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Episode 66-Unveiling the Contradiction: Christ's Testimony Explored

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In this episode of the Revelation podcast, Scott Stanley delves into the profound statements of Christ as recorded in the Gospel of John, chapters 5 and 8, to unravel the seeming contradictions in His testimony. By examining Christ's declaration about bearing witness to Himself, Stanley explores the intersection between flesh and spirit and how this understanding elucidates the teachings found within the Book of Revelation.

Stanley further discusses the deeper meanings of the scriptures, urging listeners to transcend the literal reading and seek the spiritual concepts—particularly emphasizing the need to grasp the concepts of love, healing, and edification that God conveys. Highlighting the disparity between knowing the Bible verses and understanding the Word of God, Stanley explains how true comprehension leads to recognizing Jesus as the Messiah.

Ultimately, this episode centers on the 'Key of David,' a spiritual metaphor for unlocking Christ's divine understanding and turning from literal interpretations to spiritually enlightened insights, as exemplified in the letter to the Church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Stanley underscores the transformative power of spiritual truth as he invites listeners to deepen their knowledge and embrace the full, joyous revelation of God's word.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are directly transcribed with notations. See the KJV for verbatim wording.

This is Scott Stanley continuing the Revelation podcast, looking at the deep things of God in the Book of Revelation. I want to start today with the Gospel of John, chapter 5, because there is an interesting statement that Christ made in verse 31.

Jhn 5:31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

If I were to turn over to chapter 8, looking at verses 13 and 14,

Jhn 8:13 The Pharisees said, You're bearing record of yourself. Your record is not true. (Jesus says in verse 14,)

Jhn 8:14 Though I bear record of myself, my record is true...

So here is seemingly a contradiction in what Christ is saying. As I began looking at that and digging into it and trying to understand it, other things began to open up that gave me a clarity of understanding in the Book of Revelation. I want to turn to John, chapter 5. We're going to do a lot of reading, so you really need to have your Bible. After Christ tells them that he is going to raise the dead in John chapter 5, he says in verse 30,

Jhn 5:30 I can of my own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment, my determinations, are innocent. They're right because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which sent me.

And right here, you're seeing that battle between flesh and spirit. I'm not doing my will—that would be the flesh. I'm doing the will of the Father, and because I'm not trying to do my will, as I hear, I'm making decisions. I'm choosing the will of the Father.

Jhn 5:31 So if I bear witness of myself (or if I'm speaking according to the flesh), then my witness isn't true. (But I'm seeking the Father for his understanding.)

Jhn 5:32 There is another that bears witness of me, and I know the witness which he witnesses of me is true. (It's John.)

Jhn 5:33 You sent unto John, and he bore witness unto the truth.

Jhn 5:34 Now I personally don't receive testimony from men, but I'm saying these things (that you might receive a man's testimony, John, and be saved.)

Jhn 5:35 He (John) was a burning and shining light, and you were willing for a season to rejoice in what he was saying.

What he was saying was that "Jesus is Messiah: I saw the heavens open, and a dove came down, and God, who had sent me to baptize Israel, told me, 'When you see this happen, that's the Messiah.' That's the Son of God." Verse 36.

Jhn 5:36 I have a greater witness than John. The works I'm doing show I'm Messiah. The works I'm doing are telling you that the Father has sent me.

Jhn 5:37 The Father himself, which has sent me, has borne witness of me (at my baptism. He said, "*This is my Son in whom I am well pleased,*" fulfilling Psalm 2). But you didn't hear that. You have not heard his voice at any time. You haven't seen his shape (but John bore witness. John did hear it. John bore witness, and you received his testimony for a time.)

Jhn 5:38 You have not the Father's word abiding in you, remaining in you, for whom he has sent, him you don't believe (whether it's John or Jesus)... whom God has sent, you're not believing.

That's interesting. "*You don't have his word abiding in you,*" because these people did read the Bible, and you're going to discover that they knew the verses, but they did not know the word of God. They knew the verses, but they didn't understand the concepts that God was trying to convey in those verses. God's concepts are concepts of love, healing, and edification. So, yes, they had the Bible. They believed the words. They didn't believe the concepts.

