

DIVINE IDENTITY & **DIVINE AUTHORITY** **INSEPARABLE**

Why Accepting the True God means Accepting His True Law.

INTRODUCTORY TEXT(S):

REVELATION 14:12 (KJV)>> ¹²Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

JOHN 17:3 (KJV)>> ³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

JOHN 14:21-24 (KJV)>> ²¹He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ²²Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? ²³Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ²⁴He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

Beloved, a most meaningful greeting which I could bid you comes from 2nd John 1:3: “Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

Today, we shall study together to see the marvellous scriptural revelation that the divine identity and the divine law are inseparable. It is my prayer that we shall see the grand significance of this theme, and its far-reaching implications. The conclusions we shall take from this study *will* tend to eternal life or eternal death, and so I pray that you may see the weight of evidence in the deepest, truest light.

The True God, His True Son, and Their True Law Connected.....

1) Who does Scripture identify as the true God? Is the true God identified as one numerical divine Being? Does the true God have a Son, who would clearly be another distinct divine Being?

JOHN 17:1-3 (KJV)>> ¹These words spake **Jesus**, and lifted up **his** eyes to heaven, and said, **Father**, the hour is come; glorify **thy Son**, that **thy Son** also may glorify **thee**: ²As **thou** hast given **him** power over all flesh, that **he** should give eternal life to as many as **thou** hast given **him**. ³**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee *the only true God*, and **Jesus Christ**, whom **thou** hast sent.**

Beloved, these are the words of Christ in prayer to His Father. No greater and clearer witness could be given as to who is the true God, and whether the true God is one numerical Being. Jesus tells all plainly that His Father in heaven is *the only true God*. Christ declares that eternal life is bound up in knowing, “the only true God *and* Jesus Christ” – two divine Beings. The true God is clearly distinct from His Son. The true God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The true God is one numerical divine Being, and His Son is *another* divine Being. We must embrace these plain words of our Saviour above, as the keeping of these words is the evidence that we love Him who spoke them.

Yet the weight of evidence of the identity of the true God can be found elsewhere in Scripture. John repeated this exact representation of *the true God* in his epistle:

1ST JOHN 5:20-21 (KJV)>> ²⁰And **we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is *true*, and we are in him that is *true*, even in *his Son Jesus Christ*. This is *the true God*, and eternal life.**

²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

John plainly shows two distinct divine Beings in his witness here. John tells us that the Son of God came to give us an understanding of *Him* that is *true*. The Son came to reveal the Father, therefore the Father is *Him* that is true. John affirms that we who believe are, “in *Him* that is true, *even in His Son*.” It is self-evident that, “*Him* that is true,” is distinct from, “*His Son*.” In fact, we are being told that *Him* that is true *has* a Son. The Father is the One that is true, and the Father has a Son. This Scripture testimony is simple and plain, and to know this is eternal life. We cannot go around this if we shall be saved, beloved.

For even the apostle Paul knew the one true God in distinction to His true Son:

1STTHESSALONIANS 1:9-10 (KJV)>> ⁹For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and **how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and *true God***; ¹⁰**And to wait for *his Son* from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus**, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Once again the *true God* and *His Son* are clearly revealed in distinction. There is literally one true God – the apostles, and even Jesus Himself, tell us this one true God is the Father (1stCor.8:6). Yes, Jesus Christ’s own words in prayer testify that the only true God is not Himself (John 17:3). Christ’s words express that He is not to be misunderstood as the *only true God*, but He is rightfully to be accepted as *the Son* of the only true God. Christ is *the Son*, beloved – the Mediator between the only true God and man. (1stTim.2:5). The Father is the only true God, even the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 20:17; 2ndCor.11:31; Eph.1:3; Heb.1:9).

Taking the plain Scripture testimony, we must be able, without trepidation, to accept that Jesus Christ is not the only true God, but *the Son* of the only true God. Now, being *the Son* of the only true God does not make Christ any less divine than His Father. Christ is no less divine than His Father; just as a human son cannot be born any *less human* than his biological father. In fact, Christ is the “express image” of the Father (Heb.1:3). That scripture phrase alone should dismiss any scepticism on this point. The literal Fatherhood of God, coinciding with the literal Sonship of Christ, proves there is no difference between their natures. If their relation is literal then they have the same nature. Period. Their only distinction then, would lie in their individual identity.

