testimony- Part 3

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WAOY Wednesday 06/18/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Apostolic Witness and Testimony". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:14-16** again together.

**14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.**

**15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

**16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

Now on the last broadcast, I was showing you how that the Church of Jesus Christ was not built on Peter or on any frail, sinful Man- but that the holy Church of Jesus Christ was built upon the Rock of the Revelation that Jesus is the Christ- the Son of the living God. And John tells us here in verse 15 that we are to openly and proudly confess or proclaim that revelation that has made the Christian Church unique and set apart from every other institution on earth.

Only Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God; only genuine believers have received that revelation from God; only genuinely born again people confess that Christ is God. The rest of the world rejects that aspect of Jesus- and they reject it categorically.

As I told you last time- most people believe that Jesus was a good man- but nowhere in Scripture does it teach that you can be saved by believing that Jesus is a good man. Most people believe that what Jesus taught- especially the Sermon on the Mount was a guide for high

moral living. But nowhere does it say that by personally ascribing to the Sermon on the Mount a man can be saved. Most all the world rejoices that the baby Jesus was born in a manger- but Salvation does not come from believing that fact. Others say that Jesus was an arch angel or that He was a prophet or a great high priest or a teacher or an example- but again- a man is not saved by believing or confessing that about Jesus.

Well, how is a man saved? What does a man have to believe and confess in order to be saved? Let's let the Bible speak for itself. Read with me **Romans 10:9&10:**

**9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;**

**10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**

Now notice that the Apostle Paul does not say that a man can be saved by confessing with his mouth the *baby* Jesus; or the *angel* Jesus; or the *teacher* Jesus; or the *prophet* Jesus; or the *good moral example* Jesus. But notice that Paul said that we must confess the *Lord* Jesus.

Now 21 centuries after Paul wrote this verse- we tend to marginalize and pass over what Paul was talking about here. But if you will look for a moment at the very first verse of Chapter 10 of Romans- you will see just who Paul was talking to in this Chapter.

Paul says in **Romans 10:1-**

**Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.**

Now the **Epistle of Romans** is the greatest letter ever written by Man. **Romans** contains about 65 % of all Christian Doctrine- especially those Divine Truths that deal with how a sinful man is justified before a holy God. And for nine chapters- Paul has been teaching us just what the Gospel really is. But at the end of Chapter 8- Paul takes a detour in his letter and writes chapters 9-11 about the great mystery as to why the Jew- the chosen people of God did not accept Jesus as their Lord. Chapter 9 deals with the issue of Sovereign Election or Predestination and as much as many people would like for that topic to never be

discussed- there is no other reason for **Romans 9** to be in the Bible other than to defend the Truth that God chooses some people to be saved from before the foundation of the world.

But Paul continues his discussion of the Jew and their rebellion and blindness toward God about Jesus in Chapter 10 and that is why Paul wrote verses 9 and 10. That is, Paul wrote those two verses to state categorically that no Jew could ever be saved unless and until he confessed with his mouth that Jesus is Lord.

Now this term, “Lord” has special significance- especially to the Jew. Not only is Christ the Savior and Lord of all who believe- but He is also abounding in riches for all who call upon Him. Gentile believers have God's equal blessing as well as His equal Salvation as does the Jew. And just as God Sovereignly calls all believers to Himself- all those who will be saved- whether they are Jew or Gentile- must call upon Him and His Name in faith.

To further emphasize the *universal* outreach of the glorious Gospel- Paul quotes another prophet, Joel, who centuries earlier had declared to Israel the extent of Saving Grace when he prophesied:

**Joel 2:32**

**And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.**

In the Old Testament, the phrase “call upon the Name of the Lord” was always associated with the right worship of the one, true, living God. And every Jew was taught the significance of “calling on the Name of the Lord” – from his birth. It carried the connotations of Worship, Adoration, and Praise and it magnified God's Majesty, Power, and Holiness.

Emphasizing the *negative* side of that very same phrase- the psalmist cried to God in **Psalm 79:5&6:**

**5 How long, O Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?**

**6 Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.**

Again, the psalmist cried in **Psalm 105:1**

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.**

And again we read that the psalmist actually did "*call upon the Name of the Lord,*" saying in **Psalm 116:4&5**

**4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beseech You, save my life!"**

**5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.**

Now in the four Scripture references from **Joel** and the **Psalms**- the word "*Lord*" represents God's Covenant Name- YHVH (Yahweh, or Jehovah) — which is rendered in many translations in large and small capital letters (LORD). Therefore to "call upon the Name of the Lord" was not a desperate cry to just any generic "deity" — whoever, whatever, and wherever he or she might be — but calling on the Name of the Lord was a cry to the one true living God- the Creator-Lord of all men and all things Who is described in great detail in the Old Covenant.

At the Incarnation- YHVH (Yahweh or Jehovah) took on human flesh and was born of a virgin and became Man- and His Name is Jesus.

And as Paul taught- Salvation to everyone (Jew or Gentile) is by the confession (calling on the Name) of Jesus as being Lord (YHVH) and belief in one's "heart that God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead".

So Jesus is the one true Lord on Whom faithful Jews had always called in penitence, adoration, and worship from the beginning. So, to "call upon the Name of Jesus as Lord" as Paul taught in **Romans 10:9** is simply to recognize that God became a Man and to recognize and submit to His Deity; His Authority; His Sovereignty; His Power; His Majesty; His Word: and His Grace. And everyone- without exception- whether they are Jew or Gentile- who does so will be saved. So nothing has changed in the sense that all saved people must "call on the Name of the Lord". The only thing that *has* changed from what was understood under the Old Covenant is that Jesus is the Name of the Lord.

Now whereas many people today are very confused about this issue- and much false teaching abounds about this in our day- the unbelieving Pharisees understood exactly that Jesus was equating Himself with God. Now they didn't agree with Him- but they understood what he was saying about Himself- especially in **John 8:58**, when Jesus said:

**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.**

Now Jesus was not using incorrect grammar here- but He was telling the unsaved Jews that He was, in fact, the very same God that spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and Who said to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**:

**I AM WHO I AM:**

Now that term, "I Am", that God called Himself to Moses in Exodus is called the *tetragrammaton*, which is God's Covenant Name to Israel or in other words- Yahweh. So when Jesus told the Jews that before Abraham was, I Am- they understood exactly that Jesus had made himself equal with God and so the very next verse says:

**John 8:59a**

**Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him ...**

They didn't believe that Jesus was God as many do not believe today- but the Scriptures are clear, dear friend and we do not have any wiggle room here. Salvation cannot be attained by anyone unless and until they confess with their mouths that Jesus Christ is God.

Even the term, "Son of God" that we read so many times in the New Testament as it was used in the first century in the Middle East meant that Jesus was Himself God and again although many today do not believe that- the Jews of Jesus' day surely did. Let's read **John 5:18**:

**For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.**

So when Paul said in **Romans 10:9** that the only way to be saved was to confess that Jesus was Lord- he was not saying that we need to

confess that Jesus is *a* lord- as in *one* lord among *many* lords- and Paul was also not saying that we have to confess that Jesus was a generic *ruler* of some kind or an elevated angel as the Jehovah's Witnesses teach or some highly moral man as some messianic cults teach today.

No, Paul was clearly teaching that in order for anyone to be saved- Jews or Gentiles- we must confess with our mouths that Jesus is *the* Lord as in Jesus is God.

And so the Apostle John is again reinforcing that Truth by saying here in verse 15:

**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

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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