

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

206 The Believer's Confidence- Part 2

WAOY Wednesday 06/25/08

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 as serious and as certain as God's Wrath against sinners is- God's Promise that genuine believers will not be *subject* to that Wrath is equally certain and clear. And it is *this* Promise that gives all believers the great assurance and certainty of their Salvation. In fact, here in verse 17- John tells us that because our love has been made perfect in and by and through what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us- that believers will not only go through God's Judgment without harm- but that we are going to go through God's Day of Judgment with something that John calls "Confidence".

Now the word that was translated into English in this verse as "confidence" is the Greek word that means: *cheerful courage or fearless confidence*.

So John says here in verse 17 that as believers stand before God to give an account of everything that we have thought, done, or said in our lives- that we will be able to go through that Judgment with cheerful courage or fearless Confidence. How could this be?

Because God poured out all of His Wrath and all of His fury on Jesus; because our sins were fully paid for by the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ- our Salvation is so strong and so powerful and so secure and so eternal- that the result is that we have nothing to fear in the Day of Judgment.

Now many times when the issue of the Certainty and Assurance of Salvation is brought up- people immediately want to discuss the sins that we commit *after* we were saved. It is fairly easy to understand what happened to the sins that we committed *before* we were saved- they were washed away. But what about the sins that we commit *after* we are saved? Do we have to pay for those sins? And what do we do about *unrepented* sin- sin that we committed- but were unable to repent for before we died? In other words- what happens if we enter into Eternity with unrepented sin in our lives?

All of these questions are very important questions that deserve to be answered. And so we must be sure that when we answer those questions- that we answer them from Scripture and *not* based upon our own human reasoning.

And let me tell you what I mean by that. I have talked to many people about this and a large number of people answer the question like this:

“If I die with unrepented sin in my life- God sees my heart and God knows that I love Him and so I will be alright.”

And as gently as I know how- let me say to you, dear friends, that even though the people who say things like this are no doubt very sincere and many of them are truly saved- that answer is the worst possible answer you could give about what happens if you die with unrepented sin in your life. And it reveals a basic misunderstanding of this entire subject. People who say that are trusting that God knows your heart- and you are trusting that because God knows your heart that He understands what you *intend* and *not* what you actually *do*. But it is a terrible mistake for anyone to think that God values what

you intend and it is even worse for you to take any comfort in what you intend.

Now look, it is absolutely true that God knows our hearts, dear friends. And God knows that we should never put any trust at all in what is in our hearts. I want you to read with me what God says about our hearts from **Jeremiah 17:9**:

The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

Now look what God said about our hearts from **Genesis 6:5**:

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The heart of fallen human beings is the single most unreliable; untrustworthy; and unstable part of your body. It is also the most sinful. In fact- Jesus taught that all sin originates from inside the human heart. Please read **Matthew 15:17-20** with me:

17 "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?

18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

Nobody should *ever* put any dependence whatsoever in their own heart, dear friends. We should *never* "follow our hearts"- because the Bible says that we do not know our hearts. Our hearts betray us and even though we are saved- our hearts are capable of the most unbelievable wickedness imaginable.

And when we are talking about anything eternal- our hearts are the *last* thing that should ever give any of us comfort and peace.

No, we must put all of our trust in Jesus and in what he alone did- not our hearts and not in what we intend. And as we enter into eternity

at the point of our death- we need to have 100% of our trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ- place absolutely *no* trust in our hearts.

Please do not ever say that God “knows your heart” and then take comfort in the fact that God knows your heart. As though God knowing your heart is something to take comfort in. Yes, God *does* know your heart, dear friends, He knows that your heart is wicked and desperately sick and He knows that all evil and all sin and all injustice and all wickedness that exists on the earth originates from *inside* your heart and from inside my heart.

And so, we cannot trust our own hearts. And we certainly should never think that because periodically we might have good intentions that that means that God will allow us to pass through His Judgment on our lives. No, the only reason that we can pass through God’s Judgment against our sins is because of the finished Work of Jesus Christ- *not* our hearts.

