



Spot Light On Some Key Scriptures In The Epistles of John

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15).

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“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:5,6)

In our last quick overview of the Epistles of John, a few questions came up that it would benefit us all to throw more scriptural light on. God expects Christian's to answer questions and to do so in a manner that maintains the integrity of the scriptures (I Peter 3:15, Proverbs 30:5,6).

1. The Spirit of Anti-Christ

“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (I John 2:18-19). Note the following:

- ♦ This was directed at those that manifested “anti” Christ spirit. Both Jesus and the apostles took serious stand against such (Mark 10:22-25; Luke 9:57-62; 2 Timothy 4:10; Philippians 3:18-19).
- ♦ Such people may be argumentative and gain-saying, And God's wisdom is required to apply Proverbs 26:4-5 - “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit”.
- ♦ Not everyone that left a ‘church’ is manifesting an ‘anti’ Christ spirit. People like Martin Luther, Founders of America who fled persecution from establish ‘churches’ in Europe and many more were simply refusing to compromise their faith for religion.
- ♦ Bryan Chapell made the wise remark that “The Church's greatest mistakes occur when the people of God honour what a leader says without examining that instruction in the light of the scripture”.
- ♦ A. W. Tozer once stated that what the church need is not bigger unions but wise divisions.

Christ prayed for the unity of the Church, but unity and unions are two different things. A compromise of the truth does not produce unity or a genuine church.

2. State vs. Actions


“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (I John 3:7).

Deception and extremism are some of the characteristics of this end time. A. W. Tozer wisely observed that “To escape the error of salvation by works, we have fallen into the opposite error of salvation without obedience”.

A salvation that does not save from sin, is not salvation. Faith without works is dead (James 2:20,26). The God of love is also the God of justice. We cannot accept His love, neglect His commandments and expect to escape His justice. A balanced application of all scriptures is essential for genuine salvation. Jesus made it clear that not everyone that says Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of God but those that do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21-27). Any teaching or doctrine that make room for the flesh and remove the need for obedience from provisions of God's Grace is simply a doctrine from hell, designed to give a false sense of security, and will eventually result in disappointment and eternal doom of souls that follow such teachings. God did not, and we must not try to separate the state of the saved from their actions. Rather, Jesus emphatically stated that “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).

3. Sin unto death, and sin not unto death

“All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death” (I John 5:17). All sin has the



potential to damn the soul if not repented of. We must avoid the tendency of some who categorise sin into small and big, etc. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). However, we also need to note the following points:

- ♦ A person can take sin for granted and unknowingly crosses the line of no return "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1). There was a time God told Prophet Jeremiah not to pray for the people (Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11), further adding that even if Moses or Elijah or any of the mighty prophets were to intercede for them He would not hear - they had crossed the line of God's mercy. We need to be so sensitive to the Spirit of God that we never cross such lines.
- ♦ When Moses struck the rock a second time against God's instruction to speak to the rock (Numbers 20:10-24), a divine principle was broken that made God decide that Moses will not cross into The Promised Land. Moses attempted to pray, but God simply told Him that that chapter had been closed. We must not presume on the mercies or grace of God, but retain a reverential fear that keeps us humble and away from presumptuous sins, while we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).
- ♦ Jesus taught that any sin can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has no forgiveness (Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10).
- ♦ Paul warned believers of the danger of apostasy pointing out that "... it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

The above and other scriptures remind us of the scriptural admonition - "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12). The responsibility of the believer is to preach to everyone. We do not know

who has crossed God's line of mercy and who has not, only God knows. Therefore, do your bit and leave the rest to God. Prayerfully watch over your souls to ensure that you are not taken over by a Spirit of error. And if you fall into sin, do not just remain in it, but immediately repent and return to a Godly life (I John 2:1-2).

4. Partakers of other's evil

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 1:9-11).

The Christian is called to walk in love, fellowship and patience towards others. However, God also warns us that we do not out of 'love' compromise our faith and become sponsors or partakers of evil through the deeds of other people that we support. Romans 1:32 makes it clear that it is not only those who do evil that are responsible for it but also those who take or "have pleasure in them that do them".

It was for this reason that Paul admonished Timothy "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (I Timothy 5:22). This calls for wisdom in carefully analysing their doctrines, lifestyles, history and prayerfully consider their end before we decide to support or endorse their work to others or sponsor them.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed" (Amos 3:3). Jesus pointed out that **"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad"** (Matthew 12:30). We need to be careful that we are not teaming up with people that are working against the course of Christ, lest we end up destroying what we should be building, and attracting the punishment that were meant for them.

God wants us to live victorious lives. We can do this through being close to His Word. Views, opinions, philosophies and theories will come and go, but the word of God remains for ever. You cannot go wrong living by the Word of God!