

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:9&10**

Chapter 18- The Manifest Love of God

178- The Manifest Love of God- Part 2

WAOY Wednesday 04/02/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Manifest Love of God". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:9&10** again together:

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Now on the last broadcast- we saw that the only things that we know and understand about God that are true and accurate are those things that God has chosen to reveal about Himself to us through either Creation or Scripture. Everything that God wanted to reveal to us about His Own Character and Nature; about Grace and Salvation and about the Person of Jesus Christ- He has already revealed.

Therefore any other revelation from any other source other than the general revelation of God through Creation and the much more superior revelation of God through the sixty- six Books of inspired Scripture that seeks to add to or take away from the already existing revelation in those three areas- the Character and Nature of God; Grace and Salvation; and the Person and Work of Jesus Christ is a not from God and is designed to deceive you and is not to be believed or listened to or read or entertained by those who love and follow Jesus Christ.

For example, John- whom many today call the Apostle of Love- wrote this 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.

The Apostle John is the one who said not to even receive people who try to bring you another doctrine into your house or even bid them God's speed. So when those real nice and friendly people come to your house and knock on your door to hand you tracts that deny the Deity of Jesus Christ or which say that God was once man or who say that God has another revelation of Jesus besides the Bible- do you obey what John wrote here and stop them at the door and turn them away without a blessing? I pray that you do.

When modern day Gnostics write books and produce movies which blaspheme Christ's sinlessness- do you buy the book and go see the movie? I pray that you don't.

No, the Apostles were faithful to warn us about people who were going to try to alter the true and reliable and trustworthy revelation of God in Scripture because they knew that if evil people are successful in altering or obscuring or changing what God has said- or if they are successful in changing what God *meant* by what He said- then our understanding of God and Salvation and how to go to Heaven and what is and is not a sin and Divine Truth will be lost to us.

These men knew that if we lose the Truth- we lose everything- so they fought to defend the Truth against any who sought to change it and they were faithful to teach the Truth and write it down so that it would be preserved for us today.

All throughout human history- people have periodically risen up to do exactly what the Apostles warned us they would do. These people say that God spoke to them new and exciting revelations or that they have received from God another Gospel or an additional piece of the puzzle and I suppose that it is human nature for us to be curious about things that God has chosen not to reveal to us about Himself or the future.

But in spite of thousands of documented examples over thousands of years of people saying that Scripture is not enough or that God's existing revelation is not sufficient and that we need more- every succeeding generation has to deal with this very same issue.

Listen, there isn't a dime worth of difference between the heretics and false teachers of the past who said that God gave them another

Gospel or revelation then there is with those people in our day who say the very same thing.

God didn't give you the Holy Ghost, beloved, so that you could get new revelation from God. God gave you the Holy Ghost so that you would have the ability and power and the desire to read and study and understand and love and obey and defend the already existing revelation of God that is found in Scripture- not try to create more. We don't need more information to read and follow- we already have sixty-six books and it is going to take the rest of our lives to live up to those.

Now the reason that all of this matters is because almost all of the people who add to what God has already revealed or who take away from what God has already revealed change the way that people see and understand and comprehend Jesus and they change the way that people are to respond to Jesus and they change the understanding of how we are saved and how we go to Heave- which is real serious stuff.

You see, when that which God has revealed about Jesus is changed or altered or added to or taken away from- then how we comprehend the Love of God that He manifested to us through Jesus is also changed. For example- look again at what John wrote about God's manifest love in verse 9:

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

John says here that God's Love was manifest toward us in the one single act of God sending Jesus into the world so that we could live through Him. Now let's look at that for a moment. Precisely how is it that God sending Jesus into the world is described by John as being the manifested Love of God towards us? In other words, why in the world did God send Jesus into the world and why is that "sending" described here by John as being the manifest love of God unless we had a great need for God to send Jesus?

And just what *was* that great need that we had that was only accomplished by God sending Jesus? Here's the need: God is *infinitely* holy and we are *infinitely* sinful and this infinitely holy God is going to judge all sin. Now that may seem simplistic to some of you- but it is the greatest of all dilemmas.