For example, we must take note that the Scriptures describe Christ as *the Image* of God (2ndCor.4:4; Col.1:15), and not *the Original* God. We all know that an *image* is so called because it receives all its characteristics from an *original*. The existence of the *original* is what subsequently produces the *image*. In this light is Christ “the image of the invisible God”. Christ is the *Direct Offspring* of God. He is the *First-begotten* and *Only-begotten* of God, before all creation (Heb.1:6; Col.15; Prov.8:22-30). And so, **while equal to the Father in terms of *nature*, Christ is actually subservient to the Father in terms of *identity***, because Christ came into being *after* His Father (Heb.1:4). It is by the Father’s way, the Father’s begetting, the Father’s life, the Father’s good will, that the Son came into being. (Prov.8:22; Heb.1:5; John 5:26; Col.1:19). Jesus expressed the magnitude of this truth when He even said the simple words, “My Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28).

The Father is the only true God, the Original Deity; yet next to the Father Himself, Jesus Christ exists as the only other fulsome Manifestation of that Deity

– the only-begotten Son (John 3:16; Col.2:9). They are two individual divine Beings, equal in divine nature, wherein their ultimate distinction lies in the fact that the Father is *the Source* of divinity, whilst the Son is *the One Absolute Inheritor* of that divinity (Heb.1:4). “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.” (John 5:26).

Knowing the true God, in distinction from His Son, will also help us to demystify verses such as these:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (KJV)>> ⁴Hear, O Israel: ***The LORD*** our God is ***one LORD***.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (ASV)>> ⁴Hear, O Israel: ***Jehovah*** our God is ***one Jehovah***.

PSALMS 83:18 (KJV)>> ¹⁸That men may know that **thou**, whose name *alone* is ***JEHOVAH***, art ***the most high*** over all the earth.

JEREMIAH 10:10 (KJV)>> ¹⁰But ***the LORD*** is ***the true God***, he is ***the living God***, and an everlasting king: at **his** wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

PSALMS 110:1-2 (KJV)>> ¹A Psalm of David. ***The LORD*** said unto my **Lord**, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make **thine** enemies **thy** footstool. ²***The LORD*** shall send the rod of **thy** strength out of Zion: rule **thou** in the midst of **thine** enemies.

Hence the first step in recognizing the true gospel is understanding that there is one true God, and that this one true God begat one true Son. Jesus Christ declares within the Scriptures that before the world was created, He was *begotten, brought forth, He proceeded forth, came out from* the very divine Being of the Father, to have the same divine life as an independent Being (Prov.8:22-30; John 8:42, 16:27-30). This is how Christ is truly *the Son* of God, and how Jehovah is truly *the Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ. The divine relation of the Father and the Son is literal. Any diminishing or mystifying of this plain scriptural testimony is a denial of the record of the gospel:

1ST JOHN 5:10-11 (KJV)>> ¹⁰He that believeth on **the Son** of **God** hath the witness in himself: **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.** ¹¹And **this is the record**, that **God** hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in **his Son**.

JOHN 3:18-19 (KJV)>> ¹⁸He that believeth on **him** is not condemned: but he that believeth not is *condemned already*, because he hath not believed in the name of the **only begotten Son** of **God**. ¹⁹And this is *the condemnation*, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Beloved, we must acknowledge the plain fundamental of the gospel which reveals the divine, literal *identity* of the Father and the Son. We must as the light shines, take this first step. For we shall see further that there is a true *authority* connected with the true *identity* of the Father and Son.

2) What *authority* is directly associated with the *identity* of the true God and His Son?

2NDCHRONICLES 15:3-4 (KJV)>> ³Now for a long season Israel hath been without **the true God**, and without a teaching priest, and without **law**. ⁴But when they in their trouble did **turn** unto the **LORD God** of Israel, and sought **him**, **he** was found of them.

