

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Journey through the Epistle of **1John**

### **1 An Introduction to 1John- Part 1**

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WAOY Monday 04/02/07; WOSM Thursday 09/25/08; WOSM Monday 10/03/22

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. Now on today's broadcast- I want to begin an exciting new "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**. Now as you may remember from our other "journeys" we have gone through together- I am committed to exploring the glorious Truths of Gods' Word- one verse at a time- or in an *expositional* manner- that is in a verse- by- verse; line- upon- line; and precept- upon- precept manner.

And this is why. The 66 Books of Holy Bible are the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God. And the Bible is the only Book on earth that can make that claim. And that makes the Bible to be the most unique; and the most important; and the most valuable Book on earth. So, because that is true- the Bible *deserves* that we spend whatever time with it that is necessary so that we may appreciate the Value and Worth of this magnificent Book. And in doing that- we will be able to live our lives with abandon to the Glory of God and bring honor to Jesus Christ.

And that means that in this "journey" through **1John**, my Goal is not to simply get through it- but to understand what God the Holy Spirit said through the Apostle John in this Epistle. So, in this "journey" we will find out:

1. What the Scriptures actually "*Say*"
2. What the Scriptures *Mean* by what they "*Say*"?
3. How we may apply the Truth of that Verse or Passage to our *own* Lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Now I want to go over these three Aspects very carefully with you. So, let's look at number 1:

#### **1. What Do the Scriptures "Say"**

Beloved, we must all agree that words mean specific things. The Words of Scripture are used to convey specific Concepts and Truths from God the Father to our eyes and minds and hearts. So, it becomes *paramount* in any study of Scripture that we comprehend just what the Words that God inspired to be written- actually say. And sometimes this is very easy. But other times- this means that if we are to correctly comprehend what God the Holy Spirit actually said- we have to go back to the original languages in which they were written down and examine their root meanings.

You see, the Bible was not written in English. Neither Jesus, nor Paul, nor John nor Moses spoke a single word of English. They didn't speak in modern English; but they also did not speak in the beautiful and poetic 17<sup>th</sup> Century Elizabethan English of the King James Version either. So, every Bible that we have today is actually an English *translation* of the original Word of God that was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

For example, while He was here on earth- Jesus spoke mainly in Aramaic. But the Gospels themselves were primarily written down in Koine Greek. So, the Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew and Aramaic, while the New Testament was written primarily in Greek.

So, we have two Goals in translating the Bible into English. We have the Goal of Accuracy. We want to be as accurate to the Original as possible. But we also have the Goal of Readability. We want to be able to read the Bible as neatly as possible- without stumbling over words. And some English translations lean toward the side of Accuracy, while others lean toward the side of easy Readability. That is the main difference between the various English translations.

Also, many times, there is not a single English word that gives the full meaning of a Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic word. And that's when phrases or entire paragraphs of English are necessary to be added to that verse in order to provide a full meaning to the reader.

And great care must be taken by the serious student of Scripture to research the words that we find in our English translations back to their Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic root- so that a clear and proper meaning of that word can be brought forth. Because if you don't do this- and you just go by what the English translation says- you may miss an important aspect of that word- or you could get an entirely different

meaning that the writer never intended. Much of the bad or false interpretation of Scripture that plagues the modern Church is over this one Issue.

So, the first thing that I will do in our “journey” through **1John** is to actually read the verse of God’s Word that we are dealing with in its entirety. Then I will go back and explain what the words of that verse or passage actually say. Then I will go back to the Greek and explore with you what the definition of the word is- that the Apostle John originally wrote down- along with how it is used in the verse that we are dealing with on that particular broadcast.

Now the second thing that we need to try to understand about that particular verse is what does that word or that verse or that Passage actually *mean* by what it says. In other words- what Divine Truth is being taught in that verse or Passage. And this is the most crucial part of any serious Bible Study.

You see, the Bible is an ancient Book. It was completed almost 2,000 years ago. And the “Canon of Scripture”- the “Rule” of the Christian Faith is the collection of sixty-six Books and is a *fallible* list of *infallible* Books. So, every Book in the Bible is trustworthy and reliable. And while it is true that the Author of every verse of every Book of the Bible is God the Holy Spirit- and He lives forever- the human writers that God used to pen down the Books in the Bible are now dead and gone.

And that means that because we can’t walk up and ask Moses or Isaiah or Paul or John what they meant when they wrote down a particular verse- we must then go to the words that they used to interpret the one single Meaning of that verse or Passage.

And this area of Interpretation is where most all heresy and false teaching and misunderstanding about the Bible comes from. And so, this is the area where the most time should be spent in Bible Study so that we do what Jonathan Edwards said- and we “treat the Scriptures fairly.”

Correct Biblical interpretation takes time. And should be approached with much fear and trembling. Because if you don’t get the meaning of the Words right- you can get way off base in your walk with God and your understanding of the Will of God. And in order to show you just how important God thinks proper Biblical interpretation is- let’s read **2Timothy 2:15** that says:

**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.**

So, even though the Bible is a supernatural Book authored by a supernatural God- proper and correct Biblical interpretation is *not* a purely mystical experience. So, while it does involve our minds being *illuminated* by the Power of the Holy Spirit- it also involves some plain old fashioned hard work as well.