And so only by fully trusting that every single one of your sins has been completely paid for by the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ- can have confidence in the Day of Judgment.

But Brother Blair, what about unrepented sin? Don’t I have to pay for the sins that I committed after I was saved? Well, let’s talk about that for just a minute.

First of all- we need to settle in our minds that saved people sin. And the reason that I begin with this point is because believe it or not- there are people out there who believe and teach that saved people don’t ever sin once they are saved.

And that teaching is false and is not of God. Not one single human being on earth is sinless except the Lord Jesus Christ- Who was utterly sinless and holy.

But as far as the rest of us is concerned- we are all sinners- who transgress against the Law of God every single day. As we have already found out in this study that Sin is defined in **1John 3:4** as being the transgression of the Law. So *any* transgression of God’s holy and just Law whether it is in thought, word, or deed- is sin. Also, John taught this in **1John 1: 8**:

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

So John says here that everyone who believes that they do not sin is deceived and those who teach that saved people can reach a place in God on this earth and in this life whereby they walk in sinless perfection is deceived. Now let's read what John taught in **1John 1:10**:

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

So now John says that if anyone says that he doesn't sin- that person is making God out to be a liar because God says over and over and over all throughout the Holy Bible that all men are sinners.

So if you are being taught that you can reach a place of sinless perfection in this life and on this earth- run- do not walk- run from that teaching because whoever is teaching that is deceived.

So we have established the fact that all men sin; and that includes all saved people. And we have also established the fact that no one keeps the Law perfectly- but we all transgress against the Law every day. No human being in the history of the world has ever or will ever walk through this life keeping the Law of God perfectly except one single Man- Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus was so unique and so special and why He was the One and Only of the Father. Nobody was ever like Jesus before He was born and nobody has ever been like Jesus since He ascended. He was truly an exclusive. And Jesus was 100% God and 100% Man in the same body at the same time without conflict or contradiction and Jesus was born of a virgin and He was tempted with every single temptation that can ever or will ever befall any man and He keep the Law of God perfectly in thought, word, and deed without any sin whatsoever and was in fact perfectly sinless.

Moses, David, Aaron, Isaiah, and Samuel, Peter, James, John, and Paul all broke the Law of God every day. They were all sinners and they all needed to be forgiven and saved – just like we do and every single Old Testament saint was saved the very same way that every New Testament saint was saved- by Grace through Faith.

Nobody has ever and nobody will ever *earn* Salvation. Nobody *deserves* Salvation; nobody is entitled to be saved. And God is not *obligated* to save anybody. Everybody who is saved- is saved by Grace alone through the Mercy of God- and not because they were doing something that made them attractive to God. We have to understand,

dear friends, that every single person who goes to hell *deserves* to go to hell. But then we also have to acknowledge that every single person who goes to Heaven deserves to go to hell too. Nobody is good enough to go to Heaven. Everybody sins; everybody is fallen and the result of being fallen is that everybody transgresses the Law.

So, Sin is the great equalizer of all men- precisely because all men sin. Sin is the one thing that everybody on earth has in common with each other. All Hindus sin; all Buddhists sin; all Muslims sin; all Jews sin; and all Christians sin. All rich people sin and all poor people sin; all educated people sin as much as uneducated people sin. People who understand and use technology all sin as well as those who do not understand it and cannot use it. All Government workers; all leaders; all Presidents and kings and Judges and all business owners all sin. Everybody sins and every human being on earth is going to stand before a holy God to give an account of the sins that they committed in this life.

And the only difference; the one single difference between all of these groups of people is that God decided way before He ever made the world to show underserved Mercy to those He chose for Salvation and God decided to give Justice to the rest. And that should never make anybody to feel puffed up. That should make us tremble.

And so we have to understand that there is absolutely *nothing* in ourselves or in our own hearts that should give us any confidence at all. If you are taking any comfort in what you have done or in the condition of your own heart, dear friends, you will *never* be able to pass through God's Judgment on our lives. The only reason anyone can have this great Confidence on the Day of Judgment is precisely because it had nothing to do with us but had everything to do with what Jesus did for us.

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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