One keen observation I would like you to see from the testimony above is that when Israel was declared to be *without the true God*, they were synonymously *without law*. Yet the opposite was to be the result if they *turned* to Jehovah from their troubled state: in turning, they would once again have *the true God* and also the *law*. We can logically ask, “What would be the indicator to determine that Israel was making a turn, that they were turning to the true God and the Law?” We can find the answer in this corresponding text:

2NDKINGS 17:13 (KJV)>> ¹³Yet the **LORD** testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, **Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.**

Beloved, when Jehovah testified as to how Israel was to turn to Him as the true God, He explains that they were to turn *from their evil ways*, and *keep His commandments* according to His *Law*. Harmony with the true God and harmony with His Law was synonymous. In other words, if Israel were not turning to obey the Law, they were neither turning to the true God who gave that Law. Regardless of whether Israel (or any professing believer) paid lip service to

worshipping the true God, such worship was meaningless and false if they consciously disobeyed His Law. The true God and His true Son inseparably identify themselves with this Law – this very Law revealed in the Ten Commandments. The Father and Son take the disregard of this Law to verily be a disregard of Themselves; and conversely, the heartfelt, obedient acceptance of this Law reveals our very acceptance of the Father and Son. The very proof of our love and allegiance toward the Father and Son is evidenced by our keeping of the Law They have given us to live by. This truth is consistent throughout the Old and New Testaments:

DEUTERONOMY 13:4 (KJV)>> ⁴Ye shall walk after **the LORD** your **God**, and **fear him**, and **keep his commandments**, and **obey his** voice, and ye shall **serve him**, and **cleave** unto **him**.

PROVERBS 28:9 (KJV)>> ⁹He that **turneth away his ear from hearing the law**, even his prayer shall be abomination.

JOHN 14:15,21 (KJV)>> ¹⁵If ye **love me**, **keep my commandments**. . . ²¹He that hath **my commandments**, and **keepeth** them, he it is that **loveth me**: and he that loveth **me** shall be loved of **my Father**, and **I** will love him, and will manifest **myself** to him.

JOHN 15:10 (KJV)>> ¹⁰If ye **keep my commandments**, ye shall abide in **my love**; even as **I** have **kept my Father's commandments**, and abide in **his love**.

1ST JOHN 2:3-5 (KJV)>> ³And hereby we do know that we know **him**, if we **keep his commandments**. ⁴He that saith, I know **him**, and **keepeth not his commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoso **keepeth his word**, in him verily is **the love of God** perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1ST JOHN 5:2-3 (KJV)>> ²By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God**, and **keep his commandments**. ³**For this is the love of God**, that we **keep his commandments**: and **his** commandments are **not** grievous.

3) What exactly does the Law of God represent? What principles does the Law of God entail? How far does this authority of the true God extend?

The Scriptures declare, contrary to popular conception today, that the Law of God is exceedingly broad in its application and essential to the very existence of all created beings. In other words, there could be no provision for which the Law of God could ever be dispensed with. Notice how the Scriptures show the exceeding characteristics of the Law.

Firstly, as most would concede, the Law of God is expressed in the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20:1-17. Yes, *the Law* of God is synonymous with *the Commandments* of God (Exo.24:12; Josh.22:5). Yet please notice that these *Ten Commandments*, written on two tables of stone, are also spoken of as God's *Covenant*:

EXODUS 34:27-28 (KJV)>> ²⁷And **the LORD** said unto Moses, **Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a *covenant* with thee and with Israel.** ²⁸And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And **he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, *the ten commandments*.**

DEUTERONOMY 4:13 (KJV)>> ¹³And he declared unto you his *covenant*, which he commanded you to perform, even ***ten commandments***; and he wrote them upon *two tables of stone*.

DEUTERONOMY 10:4 (KJV)>> ⁴And he wrote on *the tables*, according to the first writing, ***the ten commandments***, which **the LORD spake** unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and **the LORD gave them unto me**.

1STKINGS 8:9 (KJV)>> ⁹There was nothing in the ark save the *two tables of stone*, which Moses put there at Horeb, when **the LORD made a *covenant* with the children of Israel**, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

HEBREWS 9:3-4 (KJV)>> ³And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; ⁴Which had the golden censer, and **the ark of *the covenant* overlaid round about with gold**, wherein was the golden pot that had

manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and *the tables of the covenant* . . .

Alternately, *the Law of God* is also expressed simply as *the Love of God*, encompassing two great commandments:

1ST JOHN 5:3 (KJV)>> ³*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:* and his commandments are *not* grievous.

