

**Sermon ~ Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Pastor Dwight Benoit**

**Text: I John 2: 18-29 (Please Read these Verses)**

**Title: "The JOY I Have!"**

The general theme for the Apostle John's Epistle to **CHRISTians** is, "The Test of the *True CHRISTian Life*." "These things have I written unto you that *believe* on **The Name of The SON of GOD**; ye may know that ye have *Eternal Life*, and that ye may *believe* on **The Name of The SON of GOD**."

The Test of the *True CHRISTian Life* can be examined by:

- Our Walk in **The LIGHT** – **GOD is LIGHT** (I John 1: 5) ... **GOD LIGHT** grants the **CHRISTian fellowship** with **HIM** (I John 1: 3, 6, 7) **LIGHT cannot** have *fellowship* with darkness.
- Our Walk in **LOVE** – (I John 2: 7-17) **LOVE** for your brother. It is a basic *spiritual principle* that when **CHRISTians** are out of *fellowship* with **GOD**, they cannot get along with **GOD'S** people.
- Our Walk in **TRUTH** – (I John 2: 18-29) All that we know about **GOD** is revealed in **HIS WORD**, which is **The TRUTH**; we cannot believe lies and have *fellowship* with **GOD**.

The Apostle John is old now. He is the last standing Apostle, now writing to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. He is warning "his *spiritual children*" against the dangers of *false teachings*. *Teachers* matter, especially those who *teach* about **JESUS**! What one *teaches* about **JESUS** *must* be consistent with **The WORD of GOD**. For **The WORD of GOD is TRUTH!**

As in John's day, so it is in our day, so many *false ideas* about **The TRUTH (CHRIST)**. But John is direct. He *calls* (labels) the *false teachers* of his day, as well as our day, "*antichrists*". John says, these "*antichrists*" – *false teachers* came from *within*, his local Church assemblies, and they come from *within* and out of out, local Church assemblies. They are not from the pagan world, as most church-members thought or think, "were genuine believers." I John 2: 19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us..."

This has produced a *plurality* of *Teachings* (difference of opinions). John is saying, I (we) *must* be "watchmen on the wall" ... declaring, "you are not telling **The TRUTH!**" ... "you are not going to lead others astray!" ... "you will not lie to them under my watch!"

There are "Little *children*" John writes to... "the *younger* in **The Faith**," who are saying today, "Why all this fuss?" ... "Why are we splitting hairs over this and that?" "Why can't we all just get along?" This "the *younger* in **The Faith** group," is only building a "spirit of *tolerance!*" They are building with fast momentum. John is *teaching*, **Absolute TRUTH!**

Today *false teachers* are *teaching Relativism* (a teaching about *knowledge* and *truth* and *morality*, exist in relation to culture, society and is not absolute). "You believe in your version of **JESUS**, and I believe in mine!" (hip-hop **JESUS**; dress down **JESUS**; come as you want **JESUS**) As long as we are "*sin-cere*" ... it all *Relative!* Question? If you have a nurse, that administered the wrong medicine to you or your loved one; and they or you fail dead, will it still matter that she was "*sin-cere*?"

*False teachings* maybe "*sincere*" but it is *the wrong medicine!!!*

The Mormons says **JESUS** is *The Spirit Brother of Lucifer*. The Muslims says **JESUS** was a *Prophet*. The Jehovah Witnesses says **JESUS** was *Micah The Archangel*. The Catholics says, **JESUS** is **The SON of GOD**, but what **HE** did on **The Cross** was not enough.

**BUT JESUS of The SCRIPTURE is GOD incarnate** in human flesh... **GOD in JESUS** came to **LIFE** and **Lived sinless**... **GOD in JESUS** died in our stead so we can be *forgiven* of all *sin*; no more *slaves to sin*; freed from the *bondage of sin*... **GOD in JESUS** buried so we cannot be *condemned of sin*... **GOD in JESUS** raised from the dead, that we may have *Eternal Life*... Saved by **G.R.A.C.E. alone**—through **Faith alone**, and that not of ourselves: it is **The Gift of GOD**. Not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2: 8, 9)

*Some dangers of this false teachings* are: 1. If you do not have *the right JESUS*, you are going to hell! (Well, that’s not how John 3: 16 read! Neither, Romans 5: 8-10 declares. John again said, I John 4: 7, 8, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of **GOD**; and every one that loveth is born of **GOD**, and knoweth **GOD**. He that loveth not knoweth not **GOD**, for **GOD is LOVE**.”) 2. Teaching that breed danger to you and me as **CHRISTians**. (Do not misunderstand me, for **JESUS** is clear, “Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for thiers is the **KINGdom** of heaven.” (Matthew 5: 10)

But note also, the *chief effects* of these *false teachings*: 1. They elevate the role of man (themselves), while they diminish **The Glory of CHRIST**. 2. They exchange the value of *The Eternal* for *the temporal*. (You get it? *Less of CHRIST* and *more of man*. What is *now* vs. **WHO— JESUS, then!**) If this is your best Life now, truly it is not Heaven. It is Hell! And you are open to the falling away from **The TRUTH!** And, if you leave **The TRUTH**, I John 2: 19 says, “They went out from us, but they were not of us...”

