

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13** Chapter 23- The Believer's Boldness in the Day of Judgment 207 The Believer's Boldness- Part 3

WAOY Thursday 06/26/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are continuing to look at what John taught about the Believer's Boldness in the Day of Judgment that John gave us in **1John 4:17-21**- so let's read those verses together.

1 John 4:17-21

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Now we have been looking at verse 17 very closely and we have been discussing just what John was talking about when he says here that in the Day of Judgment- believers will have boldness and that this boldness is the result of our love being made perfect.

Now on the last several we have been discussing this issue in light of one of the most important things that believers struggle with

and that is the issue of what happens to my sins that I commit after I am saved?

So on the last broadcast- we established the fact that all people sin and that even saved people sin. Now even though that is true- we must understand that the sins that saved people commit are different from the sins that lost people commit in one very important respect.

Lost people do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside them and they are slaves to sin. In other words- the nature of a lost person is fallen and sinful and so when a lost person sins- he is only doing what comes naturally to him. In fact, the Bible says that everything that a lost person does is sinful. Let's read some very important verses to verify this statement. First turn with me to **1 Corinthians 2:14:**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Now Paul used some very interesting words in this verse. First of all- the **“natural man”** that Paul refers to here in this verse is a lost man; a man who is unregenerate and who is motivated by his fallen, unconverted nature. Now notice what Paul says about this lost man. Paul says that the lost person:

...receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God...

Paul teaches here that lost people; do not receive the things that are “of the Spirit of God”. Well, what are those things that are “of the Spirit of God”? Well, Salvation for one thing is of the Spirit of God; the Word of God for another- because God the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible; Purity of heart is another; and the strength to overcome sin for one more. But a love for God and the things of God and an escape from the domination of sin is the main things that I want to discuss here.

No human being born of woman loves God on his own. Love from a human being toward God is not natural- it is contrary to our fallen nature. Our fallen nature wants to run and hide from God; it wants to rebel against God; it wants to sin against God; and it wants to live in hostile opposition to God- but our fallen nature has no room in it at all to love God or the things of God.

Why is that? Look at the next part of that verse:

... for they are foolishness unto him..

The Bible says that things of the Spirit of God are foolishness to lost, unsaved Man. Now the word that was translated here into English as “foolishness” is the Greek word, *mooria*, which does not mean silly or funny; but this word means: *absurd; ridiculous; insipid to the point of being rejected by any thinking person.*

In other words- the things of the Spirit of God are so patently ridiculous to the lost unsaved man that he doesn't believe that any rational thinking human being would ever want or desire it.

In other words- lost Man does not accept or receive the things of God's Spirit because to do so would be to act counterintuitive to his fallen depraved nature- which is something that he not only does not *want* to do- but this is something that the Bible says that lost Man *cannot* do. Read the rest of that verse:

... neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Now the word, “**can**” that was used here does not mean *permission* or *desire*- this word, “**can**” comes from the Greek word, *dunamai*, which means: *power or ability.*

So what Paul is saying is that not only does lost Man have absolutely *no desire* for the things of the Spirit of God but Paul is also saying that lost Man *cannot* “know” or be intimately connected to the things of the Spirit of God precisely because lost people have no connection with God's Spirit.

So when lost people sin- they are only doing what comes naturally. They sin because they love their sin and sin is the natural outflow of their rebellious and depraved nature. So, sin is the Master over lost people. Lost people don't just sin- sin *dominates* lost people and all lost souls are *slaves* to sin.

So, the Bible clearly teaches that lost people cannot act or do righteously because their sinful natures will not allow them to *desire* to do this and their sinful depraved natures do not have the *power* to live or to do righteously.

But when we are saved- our natures are transformed from being depraved into being divine and what that does for us and to us is that being saved breaks the domination that sin had upon us and Salvation frees us to love and serve God.

So the change that Salvation wrought was an internal change and a change that affected what and who we love and it gives us the power to act out on our new love.

But what Salvation did not do was alter our bodies. I know that it is popular today to teach that Physical Healing is part of the Atonement- but that is not true. Now listen- God can and God does heal the bodies of sick people today- there is no doubt about that. But that is not the same thing as saying that healing is part of the Atonement. When you say that healing is part of the Atonement- you are saying that the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ made it possible for all saved people to always and in all cases to be healed from all diseases- and the Bible does not teach that.

