

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

86. Part 11

WAOY Tuesday 09/18/07; WOSM Monday 01/30/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're 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 Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first point- Realizing the Danger and today I want to begin to look at the *second* point that John was making in these ten verses- Our ability and power as believers to realize the danger that confronts us. So, in order to learn what John taught about this- let's read verses 20, 21, and 27 again together:

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now the hallmark of Christianity and the new birth is that God the Holy Spirit- the third part of the Godhead now dwells inside every believer at the very moment that he is converted. This is what separates Christians from every other group of people on earth. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is fundamental to Biblical Christianity and was taught over and over by the Apostles. For example- Paul taught this when he said in **Romans 8:9-11:**

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Now being “**in the flesh**” as Paul describes it here means that you are lost. So, the opposite of being “**in the flesh**” or being lost is what Paul describes here as when the Spirit “**dwells in you**”- or in other words- you are saved. So, Paul equated being saved and having the Spirit within you as being the same thing.

And the reason that we need to know this is because some people believe that having the Spirit dwell in you is a *secondary* action that occurs at some point *after* you are saved. These people wrongly teach that *after* a person is born again- there is a so –called, “Second Blessing” where the Spirit of God fills them. And many- but not all- of those who believe this also believe that there is a “sign” or a “proof” that occurs at this point which verifies that the Spirit indeed has come inside that person such as “speaking in tongues”.

But the Bible teaches that no one can be saved in the first place unless and until the Holy Spirit *regenerates* that person’s nature first. So, unless the Spirit comes to us *first*- we cannot even be saved. And here’s why this is true. You see, all lost people are born dead in sins and trespasses, and they got that way at the very moment of conception when the nature of Adam and the sin of Adam was imputed to them.

So, at that moment- at the moment of conception- every human on earth is guilty before God and they are separated from God because of Original Sin. Now I realize that many people don’t like this Doctrine- but that is what the Bible teaches.

And all of this is the product of the fall of Adam in the garden. Now most everybody believes Adam fell in the Garden- but many don’t stop to think just how that Fall affects us today. As I have told you many times, most people believe in only *half* of what the Doctrine of Original Sin teaches. I guess they have just not taken the time to think about it- but almost everyone believes that all men are born with the sin *nature* of Adam inside them. And they have been taught that at the age of accountability- which most say is around the age of twelve- everyone is now responsible for his or her actions and because they have Adam’s nature within them- they will at this point naturally act out on that nature and they will begin to commit sins themselves. And this

teaching goes on to say that at *this* point people are guilty of sin and can be held accountable.

But the problem with believing this is that it only deals with *half* of what Original Sin teaches. Original Sin does indeed teach everything that I just said- but it goes much further than that. Original Sin also teaches that in addition to being born with Adam's fallen *nature*- we are also personally *guilty* of the sin that Adam committed in the Garden- and we are guilty of that sin at the very moment that we are conceived in our mother's womb.

You see, the entire human race was in the lions of Adam when he sinned, and so not only do we have Adam's *nature*- but we also share Adam's guilt. And the Apostle Paul taught this in **1Corinthians 15:22**, when he said:

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

One of the most devastating aspects of being fallen and lost is that we no longer have the desire or the power to love and serve God. So even though all men are commanded to repent and love and serve God- because we are fallen- we have no inclination to love God- but instead we love sin, and we love ourselves. And until God sovereignly intervenes to give us spiritual life- until we are born again- we do not, and we will not repent and love God.

You see, *every* aspect of the human condition was ruined by the Fall. The radically negative results of the Fall upon Man and the world around him were "total" and they were "complete", and they negatively altered every aspect of the human experience. For example- Adam's immortality was radically affected by the Fall and as a result- now all men die. But Adam's *emotional* condition was also radically affected by the Fall- and now all men have *fallen* emotions like anger and lust and bitterness and jealousy and covetousness.

But part of what it means to be fallen- is that Man is also spiritually *dead*. Man is not spiritually *sick* or spiritually *impaired*. As far as true spirituality is concern- fallen Man is stone cold dead. Oh, he lives a real life to be sure- but as far as God and the things of God are concerned- every human born of woman is dead. Paul teaches this in **Ephesians 2:1-3**, when he said:

- 1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

So as a result of being fallen and dead- we are now- by nature- the children of wrath. Now that doesn't mean that we are walking around mad all the time- but it means that we are constantly sinning and as a result of us constantly sinning- we are constantly under the Wrath of God as a due payment for our wickedness.

But the Bible doesn't even stop there to describe how bad our lost condition really is. The Bible also says that when we are lost- we are blind, and we are completely and totally separated from God so much so that Paul taught this in **Ephesians 2:11&12**:

- 11** Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is performed in the flesh by human hands* —
12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

So, let's review. Lost people are personally guilty of the sin that Adam committed in the garden; they also possess the rebellious nature of Adam and as a result- they personally commit sins themselves. And lost people are also spiritually dead in trespasses and sins- completely unable to love and serve God in their own power. They are also blind- unable to see the Truth. They are also totally and completely separated from God; they are aliens from the fellowship of God's people; strangers to the Covenants of Promise that God has made; and as a result of this fallen, blind, dead, depraved condition- lost Man has no hope in this life to ever change any of that by and through his own power.

And the point that I am trying to make with all of this is that fallen man can't get any further away from God than he already is- and he can't be any more helpless to correct his own problem than he

already is. So, since that is true- Salvation is way more than a simple act of the will; it involves a whole lot more than telling spiritually dead people to choose Jesus. They can't choose Jesus- they're dead. For lost people to be saved takes a Sovereign miracle from a merciful God alone to reach this lost man and then to sovereignly give that dead, blind, lost, sinful man a new nature and give him eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart to believe.

Now here is where I really need you to hear me. All of this sovereign work has to be done to that lost person BEFORE he is saved. God has to give him eyes to see or else he would never see the Truth. God has to give him ears to hear the Gospel or he would never hear it. And God has to give him a heart to believe or else he would forever remain lost.

So even though most of us were taught that we have to believe in order to be born again. The Bible actually teaches just the opposite. Lost people have to be born again by a sovereign Move of God's Spirit in order to have both the power and the desire to believe! So being born again is God sovereignly giving dead lost people new spiritual life and that has to occur FIRST and it is that sovereign giving of life that allows and compels and empowers the lost man to believe and repent and be saved in the first place.

So, all of this work is done *before* Salvation, and it is done internally inside the human body. And all of this work is done sovereignly by God the Holy Spirit BEFORE that person is saved. Because without God giving new spiritual life- the lost person would simply remain dead in his sins, and he would never hear the Gospel; he would never repent, and he would never be saved.

So John is reinforcing the great miracle of a formerly lost soul having God the Holy Spirit literally moving inside his body when he tells his first century audience that not only did they get saved because of Sovereign work of God in their lives- but they are also warned of the danger of the antichrists and they are kept from falling into error and deception by the very same Work of God the Holy Spirit- Who now dwells inside 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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