

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13**

Chapter 23- The Believer's Boldness in the Day of Judgment

210 The Believer's Boldness- Part 6

WAOY Tuesday 07/01/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Believer's Confidence in the Day of Judgment". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:17-21**- again together.

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

19 We love, because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been going over just what John was talking about in verse 17 when he referred to the genuine believer having confidence in the Day of Judgment. And on the last broadcast- we were looking at our great need to look at Salvation from a Biblical perspective rather than from a Humanistic perspective.

As its name hints- Humanism is all about the human being- the Man- while Christianity is all about the Christ- Jesus- the Son of God. So the two concepts of Humanism and Christianity are not in any way compatible but they are in opposition to each other. Humanism is about the glory of Man while Christianity is about the Glory of the risen Christ. So as believers we need to make sure that we are not using humanistic terms and concepts when we discuss God and the things of

God, and this is getting increasingly harder to do because Humanism is so ingrained in our culture and in our vocabulary and in our minds.

For example- in my lifetime- I have witnessed not only the systematic dismantling of Western Civilization- but I have watched America become a nation that has abandoned the Christian influence that so dominated our culture and embrace a secular godless philosophy of life and the world with open arms that has no reference in Scripture at all.

And many people all around the country are up in arms about this and organizations like Focus on the Family and The American Family Association have risen up to engage the enemy head on in the war for the soul of our nation. And I applaud these efforts and I support them wholeheartedly with my money and my time and my voice.

But at the same time that this has been going on in politics and in the Courthouse and in our culture, dear friends- the Church has also been going through massive changes and engaging in massive shifts away from its foundations- that are even *more* troubling. And I find it absolutely amazing that many people who say that they want to “*go back to what we once had in this country*” are reluctant to want to “*go back to what we once had in the Church.*”

And the battle that we wage today all boils down to the meaning of words- what does the Document say and what does the Document *mean* by what it says. You see, beloved, the liberal philosophy that allows Supreme Court Judges to interpret the Constitution anyway they want to is the very same liberal and ungodly spirit that gives some people the notion that they can interpret the Bible anyway they want to. And all I am saying is that to monkey around with timeless eternal and Absolute Truth is far *worse* than monkeying around with the Constitution.

The people who want to take a 230 year old document like the Constitution and make it say whatever they want it to say use the very same logic as do the people who take the timeless and eternal Bible and do the very same thing.

The one group who twists and garbles the Constitution does that in the name of “fairness” for all groups of people while the other group who mangles the Bible does that in the Name of the Holy Spirit – but both are doing the *same* thing. Both the people who twist the Constitution and those who twist the Bible are both taking a stable and

valuable document and they are twisting it for their own self-interests- and that is wrong- and in the case of the Bible- it is sinful.

One group says that they do this in the name of being fair to all people while the other group says that they do it in the Name of the Spirit- but neither group are telling the truth and neither group are helping anybody.

But they are both chipping away at what is stable and in the case of those who feel as though being filled with God's Spirit gives them license to ignore language and history and logic and interpret the Bible in taking verses completely out of context- these people are fighting against the Truth, and they are hurting the cause of Jesus Christ.

The only way to fight this battle in the natural is to elect a President who will nominate Judges who believe in a "strict constructionist" view of the Constitution. And over time- these judges will bring sanity back to the legal rulings.

But the only way to fight this battle in the Spirit is to make sure that those who teach and preach the Bible are men who are faithful to the Doctrine of the Apostles and that they preach and teach what God the Holy Spirit actually put into the Bible- *not* what is popular or what sells. And over time- what it means to be saved will return back to its Biblical position and Christ will be honored and the Church will be strong.

But the roadblock to both of these things happening is this thing called, "Humanism". You see, Humanism as a religion has been accepted in this nation with open arms. Humanism is taught in our public schools; our universities; and is the de-facto religion of our own Government. Pagan, godless Humanism is approved and promoted by Hollywood actors and politicians and business leaders and sports stars 24 hours a day and seven days a week and our children are indoctrinated in Humanism from the time they leave the hospital.

And that would be bad enough- but over the last several years – Humanism has crept into the Church disguised as a "new revelation" or a "fresh take on Scripture" or a "pragmatic approach to Church Growth". Some call it health, wealth, and prosperity; others call it Purpose Driven; some call it name it and claim it- but the result is always the same- a diminishing of God being honored and an elevation of Man being honored- a tearing down of God and a building up of Man- which is nothing more than Humanism plain and simple. And because

most people do not know their Bibles and because most people do not study Church History- repackaged Humanism- not Biblical Christianity- is being taught in more and more pulpits now than at any time in history.