Jhn 5:39 Search the scriptures. In the scriptures, you think you have eternal life. (But remember, they read them on the surface.) And they are they which testify of me.

Jhn 5:40 If you believed the scriptures and heard John's witness or heard my Father's witness, you would know I'm Messiah, and you won't come to me that you might have life. Those scriptures you're reading will declare me as Messiah, but you're not coming to me.

Jhn 5:41 I don't receive honor from men.

Jhn 5:42 I know you, but you don't have the love of God in you.

Once you understand the love of God and you understand the Holy Spirit, it's easy to see when a person, another person, doesn't have the love of God in that way.

Jhn 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and you're not receiving me. If somebody else comes in his own name, him you'll receive.

Jhn 5:44 How can you believe, which receive honor from each other, but you don't seek the honor that comes only from God?

Jhn 5:45 Don't think that I'm going to accuse you to the Father. There is one that will accuse you, Moses, in whom you trust.

How could Moses accuse them? Because it's in their conscience. They read the Bible with their own understanding, and it accuses them. Hence, they will accuse others.

Jhn 5:46 If you had believed Moses...

What do you mean, you don't think they believed Moses? Well, that word "believe," if you take it back to the Old Testament, it means "to be nourished." In Numbers 11:12, it's translated as "nursing father." This is the word "believe." Abraham believed... he was nourished by what God said. These people are reading the Bible without the nourishment. They're taking the surface meaning of it.

Jhn 5:46 If you had believed, been nourished by what Moses was saying, you would have believed what I'm telling you, because he was writing of me.

Jhn 5:47 But if you believe not what Moses wrote, how are you going to believe my word?

So they were reading Moses. They were not receiving the concepts of God. Now turn with me to the Gospel of John, chapter 8. We know the story of the woman found in

adultery, taken in adultery in the very act. We know this story. I want to start reading verse 4.

Jhn 8:4 They said unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Jhn 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what do you say?

Jhn 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger, he wrote on the ground as though he didn't hear them.

Jhn 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and he said, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Jhn 8:8 And again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

Jhn 8:9 They which heard, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one.

Why would they do that? Because it's what Christ told them. You believed Moses. You're trusting in Moses, but he is going to be the one who condemns you. He is going to be the one who accuses you. That is exactly what he did. He used the writings of Moses. He wrote that law on the ground in the way they perceived those things. They were convicted by their own conscience. How is Moses going to accuse you except in your own conscience? You're trusting Moses, but you're not receiving the concept or the meaning of what God is trying to convey to us. Now, back to chapter 8, starting at verse 12.

Jhn 8:12 Then spoke Jesus again unto them, and he said, I'm the light of the world. (In other words, what you just saw me do is God.) I'm the light of the world. He that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light (or the understanding of God to life- to have the light of life... the understanding of God unto life.)

Jhn 8:13 The Pharisees, therefore, said, Well, you're bearing a record of yourself. Your record isn't true. (Just like he said in chapter 5. This is a little bit different, though.)

Jhn 8:14 Jesus answered and said, Though I'm bearing record of myself, my record is true. (How can that be?) Because I know from where I came, and I know where I'm going.

You guys don't have that information. You didn't receive John's testimony. You didn't believe the Father spoke and said, "You're my Son." Because he spoke and said, "You're my Son," I know I'm Messiah. That means I am Messiah, the light of this world. I have the understanding; I am the Anointed One. When God said, "You're my Son," that was how he anointed me, with that truth. At the very same time, Jesus became, in his own understanding, the Son of God and the Christ. At the same time, he was born from above.

So you guys don't have that information. Because I believe I'm the Christ, I know the scriptures. I can show you where the Christ was born in eternity, that he would be born in Bethlehem. I can show you things about the Christ. He's going to die. He's going to be raised from the dead. He's going to deliver his people from their sin. He is going to have laid on him the iniquity of everybody. This is Messiah. I know where I'm from, and I know where I'm going, but you can't tell where I've come from or where I'm going. Verse 15, John 8.

