

**WEEK 8: TEST #3 TEST OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD**  
**1 JN 2:3-6**  
**PART 1**

**I. The Test Statement**

- A. 1John 2:3 **And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**
- B. **And by this** –words transition to another train of thought →Introducing additional verification or tests of true fellowship with Christ
- C. One way to know that you know Him is **“if you keep His commandments”**.
- D. **by this we know – ginosko** →present tense, so it is something that is true now
- E. What is it that you know? **“that we have come to know him.”**
  - 1. Perfect tense which means something occurred in the past but continues to present.
  - 2. Looks back at one coming to Christ in repentance and faith in the past and it is continuous to the present time in their life.
  - 3. Already stated that if we have fellowship with God we walk (live) in the Light as He Himself is the Light
  - 4. To “know that you know” – assurance of your own salvation
    - a. As Christians, we need to know truly who we are
  - 5. Who needs convincing? – evidence to yourself!
  - 6. Know that,1:7 **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- F. Not some higher knowledge that the Gnostics claimed – it is simple fact
  - 1. You can know that you know Him!
  - 2. John says that you can know and there is a simple way.
- G. How do you **know that [you] have come to know him?**→ , **if we keep his commandments!**
  - 1. Right relationship with Christ?– do you keep His commandments?
  - 2. If “yes” then that is evidence–if the answer is “no”, then you have a problem.
- H. Practical truth: “what happens outside is directly related to what is on the inside, ie, external obedience gives evidence of what has or has not taken place inside.
  - 1. If you have been transformed inside, there will be a change in your life outside.
  - 2. Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” is a true believer!”
  - 3. Jesus stated, many will say that they said they were in fellowship, had a relationship with Him, but He will say, “not so! Because I never knew you

4. Paul told Titus about these same ones that profess Christ but their lives demonstrate they do not possess Christ.
  - a. [Tit 1:16](#) They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.
  
- I. John, Paul and Jesus taught, that if a man truly has been born from above, then they will pursue holiness in their lives; not perfection but the direction of their lives will be to live out what God commands.
  
- J. John taught in his gospel the qualification of true love for Christ that Jesus Himself spoke:
  1. [John 14:15](#) **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**
  2. As we know that what Jesus says is true, the opposite would also be true:
  3. If you Do NOT keep His commandments, then you do NOT love Him.
  4. If you do NOT love Him, you have no relationship Him or God!
  
  5. [keep](#) →tereo *tay-reh'-o*– to attend to carefully, To guard or observe
  
  6. Believers have God's Word written on their hearts
  7. What is in the heart of a man controls how he lives!
  8. [Pr 23:7](#) for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.
  9. [Pr 2:10](#) ¶ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
  10. [Pr 4:23](#) Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life
  
- K. True believers guard the commands of God because they are precious→Not laborious
  
- L. Obedience not a legalistic requirement→obey out of a reverence for holy God
  
- M. Obedience is not that which is because of fear of punishment or even judgement
  1. Obedience is from the heart, Desiring to please God because of who He is
  2. Desiring to live as Christ because what He means to you– He is your Lord!
  
  3. MacArthur: *"gracious attitude of obedience that flows from the truth embraced internally, following the Holy Spirit's revealing of it through the Word.*
  
- N. Commands here are not the Mosaic Law rather it is the teachings and directives of Christ
  1. Jesus's teaching were all consistent with the revelations to Moses
  
- O. Christians do not always know what is sin–Christians do fall into sin.
  1. When the Holy Spirit speaks to a believer, they heed His call–they repent, they follow they obey Him!
  2. As Paul stated; [Ro 7:21](#) So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am!

Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- P. God honors obedience even though it is imperfect at times
  - 1. He know the heart of a person—knows your sincerity, your desire to serve Him
  - 2. He therefore forgives disobedience
  - 3. Only by the grace of God a true believer is devoted to keep the commands of God.
- Q. It is obedience out of love for God
  - 1. Jn later writes: 1Jo 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

## II. The Statement Tested

- A. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
  - 1. Same statement he made in 1Jo 1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- B. The profession and the application of life do NOT match up
  - 1. “I know him” is the same as saying I have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - 2. You cannot say that you are in fellowship with Christ and not do as He commands.
  - 3. Your testimony is false—you are a liar!
  - 4. If you actually believe this—you are self-deceived!
- C. Whether a liar or a deceived one, the end is the same, you end up condemned
  - 1. Tit 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
- D. Those that do not obey Christ demonstrate that they have never heard the real voice of the Savior call them
- E. Verifies that and the truth is not in him,
  - 1. If it were there you would obey it
  - 2. John shines light on the Gnostics who claim to have special knowledge — they obviously did not have truth if they refused to obey truth.

## III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. What does John mean when he says we must walk like Christ?
- B. What are the characteristics of true obedience?
- C. What is the difference in one walking in the Darkness and a believer who sins?

