# 1 John Lesson 29

1 John 5:18-21

 “Reality”

Introduction: This message in part will sum up what we have learned in the book of 1 John and also looking at the verses that we are studying. John has been very interested in God’s people knowing. We that are saved and born again of God by His Holy Spirit know

Every person that is born of God is God’s child in Jesus Christ. Every person not born of God, therefore, is not a child of God and lives under the authority of the wicked one. If there exist the possibility that a person could be a child of God, sins forgiven, on their way to Heaven, apart from Jesus Christ, then we really do not know anything!

**I. The world of Reality**

 A. We who believe in Jesus Christ, and trust Him alone for salvation, live in the realm of (the world of) reality.

 1. And that seems so unreal to the world.

 a. How could we know for sure what will happen when we die

 b. How can we trust in a person we can never see?

 2. What seems real to the world is not real.

B. We who believe in Jesus Christ and live in the realm of the reality of who He is are taught by God to avoid deception.

 1. What seems untrue to the world about God, the Bible, and faith in Jesus Christ is reality.

a. We can choose to humble ourselves and allow a power greater than our being to be in control of our decisions.

 b. We can know peace in this life.

 2. Things that are vain and deceptive can be the focus of many people’s attention:

 a. Fame, fortune, success

 b. Wealth, possessions, etc.

**II. The world of fantasy**

 A. People spend their life trying to find themselves

 1. Who am I?

 2. Why am I here?

 3. From whence did I come?

 4. Where am I going?

 5. What is truth?

 B. These questions are relevant for all races, cultures and timeframes.

 1. They are basic to humanity everywhere.

 2. Whether they verbalize it the same or not.

**III. There are two kinds of answers to these questions.**

 A. Answers that are true...

 1. Truth is reality.

 2. False is the lie.

 a. That which is not real.

 b. That which opposes the truth.

 B. Answers that are false...

 1. You get some wild answers out there in the world.

 a. Intellectuals call Christians stupid for believing in a creator.

 b. Try and tell us something that is not even reasonable for us to believe.

 2. If it contrary to that which is true then it is unreal (it is false)

 a. No matter if you can see it or touch it.

 b. No matter how logical it sounds to the human brain.

 C. You must know the truth before you act.

 1. Mistakenly sent two statements of your bank account, each one identical in every way except for the balance.

 2. Upon which statement should you begin to act as your carry on your life?

 a. The one you like best?

 b. The one that best deals with your needs?

 c. The one that best fits how you feel at the time?

 d. The one that is most popular and widely accepted by the majority of the population?

 e. The one that is TRUE?

 3. Acting upon the one which is not true will cause major disasters in your life.

 D. The majority of people are acting upon that which is false.

 1. They are taking what is primarily accepted among the majority of people and claiming it as real.

 a. Ignoring that which is truth for how they feel.

 b. Refusing that which is true for what they prefer.

 2. Basing their life upon that which is from the world of unreality instead of that which is the truth.

**IV. This world is under the control of the wicked one.**

 A. This system of thought that is outside of God and rejects God and His truth.

 1. Rejects Jesus Christ for salvation.

 2. Rejects the authority of the revelation of God.

 B. The whole world lies under the authority of the wicked one.

 1. Chapter 2 and 3 refer to the “wicked one”.

 2. Then, verse 18 of chapter 5 mentions it again.

 3. When he comes to verse 19, he has the same meaning.

 C. Many people will argue against this truth.

1. They say just because I am not a believer of the gospel doesn’t mean that I am under the power of the wicked one.

 2. Yes, that is exactly what that means.

 a. It doesn’t matter how moral of a life you live.

 b. It doesn’t matter what bad things you do NOT do.

 c. It doesn’t matter if your life is cleaner than some who profess to be Christians.

 3. Your confidence in self shows that you are under the authority of the wicked one.

 a. Self-righteousness is the doctrine of the wicked one.

 b. Confidence in self is what the devil works your whole life to get you to believe and trust in.

 D. “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” (2 Cor 4:4)

1. When a person is blinded to the truth of the gospel, it comes from the influence of the authority of the wicked one.

 a. No matter how religious a person is, they still must trust in Christ to secure their home in Heaven.

 b. No matter how moral a person is, they still need Jesus Christ for salvation.

 2. Jesus said the devil is the prince of this world.

 E. “No man will follow the will of God who does not properly evaluate the world.” - Dr. Lee Roberson

 1. That is why many people who profess to be believers cannot discern the will of God.

a. You cannot live for God on Sunday and walk in the world on Mon and Tues and expect everything to work out.

 b. The world is not your enemy any more on Sunday than it is on any other day of the week.

 c. Come to a crossroads and pray for God’s will and still not know what to do.

 2. They do not see the world as the enemy of the child of God

 a. Everyone who is an unbeliever is not your personal enemy.

 b. This system which keeps them in unbelief is your enemy.

 c. We are to show them friendship from Jesus Christ.

 3. People that love God and His Will and His Word.

**V. The Wicked One CANNOT Touch Those Born of God.**

 A. We have a personal responsibility in relation to the adversary.

 1. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

 2. We do not possess the strength to deal with the adversary by ourselves.

 a. We do not have the ability to overcome on our own.

 b. Overcoming the adversary is available to the child of God.

 3. We have a responsibility to be so positioned in our spiritual life that wicked one is not in control of our life.

 B. The wicked one is a powerful enemy but he cannot touch you without God’s permission.

 1. We are in His hand and no man is able to pluck us out.

 2. We are safe and protected in His hand.

 3. Our life is hid in Christ by God.

 a. As a believer I am to be keeping myself positioned to be in fellowship with Christ.

 b. The devil only has ability to get to me if he can overcome the one in whom I am.

 c. The power that the devil has over God’s people is the power that God’s people yield and surrender.

 1) by being out of position

 2) by not being obedient

 3) by not walking with God

 4) by not developing our communion with Him

 4. The devil may run ramped in this world, but I am not of the world, I am of Christ the true God.

 a. We live in truth which is reality.

 b. And everything outside of Jesus Christ is unreal.

 c. Outside of Christ there is no reality.

Conclusion: In Christ, we do not wonder where we came from?, etc.

We are living in a real world, with real hurt and real pain, and all we really need is the REAL THING. When we look beyond our circumstance and face reality, we’ll realize that all we really need is just to see Jesus in a REAL World.