So many people teach today that our biggest need is to make more money or to get a new car or to lift up our own self esteem or to have a better marriage or to become nicer people. But the Bible says that our greatest need is to escape the wrath of God. And it is because we do not believe that our greatest need is to escape the wrath of God as to why we have trampled God's love and abused God's love and taken so much advantage of God's Love in our day.

Brothers and sisters- you cannot possibly appreciate the Love of God unless and until you first begin to understand the wrath of God. If you do not believe that you are deserving of eternal damnation for your sins- you will not in a thousand years appreciate the fact that God's Love rescued you from that deserved damnation. If in any way you don't think you are that bad; if in any way you don't think that your sins are that evil and wicked and wretched in God's sight; if in any way you think that God is kidding about judging you for your sin- then God's Love may be nice and it may be sweet and it may even be real nice and very sweet but it will not mean everything to you.

Contrary to what many of our most loved and popular teachers say today- Jesus Christ did not die on the Cross to save you from low expectations. Jesus was not brutally beaten so that He would give you a better job or a nicer apartment or a more beautiful girlfriend. Jesus' reason for dying was not even to heal your sick body or to allow cripple people to walk again or to bless you financially or to save your marriage or to rescue our fallen culture.

The single reason that Jesus was taken and abused and beaten and crucified; the reason that Jesus' heart literally ruptured inside His Body was because of the inescapable fact that every single human being is born in sin and we are shapen in iniquity and we are all separated from God at the very moment of our conception and we are born in hostile opposition to God and we live our lives in direct rebellion to God and we sin against Him all day long and God's passionate fury against our sin burns white hot and the holy and righteous Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth is determined to vindicate His Justice upon all of those who refuse to bow their knees to Him and serve Him.

God created Hell to serve as a place for the devil and his angles to forever suffer the torment of everlasting flames as a public demonstration of the righteousness and holiness of a sinless God. Hell was not originally created for man- but because most people will not

repent; because most people will not bow their knees; because most people refuse to love and serve this good God- the Bible says in **Isaiah 5:14** that hell will be enlarged to be big enough to contain the countless numbers of sinful rebels who would rather burn than bow.

But because preaching and teaching about hell and God's wrath and fury against sin is not popular in our day- we have lost the fear of God and because we have lost the fear of God- the sin that the fear of God would prevent is rampant in our nation and rampant in our churches and rampant in our homes and yet even though we all acknowledge this is true- we hold our hands over our ears and run away when somebody preaches about God's just wrath.

We say that the faithful ministers who warn of us about the wrath that is sure to come are hard or mean spirited or even unchristian as they plead with us with tears to repent before it is too late. But why did Jesus Himself urge sinful men to flee from that wrath if there isn't any wrath coming? If there is no devastating and eternal fury of God against sin- if all of this is just a fable- then why are we told over and over again in Scripture to fear; and why should we flee; and if God's wrath is a fantasy- why should we repent and why do we even need Salvation at all?

Dear friends, we need to remember that if the real world that God has created includes the reality of Divine Judgment and Vengeance and the terrifying, furious fire of God's wrath- then Honesty and Love and Wisdom will all include warnings *about* this danger- not simply the promise of being blessed.

If God is as serious as the Bible says that He is about punishing the wicked with eternal vengeance and fury then we are doing these people a great disservice by refusing to warn them to repent. We have a great need today to be made aware of what the Gospel really is. The Gospel- the Good News- is that the Love of God provides escape from the Wrath of God by sacrificing the Son of God to vindicate the Glory of God in forgiving sinners.

And this utterly amazing Love is not manifested by us getting more stuff or shiny new toys- but this great and gracious Love is manifested by the horrendous and brutal torture and death of Jesus and this fantastic Love is cheapened and it is thrown down and it serves absolutely no purpose and it makes absolutely no sense at all unless

there is something unbelievably horrible awaiting us that we all deserve from which this Love sets us free.

So I suggest to all of us that if anyone truly desires to grow in your appreciation of and your respect for the Love of God- then we need to look straight into the flames of hell and we need to smell the smoke and the brimstone and we need to hear the screams of those who have entered into it and we need to see the ultimate end of God's wrath against sin in all its terrifying Biblical detail and then in deepest humility- we all need to fall before this God and cry out our sincere thanks and gratitude for what the Love of God manifested through the death, burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ has mercifully and graciously saved us from.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.