2ND JOHN 1:6 (KJV)>> ⁶And *this is love, that we walk after his commandments.*

MATTHEW 22:35-40 (KJV)>> ³⁵Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, ³⁶Master, **which is the *great commandment in the law?*** ³⁷Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt *love* the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself.** ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

ROMANS 13:8-10 (KJV)>> ⁸Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for **he that *loveth* another hath fulfilled the *law*.** ⁹For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and **if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself.** ¹⁰*Love* worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore *love* is the fulfilling of the *law*.

GALATIANS 5:14 (KJV)>> ¹⁴For **all the *law* is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself.**

JAMES 2:8 (KJV)>> ⁸If ye fulfil the *royal law* according to the scripture, **Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.**

And lastly, the *Law of God*, the *Commandments of God*, are alternately shown to be the very *Word of God*:

ISAIAH 1:10 (KJV)>> ¹⁰Hear the **word** of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; **give ear unto the law** of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

PSALMS 147:15 (KJV)>> ¹⁵He sendeth forth his **commandment** upon earth: his **word** runneth very swiftly.

PROVERBS 13:13 (KJV)>> ¹³Whoso despiseth the **word** shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the **commandment** shall be rewarded.

NUMBERS 15:31 (KJV)>> ³¹Because he hath despised the **word** of the LORD, and hath broken his **commandment**, that soul 'shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

ISAIAH 5:24 (KJV)>> ²⁴Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the **law** of the LORD of hosts, and despised the **word** of the Holy One of Israel.

ISAIAH 8:20 (KJV)>> ²⁰To **the law and to the testimony**: if they speak not according to **this word**, it is because there is no light in them.

1ST JOHN 2:7 (KJV)>> ⁷Brethren, I write no new **commandment** unto you, but **an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word** which ye have heard from the beginning.

Therefore, if the *Law of God*, the *Commandments of God*, are shown in Scripture to be the very *Covenant of God* with humanity; if the *Law* is expressed as the very embodiment of the *Love of God*; if the *Law* is synonymous with the very *Word of God*, how in any way can we ignore, diminish, nullify, any of these all-encompassing characteristics of God's Law? To put it simply, if we take the Bible as it reads, **it is impossible to circumvent the Law of God**. This is why Isaiah calls that same Law, that same Covenant, "the *everlasting* covenant." The

mercy of the Lord, consonant with His covenant, His Law, His commandments, is from “everlasting to everlasting”:

ISAIAH 24:5 (KJV)>> ⁵The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have **transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.**

PSALMS 103:17-18 (KJV)>> ¹⁷But the mercy of the LORD is **from everlasting to everlasting** upon them that fear him, and his **righteousness** unto children's children; ¹⁸To such as keep his **covenant**, and to those that remember his **commandments** to do them.

By these plain facts from Scripture, we can know for a certainty that God's Law is everlasting; it is immutable. Its existence did not commence at Mount Sinai and expire at Mount Calvary. In fact, far from being transitory, the Law of God was actually re-affirmed at Sinai, and re-magnified at Calvary. Those two events were rather signal evidence that humanity was never free to break the Law of God without far-reaching consequences. The eternal nature of God's Law is so deeply binding upon our human experience that it pierces even the thoughts; the Law of God is framework of the human conscience. It was never merely letters written on tables of stone – the Law, the Commandments form the order of God's government, written by God's own finger upon the heart of every created intelligence:

DEUTERONOMY 30:10-14 (KJV)>> ¹⁰If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of **the LORD thy God**, to **keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law**, and if thou turn unto **the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. ¹¹**For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.** ¹²**It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?** ¹³**Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?** ¹⁴**But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.**

ROMANS 2:14-15 (KJV)>> ¹⁴For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, **do by nature the things contained in the law**, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵**Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts,**

their *conscience* also bearing witness, and their *thoughts* the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

JEREMIAH 31:31-34 (KJV)>> ³¹Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But **this shall be the *covenant* that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, *I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*** ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

ZECHARIAH 7:12 (KJV)>> ¹²Yea, they made their *hearts as an adamant stone*, lest they should hear the *law*, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

EZEKIEL 36:26-28 (KJV)>> ²⁶A new *heart* also will I give you, and a new *spirit* will I put within you: and I will take away **the stony heart** out of your flesh, and I will give you an *heart* of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my *spirit* within you, and cause you to **walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.** ²⁸And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

As the evidence is faithfully given to show you clearly that God's Law is by nature etched upon the heart of every created intelligence, please let it be understood that this literally means *every created intelligence*. In other words, the Law supersedes all that has ever been created. The Law had been in place from the very the first time the Father and Son said, "Let us make..." The Law was there from the beginning of creation, when even the angels were first made, and the earth was yet to come into existence.