Sometimes it is God's Will to perform great and mighty miracles and to heal sick bodies and sometimes it is not God's Will to do that. Sometimes God's children are delivered and sometimes they are not. Sometimes God brings about great supernatural manifestations to rescue God's people out of calamities and other times God's people are called upon to suffer.

Hebrews 11:32- 35 teaches us that faith manifested in and by God's people brought about great and mighty miracles and glorious supernatural manifestations and **Hebrews 11:25-38** says that faith manifested in and by God's people also brought about great suffering and torment and persecution and even death.

And **Hebrews 11:39** says that the faith that brought about the great healings and deliverances was the very *same* faith that brought about the great sufferings and persecutions and death- and the criteria of when or how or why some are delivered while others are not is not up to us- that is God's business.

And we are to trust in those hard times that God is good and that all things work together for good and we are to trust that God chastens those whom He loves and we are to trust that God prunes those who are bearing fruit and that being delivered is not a plum in our hats even as not being delivered is not a lack of faith.

The biggest reason why God heals or does not heal has absolutely nothing to do with our faith or the exercise of our faith- the Bible does not support that teaching. Godly and saved people get sick and die every single day and it was *not* because they lacked faith or because they did something wrong.

Now I realize that what I am teaching right now is certainly not popular and may well contradict what many of you have been taught or what many of you may believe- but the fact of the matter is that what I just said is true and the point that I am trying to make here is that while it is true that Salvation rescued our souls – Salvation did not rescue our bodies.

Our bodies came from the clay and our bodies are going to go back to the clay and there is not anything that we can do about that. We can watch what we eat and we should. We can exercise and we should and when get sick or some of our body parts begin to fail- we can pray and we should- but eventually we are going to keep the appointment that we have with death. 100% of all men – saved or lost will keep that appointment with death. And the reason that this is true is because healing is not part of the Atonement. The wonderful Atonement of Jesus Christ paid for our sins and saved our souls- but it did not provide continuous and constant deliverance for our bodies. And so if you don't like what I am saying right now- please go to the nearest cemetery and tell them that I'm wrong.

The glorious Promise of Scripture is not that every single time saved people get sick that God will heal us because there is something far worse than disease that Salvation has delivered us out of. The Promise of Scripture is not that every time we go into a trial that God always delivers us out of it- because there is something far worse than any trial that Salvation did deliver us out of. My dear friends, there are things far worse than poverty and far worse than suffering and far worse than persecution and far worse than a lack of money and a lack of possessions and far worse than even death itself.

The certain and assured wrath of God against all sin is far worse than any problem; any trial; any disease; any persecution; and any death and thanks be to God that when I deserved for God to pour out the full fury of His Righteous anger on me for the sins that I committed- Jesus Christ took my place and all of God's fury and all of God's Judgment against every single one of my sins- even the sins that I

haven't even committed yet were totally and completely paid for and all that God has left for me is Mercy and Grace and Love. **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus”**, Paul cried out in **Romans 8:1** and the reason that there remains no more wrath against me is because all of God's wrath that I deserved was poured out upon Jesus- and that allows me to go free.

That is why this particular news is called “Good News” rather than just News. And it is called “Good News” precisely because there is not any other news that could possibly be given that would even come close to this news as far as being Good.

This is the Gospel- the very heart and soul of Christianity. All of the false religions and doctrines of devils and all the man- made philosophies that exist on this planet combined cannot rescue one soul from hell. Nothing but Biblical Christianity declares this to be true and as we continue on in this study- I pray that you will see the connection between what I am teaching now about Salvation and how this all relates to us dying with unrepented sin in our lives.

Please understand, dear friends, that nothing even comes close to the value of true Salvation. God may heal your withered arm- but if you are not saved- you and your strong arm will burn forever. God can bring riches and wealth into your life- but if you gain the world and lose your soul- you have accomplished nothing. God may well allow you to prosper and to be in good health- but if your souls does not prosper in right relationship with Jesus - it is all for naught.

Some will say- *“Ah, but I can have both! I can be blessed and be saved.”* But I will respond to you that you need to take heed to your soul because very few people in the history of the world have ever done that successfully because Jesus said that human beings cannot serve both God and money. So please hear me beloved and be watchful and quicken your pace. May God help us all.

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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.