For example- the Apostle Paul tells Timothy here that the key to being able to accurately handle the Word of Truth or in other words- the key to correctly interpreting Scripture is for him to “be diligent”. So, while we should ask God the Holy Spirit to “gird up the loins of our minds” and to illuminate our ability to see and understand what we are reading- that very important aspect alone is not enough. God’s Word clearly teaches that part and parcel to learning the Bible and therefore learning about God- is based upon how much time we park our posterior in a chair and put the time in to study the Scriptures- which is what being “diligent” here means.

Now I am in no way belittling us asking the Holy Spirit to enlarge our minds and hearts as we study. So, let me say this again- we absolutely *should* do that. But if that is *all* that you do- and you feel that since you have prayed- whatever meaning that you get is from the Holy Spirit- that is simply nonsense. It’s Laziness and it is a cop out on what the Holy Spirit will and will not do. And it is also being disobedient to what Paul says right here.

Look, the Holy Spirit is well able- as the third Person of the Trinity to do anything that God the Father can do. That’s true. But what is also true- is that God the Spirit will not do anything for us simply because we are either too lazy; or too rebellious; or too prideful to humble ourselves to be obedient to what He already authored in Scripture.

The Holy Spirit will illumine our minds and bring to us all that Jesus wants for us. Thank God that is true! But if we do not study because we are too irresponsible to manage our time wisely; or we do not study because we don’t feel like it; or we do not study because we just simply don’t like to study- and we reason to ourselves that since we prayed that is all that we need to properly and correctly interpret the Bible- we are in effect trying to get the Holy Spirit to do *for* us what the Holy Spirit

told *us* to do. And so, even though He certainly has the Power to do that- He will *not* do that- because the Holy Spirit is not going to be an accomplice in helping us *disobey* the Bible.

Paul telling Timothy to “**be diligent**” here was not a suggestion. And neither was it something that only Pastors should do. No, studying the Bible is a Commandment. And it is something that is mandatory- if you are going to get a clear and full understanding of what the inspired Word means.

Now to get a better understanding of this Issue- we need to look at the current war that is going on in our nation today over the Supreme Court. The main function of the Supreme Court is to correctly and accurately interpret the Constitution. Every single writer of our Constitution is dead. We cannot walk up to James Madison or Thomas Jefferson and ask them what they meant when they wrote the words of our Constitution. So, because that is true- the Constitution must be interpreted.

And everybody agrees with that. Where the “rub” comes in is in just *how* the Constitution is interpreted. And on that Issue- there are two “Schools of Thought”. One School says that the Constitution is what they call a “Living Document”. This School teaches that the actual words of the Constitution mean nothing- but it is the so-called “spirit” of the Constitution that really matters. And the people who hold to this view say that the job of the Supreme Court is to “put into” the Constitution what the Judge thinks should be there- not interpret what the meaning of the words actually are.

And the people who hold to that view are called “Loose Constructionists” or “Liberals”. And it is from them that we get judges who say that homosexual marriage is allowed; and child pornography is protected speech under the First Amendment; and children can’t pray in School.

Now the Constitution doesn’t say anything like that. But they don’t care what the Constitution actually says- all they care about is putting *into* the Constitution what they think it *ought* to say.

So, this view of the Constitution being a “Living Document” takes the Power of Interpretation away from the actual words of the Constitution themselves and places this Power into the hands of the Judges.

The other “School of Thought” teaches that words mean everything; and it is the actual meaning of the words of the Constitution themselves

that hold the key to interpreting it correctly. These people teach that the Constitution is a “Closed Document”; and that the Founding Fathers were very careful to say what they meant; and they meant what they said. And therefore, it is the job of the Supreme Court to interpret what the words of the Constitution actually say and mean- based upon what those words actually meant back in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century- and not based on what they *want* it to mean.

And these people are called “Strict Constructionists” or “Originalists” or “Conservatives”. And it is from them that we get rulings that both please and displease us today. Now we must never think that any human Government is perfect. But ours is the best that humans can operate in on this earth. And so, while there are many things that the Constitution did not address when it was first written- the Founding Fathers gave us the Power to amend the Constitution. And the process of *amending* the Constitution includes the Congress; and the individual States- but does not include the Supreme Court.

For example, when we wanted the Constitution to banish Slavery or to allow women to vote- and since neither Thomas Jefferson nor James Madison addressed that Issue- an Amendment to the Constitution had to be developed and passed before Slavery could become what is now called “Unconstitutional”; and before women were allowed to vote.

Originalists don’t say that the Constitution is flawless or infallible- it isn’t. But what they do say is that the Constitution only means what it actually says. And so, if you want to be able to do something that is currently not allowed; or if you want to stop something that is currently permitted- the Judges of the Supreme Court do not have the power to change that or to write it into the Constitution by fiat.

You have to go through the slow and long process of amending the Constitution or else you can’t do it or you can’t stop it.

Now I realize that most Bible believing Christians do not want liberal judges on the Supreme Court. But you need to know that Originalists aren’t always going to side with you either.

Now the same thing that is true about the Supreme Court interpreting the Constitution is also true about the Bible. And what I find fascinating is that many of the same people who campaign the hardest for Originalists on the Supreme Court are raging Liberals when it comes to Biblical interpretation. These people will be happy to carry signs all day long to march against liberal Judges- but they then turn

right around and place their own private interpretation on the Word of God- which is infinitely WORSE than what Liberals are doing to our Constitution.

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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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.