

March 20, 2022

Lesson 9 — 1 John 2:1-17

- John has listed three tests that give proof to genuine faith: ***the moral test, the doctrinal test, and the relational test.***
- In **verse 3-4**, John introduced the first of these tests:
 - **1 John 2:3-4** — *And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 whoever says "I know Him" but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him...*
- Jesus placed an emphasis on our obedience.
 - **Matt 7:21-23** — *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven will enter.*

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

- In **verses 5-6**, John answers the question of 'how do I know I am doing God's will?'
 - **1 John 2:5-6** — ...but whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- John goes on to explain that relationship between obedience and loving God. We obey God because we love him; our love for God is seen in our obedience.

- **John 14:23** — *If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. 24 He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching...*
- According to **John 15:10**, biblical obedience is the activity of Jesus' own love in us by the Holy Spirit.
 - *If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love...*
- This love is described in **Galatians 5:22-23** as the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 5:10** are key to understand.
 - *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- **‘Good and bad’** in relation to what? In relation to the heart of our obedience.
 - **1 Samuel 16:7** — *The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart...*
 - **Hebrews 4:12** — *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart...*
- The question remains: How do I know if my obedience is the activity of Jesus’ own love in me?
 - **1 John 2:5-6** — *By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*