Now, how can we prove this convincingly from Scripture once again: that the Law was in binding governance, even *from the beginning* of creation? Answer: by

the very *entrance* of that thing called *sin*. By the very *definition* of that thing called *sin*. By even the very fact that sin came into existence through one who was there before any forbidden fruit of any forbidden tree had ever become a test.

1ST JOHN 3:4-5,8 (KJV)>> ***4Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*** ***5***And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. . . ***8***He that committeth sin is of the devil; for ***the devil sinneth from the beginning.*** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Having this testimony beloved, can we not see that *sin* has its origin in the fact that it was that which contradicted the Law of God? That the Law of God had to have been in place for such a thing as *sin* to come in and contradict it? That by the truth that the devil sinned *from the beginning*, does it not show us that the Law of God was there from the beginning, that the devil could even have *transgressed* it? I believe it should be clear to us that the Law of God – just as much as the identity of God – superseded all things, and will always continue to uphold all things.

Accepting the Unity of God’s Identity and His Law: the Eternal Implications

4) If we, having received sufficient light, consciously misrepresent God’s true identity and authority, shall we be safe from condemnation? If we seek to separate or detach the Father and the Son from the eternal perpetuity of their Law, what shall be the ultimate result?

1ST JOHN 2:3-4 (KJV)>> ***3***And hereby we do know that we ***know him, if we keep his commandments.*** ***4***He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, ***is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

2ND JOHN 1:5-11 (KJV)>> ***5***And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but ***that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.*** ***6***And ***this is love, that we walk after his commandments.*** This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. ***7***For many ***deceivers*** are entered into the world, ***who confess not that Jesus Christ is***

come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

⁸Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

⁹**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Our eternal salvation is dependent on knowing the literal, divine Father and Son, and accepting Their literal, divine Law. To neglect either the true identity or true authority of God and Christ, with the plain Scripture evidence before us, will condemn us in the judgment. If we consciously accept any erroneous teachings which betray these kindred truths – errors akin to Trinitarianism, Co-eternalism, Antinomianism, Original Sin, etc. – we need to realize that we can have no place among the redeemed. The Scripture conditions have already been clearly laid out before us.

Uncovering Antichristian Errors related to this Theme

We must always realize, beloved, that whenever any thing as sin comes to exist, something has been transgressed, and that something is God's Law. From the beginning, from the very first sin of Lucifer till now, sin has always been a transgression. And whenever we find any professed teacher mystifying this reality, making sin appear as something "deeper" than transgression, or something "beyond" the ambit of God's Law, we can know this is antichrist teaching:

The evidences following, coloured in red, have been documented from comparatively recent sermon videos posted on YouTube, and therefore provide a reliable reflection of the current positions of the speakers. The time-stamps, transcriptions and emphases have been supplied by this author.

DAVID CLAYTON - UNDERSTANDING SIN (2018):

<6:13> "We are firm believers in the idea that sin is more than what you do. Sin is a condition; sin is a word that describes the very nature that a person has before he finds Christ."

<44:56> "Sin is being contrary to the mind of God; it is not breaking ten rules."

<40:31> "So if we are looking at the question of righteousness by faith, please take the Law out of the picture. Because it does not work. You can't produce righteousness by behaviour."

IMAD AWDE - GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND THE SIN PROBLEM (2017):

<22:01> "So many times we think the problem of humanity is that God created Adam and Eve, He put them in the garden of Eden, [and] He gave them a Law: *Thou shalt not eat from this tree*. And Adam and Eve broke that Law. So the problem of humanity is a broken Law. And if the problem is a broken Law then the solution is a . . . ? Kept Law! So go keep it. **But that's not the problem of humanity.**"

<11:37> "Let's imagine a scenario which did not happen, but just for argument sake, just for fun sake, let's imagine a scenario that God appeared then and there, before Eve plucked of the tree. God appeared, the serpent weaved its way away, and Eve stopped – she didn't eat of the tree. Do you think there is a problem? Do you think we would still have a problem? . . . I put it to you today that we would still have a problem, because the problem in the garden of Eden is not eating the fruit. The problem in the garden of Eden is the mind, is the attitude, is the thinking that led to eating the fruit. Do you think you will be out of heaven because you committed adultery, or you used drugs, or you stole? Do you think you will be out of heaven because of these things? These things are nothing; they're simply the symptoms of the real problem that is within you."