In I John 2: 18, John calls **CHRISTians** (us), his “Little children”; children, *teknon*, in the Greek, means, not *childish*, but one who needs *discipline*. Those deficient in understanding. The *younger of spiritual maturity*; *younger* in **The Faith** – a prime target for *false teachers*. The less they know about **The Word of GOD—The TRUTH**, the more vulnerable they are to be led astray. (They like short sermons, short-talks, rock concert settings, bright lights, noise and the beat. Most do not read their **BIBLES**, resulting in little to no change in their *Love for GOD* and not much *love for others*. *Sin* in their lives is not much of a struggle and there is no *transformation* to **CHRIST, The Church and GOD’S KINGdom!**

In I John 2: 18, John mentions of “*antichrist*” (plural) that “person” related to the consummation of all things, or, the *eschaton*, *the end of all things*. That one who pleases people but will eventually rise to say, “Okay, now worship me!” But John is not teaching on this. Nor *the messianic pretenders* of whom **JESUS** warned; nor, Paul’s *man of lawlessness*. Nor, Revelation’s *beast out of the sea and land*. John says, “...even now there are many “*antichrists*”, those *against CHRIST*; *instead of CHRIST*; those who oppose the teaching of **CHRIST** are “antichrists.” By this, we know this is “the last hour.”

These *false teachers* are presenting a *counterfeit* because **CHRIST is The TRUTH**. You do not *counterfeit* something that is **True, Real**. (When is the last time you saw a \$ 6.00 bill? If **The GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST** is *false*, don't think Satan would push it???)

Note, 3 marks of a *False Teacher*... 1. I John 2: 19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us..." Think about this, "if it is *new*—it is not **True**. If it is **True**—it is not *new*!"

In I John 2: 20... today, all we hear is "*anointing, anointing*". Its like some salad dressing! Some *Super-Spiritual Favor* – "I felt it"; "Do you feel it?" John says, vs. 20, "But ye have an unction from **The HOLY ONE**, and you know these things." **The HOLY ONE is CHRIST**—you do not need someone or something else. **CHRIST** is come in **The HOLY SPIRIT** and *resides*, abides, in us, forever. In I John 2: 3, "And hereby we do know that we know **HIM**, if we keep **HIS** commandments." In I John 2: 27, "But the anointing which ye have received of **HIM** abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you." (That is, something *new*!)

Don't let anyone tell you, 'you are less than a **CHRISTian**', you know **The TRUTH**!

2. *False Teachers* will get you to *deny* **The Deity of CHRIST**. (I John 2: 22) Verses 23, 24, simply say, as **JESUS** said in John 10: 30, "I and **MY FATHER** are **ONE**." You cannot have **ONE** and not **The OTHER**! Don't leave your *first LOVE*—Revelation 2: 1, the Church of Ephesus...

(it's about you now? you listen to you and people talking about you? you go to school, you study, you pick up quotes from him/them/they and it's no longer **JESUS**. Now it's your *knowledge* and your *anointing*???) Get back to **JESUS** and **HIS LOVE**. Walk in **TRUTH**—

I John 1: 8. Walk in **Obedience to GOD WORD**—I John 2: 3; Walk in *Brotherly Love*—I John 2: 11.

In I John 2: 24, note, "we are not saved by *abiding in* **The FATHER** and **The SON**, BUT *because we are saved*, we *abide in* **The FATHER** and **The SON**!!!

Finally, we have **GOD'S Promise**, vs. 25, *Eternal Life*!!! "And this is the promise that *HE* hath promised us, *even eternal life*."

3. *False Teachers* want to *seduce* you, I John 2: 26. BUT you (I) already have "*Eternal Life*!" You (we) have ALL you need! *Believe* **WHO** you already have and **WHO** already has you!

How can one get *more Spiritual* than having **The All-Powerful; All-Knowing, Eternal GOD**, **WHO** came through time and space; wrapped in human form; goes to **Calvary's Cross**, *dies*, is *buried* and *rose* from the dead with **ALL-Power** in Heaven and on earth.

Sends **The HOLY SPIRIT**, **HE promised**, to abide *within* us and **The SAME (HOLY GHOST)** to *empower* us, and, gave us **HIS Eternal WORD**, that will never fail!

What more, excuse me, **WHO**, more do we need???

[A music shop owner in London, by the name of Mr. Betts, tells the story, of one night before closing, this homeless guy came in, with this old, dirty, violin in his hand, crying,

"Please, whatever you can give me for this violin, I'll take it. Sir, I am so hungry!

Mr. Betts had shelves and shelves of violins, but said, okay, here's \$ 5.00 dollars.

Mr. Betts looked at the beat-up violin and began to clean it up. He then took a bow, and stroked the strings and to his amazement, the sound, was melodious. He took a small flashlight and look on the inside and there was written Antonio Stradivarius, 1704. This violin was a vintage Stradivarius Violin—a Priceless Treasure. And this guy "did not know it!"

The very **SPIRIT of CHRIST** lives in me! I hope, in You! You are Loved! You are Forgiven!

You are Valued! **GOD** is not through with You!

**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
And The World can't take it away!

**This LOVE I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This LOVE I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This LOVE I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
And The World can't take it away!

(The robber can break into my home and steal my possession...  
The repo-man, can repossess my house or car, but...)

**The HOLY GHOST I HAVE**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**The HOLY GHOST I HAVE**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**The HOLY GHOST I HAVE**, The World didn't give it to me!  
And The World can't take it away!

**WHO** gave it to me? Nobody but **JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!**  
Nobody but **JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!**  
Nobody but **JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!**

(I dare you to try **HIM**... I know you will **TRUST HIM!**)

**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
**This JOY I Have**, The World didn't give it to me!  
And The World can't take it away!

(The African-American Spiritual)