

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 6- John's Moral Test of Salvation

#### 50. Obedience- The Proof of Salvation- Part 7

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WAOY Thursday 07/05/07; WOSM Friday 12/09/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are 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 Moral Test of Salvation". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1 John 2:3-6** again together:

**3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

**4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;**

**5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:**

**6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking very closely at John's example of what true Salvation really is by examining verses 4 & 5- so let's read those verses again together:

**4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;**

**5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:**

Now as I mentioned last time- John was not simply engaging in name calling here in verse 4 when he writes that anyone who *says* that they are saved and yet does not keep God's commandments is a liar. In verse 4, John uses the Greek word, *pseustees*, (a)ly/qeia), which has a very distinct meaning.

This word that was translated into English as “liar” cannot be looked at simply as the opposite of Truth. This word carries with it a very distinct Theological meaning that we need to understand.

A lie- as defined by John using this word- is also not simply an error- but this particular Greek word shows us that what John is talking about here is a willful act of deception and a concerted and deliberate act to contest or challenge that which is true. In other words- John is saying that these people are not simply mis-informed; nor is John saying that these people are sincere but off base- no, because John used this particular Greek word- he is saying here that those who say that they are saved and yet are not keeping God’s commandments- that these people are doing so for the express purpose of deceiving other people and to redefine what it means to actually know Jesus Christ.

So once again- John is showing us how diligently that he fought against the Greek philosophers and Gnostic mystics in his day who were trying their hardest to infiltrate the Christian Church and change the Gospel.

So, John used the exact same word that Jesus used to describe none other than satan himself in **John 8:42-47**:

**42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

**43** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.

**44** "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**45** "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

**46** "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

**47** "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."

Jesus said that Satan is a liar and the father of all lies. That means that all lies came from the loins of satan and originated from him. Now I realize that many people who *say* they are saved and are

really not saved- are not doing what John is referring to here. Most people today who say that they are saved are simply deceived. But the people to whom John is referring are not deceived- they are apostate- they are not deceived- they are deceivers. These are evil men who understand exactly what they are doing, and they desire to fight against God.

This is a level of evil that very few people are willing to dwell on. Look at how Jude referred to these same people in Jude 4:

**For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

First of all, notice that Jude says that these are certain men- specific men; men whom God has ordained to condemnation. These are the heretics; the apostates; those certain men of history who sneak into the Church for the sole purpose of destroying it.

These are not sincere people who are simply misguided- no, the Bible declares that God has ordained these men to condemnation- that they cannot be saved- they are not savable people.

Now many will cringe at what I just said because that statement does not seem to match up with what they have been taught about Jesus. Most people believe that everybody and anybody has a chance to be saved and that it is simply their own fault that they are lost. Most people have been taught that Jesus would never exclude anyone from the chance of Salvation- and I acknowledge that that is what is currently being taught- and this is something that gives us all great comfort- but the problem with that teaching is that it is simply not what the Word of God teaches.

Now I realize that what I am saying is highly unpopular- but I didn't write the Bible, beloved- I am simply bound to teach what God's Word says and God says very clearly in His Word that not everybody is going to be saved.

Some people are lost, and they are going to stay lost no matter what you tell them and no matter what information you place before their eyes and ears. The Bible says here in verse 4 of Jude and elsewhere that there are certain ungodly people who creep into the Church while

the leadership is asleep at the wheel and that these people come for one purpose- to distort and corrupt three aspects:

1. The Grace of God
2. The Character and Nature of God the Father
3. The Person of Jesus Christ

Jude goes on to describe these people in great detail in the next 15 verses. Now I spent over a year teaching about Jude and I'm not going to rehash that teaching here- but read Jude and if you can- get a copy of my teaching and see for yourself that these particular people that Jude is talking about will not and cannot be saved.

Now before you think that I am just a hard man- I want you to know that I am not a hard man. I struggle over these verses just like you do- but we cannot, and we must not change the Word of God beloved- simply because that which God has said makes us uncomfortable. We must not put our own private interpretation upon verse of Holy Scripture simply because it violates some of our human senses

If you believe that God's Word is inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative; and relevant as I do- then it really doesn't matter whether or not God's Word suites our human sense of fairness or our own carnal natural understanding. God has said exactly what God meant to say and it is our duty to study what God said and preach that and love that and believe that- not to change it to suite ourselves.

I will repeat what I just said- those people to whom Jude and John are referring- who creep into the Church in order to pervert the right way of the Lord- are going to be judged severely by God and they will not be saved.

And since Salvation is a Sovereign work of God alone- then that is God's business- and not ours. You and I are not given the authority to determine who will be saved and who will not be. We are commanded to preach and work and struggle and love everybody- and God is the One Who does the saving.

Now I also realize that some of you will simply say that Brother Blair is just misinterpreting this passage. Maybe so- but if I am- then I am in real good company- because the fact of the matter is that every major hero of the 2,000 year history of the Church said that very same thing that I just said about this verse. Polycarp, Clement, Justin Martyr,

Ignatius, Tertullian, John Chrysostom, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, Matthew Henry, Jonathan Edwards, and Charles Spurgeon wrote down extensive commentaries about this verse here in **1John** and also in Jude and you need to read what they said to see for yourself whether I am preaching Truth or not.

The point that I am making here is that the people whom John says are lying in **1John2:4** are not simply telling a story to make themselves look good. No, John is using this particular word on purpose to distinguish in our hearts and minds between true believers and those who seek to alter what Christianity is.

As I have told you on several previous broadcasts- John and Peter and Paul were loving and kind men who would work all day long with sinners and the worst people in society. But these same loving and merciful men turned into pit bulls when it came to someone monkeying around with the Gospel or toward someone who sought to sneak into the Church and pervert the Truth.

Listen to how Paul pronounced an Apostolic damnation upon these people in **Galatians 1:8**:

**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!**

And in case you missed what he said, Paul repeated this statement in verse 9. Consider also what Peter said about these same heretics in **2Peter 2:9**:

***then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,**

And then let us remember the words of the Apostle of Love- John as he instructed those in the Church how they should treat these heretics in **2John 10&11**:

**10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;**

**11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.**

So here in **1John 2:4**- John is telling us that these people do not have

the Truth of the Gospel in them and that they are liars- and they are liars in the sense that they have gone way beyond telling stories- but these people- probably the Greek philosophers and Gnostic mystics of his day were evil men who were not seeking Salvation at all- but they were trying to come into the Church to destroy Christianity and that God's people need to wake up and smell the coffee and realize that the Truth is precious and that which God has placed into our hands must be guarded and defended and studied and taught and learned and believed on and proclaimed and loved and preserved so that we may be found faithful to our wonderful Savior who has saved our wretched souls and brought us into His glorious Kingdom.

John is saying that those who are saved serve God and those who are trying to destroy the Faith are liars and the Truth is not in them.

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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