Similarly, when professed religious teachers seek to seduce minds away from the seriousness of transgression; when their teachings try to cast limitations upon the divine Law of God; when they downplay the Law under the veneer of exalting Christ – bringing antagonism between Christ and the Law (when both are really in perfect harmony) – you can once again know this is antichrist teaching:

NADER MANSOUR - SIN, JESUS AND YOU (2018):

<26:09> "Have you caught sight of Christ, or are you still looking at the Law? I want to tell you something. Both are not the same thing."

<28:05> "Is it a sin not to believe in Christ? What's the answer? [Yes.] Okay. Where in the Law does it say to believe on Christ? . . . Where in the letter of the Law are we instructed to believe on Christ? . . . Which commandment? . . . The first commandment doesn't say that."

<29:31> "That absence, that Christlessness, is the natural condition of the carnal mind and heart. That's what Paul realized he had a problem with, and to solve the problem he didn't go to the Law. He didn't find a commandment he had missed and say well I just have to keep that. He went to a person. . . . Not believing in Christ as our Saviour is sin. There is no commandment in the Ten Commandments that instructs us to believe in Christ as our Saviour."

<30:58> "Notice the verses we are familiar with. John 3:16... Does it talk about a Law there? No. Salvation is not linked to a Law. Salvation is based primarily on believing in Christ. Another verse. . . John 17:3. . . It's talking about salvation; it's talking about eternal life. Does it say anything about a Law in that verse? No. Are you starting to see the picture? What do we need salvation from? Sin. And salvation from sin is based on believing in Christ; it is based on knowing the Father and the Son. There is no Law in the formula of our salvation from sin."

<45:00> "There is a theology that exists, brothers and sisters, that says the solution to our problem works from without to within: *As you make a choice to keep the Law, and that choice, of course, Christ helps you to make. . . . But you cannot be made righteous without keeping the Law, because righteousness is right-doing. So how can you be righteous without right-doing? You can't. I have news for you: Jesus can. You are justified by faith, and the Law is not of faith.*"

CONCLUSION

Beloved, having endeavoured to show from inspiration that the divine identity of the Father and Son is inseparably linked with their divine authority – I should find it only fitting to repeat the words of apostle John:

2ND JOHN 1:5-11 (KJV)>> ⁵And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but **that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.** ⁶And ***this is love, that we walk after his commandments.*** This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. ⁷For many ***deceivers*** are entered into the world, ***who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*** ⁸Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. ⁹***Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*** ¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him **God speed:** ¹¹For he that biddeth him **God speed** is partaker of his evil deeds.

Here John told us what love is: *that we walk after God's commandments. Commandments which we have had and heard from the beginning. Commandments which are expressive of the eternal Law. The eternal Law from which the transgression of that Law constitutes sin. An eternal principle which reveals that sin can only be brought forth through the act of transgression and nothing else. Not sin by nature, nor sin by inheritance, but sin only by transgression.*

For this reason, John, after establishing the reality of the Law, warned of antichrist deceivers, *who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.* Such deceivers do not accept that Jesus Christ came to earth in the same flesh (fallen human nature) as us, because they teach falsely that our flesh (fallen human nature) in and of itself constitutes sin. To such false teachers, transgression is not the real sin – but rather fallen human nature itself is the real sin – that is, before any transgression is even committed. To them then, Christ could not have partaken of our exact human nature when He came to earth, for in their thinking such would mean that Christ would have been a sinner by human birth. But as you see, John categorically acknowledged these views as antichrist. He taught that transgression of God's commandments is and always will be the only definition of sin.

What is a *Christian* teacher doing when they, for one, diminish the reality of sin as transgression and, two, teach others that it is really their human nature that

compels them to transgress? They are, for one, causing their hearers to take lightly whenever they transgress and, two, they are giving the false comfort that one's nature, and not one's personal choice, is ultimately responsible for transgression. They are seeking to make transgression so insignificant that even if you transgress ever so brazenly, you won't even consider it.

