

The Life: Listening to the Truth I John 2:15-29

It's hard to hear God's voice when we give our ultimate love to the world or the things in the world (vv15-17). It's hard to listen to the voice of God while listening to anti-Christ voices offering substitutes for the justifying, sanctifying, glorifying work of Christ alone (vv18-19). The only clear way to listen to God's voice and hear God's Truth is to wholly abide in God's Holy One, the Spirit of Christ Who wholly abides in you. He is "the eternal life" (v25) graced to us at our new birth. He is the Promised One Who always takes us to the Promiser, the Spirit of Truth Who speaks for the Truth Teller Himself (2:25; Jo 14:26; 15:26; 16:14).

Embedded within your human spirit is the Spirit of God's Anointed One, the Spirit of the Messiah, God's ultimate Word and definitive Teacher on all things God, all things man, all things concerning God living in man. In possession of His anointing then (2:20,27), no special anointing needs to be imparted to you or any other believer in Christ that you do not already have. Anyone who tells you they have a unique "pipeline" to God other believers do not have... IS LYING! Since you have the Anointed One Himself abiding in you - "all" God's children do (v20) - you are never at the mercy of human teachers. Don't let anyone talk you out of the Truth of the Gospel (I Jo 3:7; Matt 24:4-5). Be especially careful around anyone who claims a "special " anointing!

To do so you do not have to hide from the world or look for false teachers. You simple need to "abide" in the Holy One. We find that word "abide" six times in verses 24-28 - I think John has a point to make! Remain... stay... reside... dwell... make your home in. The voices of the material world and its "goods", of the religious word and its "gods", are loud and persistent. Make sure to tether your mind and your heart to the Uncreated and Eternal Truth revealed in Christ - the One fully alive and fully present in you - so that when the deceptive winds of the fallen world and the counterfeit winds of the religious world blow hard against you, you will not be carried into captivity by their lies. Abide in your indwelling, heaven-sent "Stockbroker"... Whose "still, small voice" is more than able to tell you how to invest your life in what is profitable for this world and the one to come.

The Holy Spirit of Truth is an eternally permanent gift (Jo 14:6). He makes His home in you. He doesn't come and go like false teachers and their novel ideas of godliness. How do we know we are listening to Him? According to John, that's easy - everyone born of Him who Listens to Him "practices righteousness" (v29). There is a demonstration (not just words, ideas, teaching) - an actual demonstration in their lives of rightness with God and rightness with others. They may not live perfectly (see I Jo 2:1), but they will live consistently (even demonstrating how to clean up a mess if they make one!) They will be living out of the Righteous One's righteousness abiding in them. For He never gives teaching, instruction, directives without a corresponding supply of His Life.

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Greetings

We have no conference/travel calendar again this month. I had events scheduled for January, February and March, but have cancelled all three since I have not yet received any of the Covid-19 vaccines. Perhaps some things will change after that... we'll see!

In the meantime, let's "redeem the time"! (Eph 4:15-18) Make the most of this "season" by slowing down inwardly and listening carefully for the "still, small voice" of God in the all things of your life - in the devotional things, the work and play things, the boring and mundane things, the fearful and anxious things. Present yourself with loving attentiveness to Him in each present moment for His fresh and present revelation - some of which you may actually sense, some of which is happening deeper than any of your sensory receptors. But, He is at work in all things, "making all things new" (Rev 21:5). In so much of our busy, restless, noisy, wordy, brain-centered religious activity we are distracted from what is really needful - the filling, the leading, the teaching of His Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18; Ro 8:14; I Jo 2:20,27). He is our sufficiency, our "one thing needful" (Lk 10:41-42) in every season of life. Confinements, exiles, restrictions, instabilities are often the God-prescribed circumstances where we learn, or, are called to return to that liberating reality. And we certainly have enough of that to go around!

P.S. A number of you have asked about recorded messages in the meantime as well. "stevepettitmessages.com" has more than you'll need of archived messages from conferences, CenterPoint sermons, and other "voices" such as Frank Friedman, Ralph Harris, and Tim Chalas.

I've also preached some locally since September and you might peruse "parkview-baptist-church.org" or "fbcalachua.com" as well.

CALENDAR

Once again, no hard fast dates. So, as not to be misleading, we believe it prudent not to post them.

We have "soft" commitments from January through October, but each will be evaluated as they arise and determination will be made then.

As you can also tell, we are not planning our Florida Retreat this year. Too many "unknowns" to reserve rooms, caterers, etc.

Hopefully, we'll be able to start that again in late 2021 or early 2022.

We'll keep you posted.

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