And the result is that many of the terms and concepts that we use today to describe the Work of God in Salvation comes from Humanism- and not the Bible. So, we really need to look at this closely.

1700 years ago Humanism began with a British monk by the name of Pelagius who attacked Christianity on three fronts. Pelagius rejected what the Bible taught about Original Sin- and taught that Man was not affected at all by the Fall of Adam in the Garden. Pelagius then went after God's Sovereignty by teaching that God was subservient to Man in what he called the area of human free will. You see, to Pelagius 1700 years ago and to a humanist today- human free will is the altar at which he bows. Human Free will is sacrosanct and is untouchable and unimpeachable to those who espouse this godless philosophy. To the humanist- even God- if there is a God- even God Himself is held captive by the free will of Man. And so a Humanist would teach, for example, that God would never do anything that would ever in any way violate human free will.

Pelagius taught that Man was what he termed, a "free moral agent" who could choose or reject whatever he wanted to precisely because the Fall had no effect on him whatsoever and he was not tainted with Original Sin. So Pelagius reached the conclusion in the fourth century that God was not Sovereign in Salvation- Man was. Pelagius taught that Man was only saved because Man *wanted* to be saved and Man- not God- had the final say so over Salvation because God would never do anything to violate Man's free will- not even save him.

But not content with just attacking what the Bible taught about God's Sovereignty and Original Sin- Pelagius then turned his attacks against Grace. Pelagius taught that since Man was not fallen- that he really didn't need Grace; he didn't need Jesus to die; and he didn't really even need Salvation.

So in Pelagius' theology- which is well documented and is the foundation for what is called Secular Humanism- Men went to Heaven or Hell based on what they did for themselves- *not* based upon what God did for them. And Grace and the death, burial and Resurrection of

Jesus Christ was all real nice but completely unnecessary for Salvation. To Pelagius- Salvation was nothing more nor less than Man exercising his own free will and human ability to alter his own life and change his own behavior to become a good person.

So for many years- this teaching that was called Pelagianism before it was called Humanism- swept the world. And many very famous and influential men of history became converts of this godless antichrist teaching. And it wasn't long before men *inside* the Church became converted to Pelagianism too and began to teach from the pulpit many of the same things that you can hear nightly on what is called Christian television.

Now for many years it looked real bad for the home team as unbiblical Pelagianism infiltrated the Church and began to grow and multiply. And for the first time in the history of the Church- men had the audacity to stand behind the pulpit and preach something else besides God's precious Word as they began to teach from the pulpit that God was not Sovereign; that Man was not fallen; and that Grace was not necessary for Salvation.

But thank God that in **Matthew 16: 18**- the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said:

... I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

You see, dear friends, the Church does not belong to the people. The Church belongs to Jesus Christ because He bought and paid for it with His Own Blood. And so Christ- not Man- and not Man's techniques- Christ is going to build the Church and because Jesus never fails- not even the very gates of hades itself will overpower the Church of the First Born.

Now look, I pray and beg God every day to rescue my nation- and I hope to goodness that we can turn this thing around. But it sure looks dim with so many people shopping at Wal-Mart on Sunday instead of sitting in Church. It looks real bad that more people are willing to go vote than go pray; and it doesn't look promising when more people are willing to sit for hours watching Fox News than they are to read their Bibles. And for the life of me I can't understand why these people would want God to rescue our nation when they are not committed to God. So even though we are fighting valiantly- we are not promised

anywhere in Scripture that God is going to rescue this nation. I hope He does; and I am asking Him to every day- but even if America falls- we are promised in Scripture and we can take great hope in the fact that even if America falls and even if we lose this battle to rescue our nation- God's Church will prevail and go right on anyway.

So God raised up a man name Augustine to engage Pelagius head on with the heresy he was teaching. And Augustine battled Pelagius point by point for years and years. Augustine said that the Church was worth fighting for and that every single one of the Apostles took great care to warn us that ungodly men would creep into the Church to bring in damnable heresies and to make merchandise of God's people and that the men of the Church had the duty and the responsibility to stand up for the Truth and to not sit on their hands while false teaching was being promoted from the pulpit. And one of the primary tools that Augustine used to battle Pelagius was this very verse in **1John** that we are studying right now. Augustine said that since John taught that we can have confidence on the Day of Judgment showed that Salvation was a Sovereign Work of God alone and *not* the result of human free will.

So Augustine and Pelagius went at it and Lord willing on the next broadcast we'll see how it all went down. But 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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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.