But whether one acknowledges or disregards their transgression, the Law will always be there to reveal to us that such is sin. And whosoever *transgresseth* – whether one is willing to acknowledge it or not – John said such *do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, and they do not have God*. Therefore, the opposite of this fearful position is where we find the truth. That is, only those who abide in the doctrine of Christ – those who acknowledge that sin is entirely transgression of the Law, those who conscientiously in Christ refrain from such transgression – those are the only ones who have the Father and the Son. John's warning was a rebuke to such a statement as this:

NADER MANSOUR - SIN, JESUS AND YOU (2018):

<16:56> "If you believe in the truth about the Father and the Son, you cannot believe that sin is only a choice to break the Law. That's inconsistent."

According to John, such a statement above is patently untrue, and the opposite of the gospel reality. Those who *have both the Father and the Son* understand the testimony about sin being entirely transgression; and they refrain from transgression of the Law through the death and victorious life of Jesus Christ. They know the true God, His True Son, and the True Law – all eternal, divine realities. There is nothing inconsistent about that. In fact, as we have seen, the Scriptures have revealed the strongest of harmonies linking the Father, the Son, and their Law all together.

Finally, the following excerpts from the last-day gift of prophecy are striking in their clarity, summarizing in a pointed manner the very message of the Scriptures which we have sought to share:

The Law and the Gospel can not be separated. In Christ mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. The Gospel has not ignored the obligations due to God by man. The Gospel is the Law unfolded, nothing more nor less. It gives no more latitude to sin than does the Law. The Law points to Christ; Christ points to the Law. The Gospel calls men to repentance. Repentance of what?--Of sin. And what is sin?--It is the transgression of the Law. Therefore the Gospel calls men from their transgression back to obedience to the Law of God. Jesus in his life and death taught the strictest obedience. He died, the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty, that the honor of God's

Law might be preserved, and yet man not utterly perish. {ST, February 25, 1897 par. 1}

But the doctrine is now largely taught that the Gospel of Christ has made the Law of God of no effect; that by "believing" we are released from the necessity of being doers of the word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Christ so unsparingly condemned. . . . [Revelation 2:2-6 quoted]. {ST, February 25, 1897 par. 6}

Those who are teaching this doctrine today have much to say in regard to faith and the righteousness of Christ; but they pervert the truth, and make it serve the cause of error. They declare that we have only to believe on Jesus Christ, and that faith is all-sufficient; that the righteousness of Christ is to be the sinner's credentials; that this imputed righteousness fulfils the law for us, and that we are under no obligation to obey the law of God. This class claim that Christ came to save sinners, and that he has saved them. "I am saved," they will repeat over and over again. But are they saved while transgressing the law of Jehovah?--No; for the garments of Christ's righteousness are not a cloak for iniquity. Such teaching is a gross deception, and Christ becomes to these persons a stumbling-block as he did to the Jews,--to the Jews because they would not receive him as their personal Saviour; to these professed believers in Christ, because they separate Christ and the Law, and regard faith as a substitute for obedience. They separate the Father and the Son, the Saviour of the world. Virtually they teach, both by precept and example, that Christ, by his death, saves men in their transgressions. {ST, February 25, 1897 par. 7}

Men may talk of freedom, of Gospel liberty. They may assert that they are not in bondage to the Law. But the influence of a Gospel hope will not lead the sinner to look upon the salvation of Christ as a matter of free grace, while he continues to live in transgression of the Law of God. When the light of truth dawns upon his mind, and he fully understands the requirements of God, and realizes the extent of his transgressions, he will reform his ways, become loyal to God through the strength obtained from his Saviour, and lead a new and purer life. "Whosoever abideth in him," says John, "sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." {ST, February 25, 1897 par. 10}

The precious words of inspiration have been sought, and the weight of evidence, even by the Spirit of the Lord, has been our guide. Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: the literal, divine Father and His literal, divine Son govern the universe by the way of a literal, divine Law. The sooner we learn to accept that the divine *Identities* are inseparable from Their divine *authority*, the sooner the purpose of the gospel can have its ultimate fulfilment in us: “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col.1:27). May God bless you as you consider these things.

AMEN.

Shared with you out of love, in the service of the gospel,



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