Jhn 8:15 You are judging after your own opinions. You're judging after your fleshly understanding. That's how you read the Bible. That's why Moses accuses you. You're judging after your own opinion. I don't judge any man after the flesh.

Jhn 8:16 Yet if I do make a judgment, my determination is going to be true because I'm not alone- I and the Father that sent me.

I have the Father's understanding. I have his Spirit. He is with me. So, when I make a judgment, I don't judge according to the flesh. I judge according to the Father's understanding that he has given me.

Jhn 8:17 It's also written in your law, the testimony of two men is true.

Jhn 8:18 I am one that bears witness of myself, and the Father that sent me, he bears witness of me too.

Jhn 8:19 Then they said, where is he? Where is your Father? Jesus said, You don't know me as Messiah, and you don't know my Father. If you knew I was Messiah, you would know my Father is God.

You would know I'm the Son of God if you had believed John's testimony. John heard God say this. John says, *I am*, Isaiah 40:3, *I am* Malachi 3:1.

Jhn 8:20 These words spoke Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

Jhn 8:21 Then said Jesus unto them, I'm going to go my way (to the cross, to the tomb, and be resurrected. You're going to seek my body because you're not going to believe, you don't believe who I am.) You will seek my body, and you'll die in your sins. Where I'm going, you can't come (because you're not believing I'm Messiah, and you're not going to understand what happened on the cross. You're not going to believe when I'm raised from the dead), and you will seek me, and you won't be able to find me.

Jhn 8:22 Then said the Jews, Is he going to kill himself? because he said, Where I go, you can't come.

Jhn 8:23 And he said, You're from beneath the firmament, the heavens. I'm from above the firmament, the heavens. You're of this world. I'm not of this world.

You guys think like the world. You have the world in your heart. You can't understand what God has prepared for those who love him. You don't get it. But I'm not from this world.

Jhn 8:24 I said therefore unto you, you're going to die in your sins. If you don't believe that I am Messiah, you'll die in your sins.

Now, a lot of people have taken verse 24, "*If you believe not that I am,*" back to Exodus 3:14, where he says, "*I AM THAT I AM,*" but I don't think that's what he means in this verse. He does mean it when you get to the next-to-last verse of this chapter. In verse 58, "*Jesus said, I say unto you, before Abraham came to be, I am. Then they took up stones to kill him.*" Over here, "*If you believe not that I am he, you'll die in your sins,*" the word "he" isn't there, but they didn't understand him to say, *I am that I am.* Verse 24 again.

Jhn 8:24 I said therefore unto you, you'll die in your sins because if you can't believe that I am Messiah, you're going to die in your sins.

Jhn 8:25 Then they said, Who are you? And he said, The same that I said to you from the beginning of this conversation up to verse 12. I'm the light of the world.

Jhn 8:26 I have many things to say to you and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I'm speaking to the world those things which my Father has told me.

Jhn 8:27 They didn't understand he spoke to them of the Father, God.

Jhn 8:28 And said Jesus unto them, When you've lifted up the Son of man, you'll know I'm he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things. So I want to show you when you've lifted up the Son of God, you'll know.

Matthew 27, I want to start reading verse 50.

Mat 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit.

Mat 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. (Right there is a major sign of who he was.) The earth did quake, and the rocks rent,

Mat 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Mat 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

That's another way that they knew who he was. This happened at his resurrection. Now verse 54.

Mat 27:54 The centurion, and they that were with him, all of those centurions, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, and said, Truly this was the Son of God.

So the Roman soldiers see it. The Jews deny it. They see the signs, too, but they deny it. Roman soldiers- the universal church, sees it. Again, John 8:28,

Jhn 8:28 When you've lifted up the Son of man, you'll know that I am he, and I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I'll speak these things.

Jhn 8:29 He that sent me is with me: the Father hasn't left me alone; for I always do those things that please him.

Jhn 8:30 As he spoke these words, many believed.

Now we're getting into the Roman soldiers of today.

Jhn 8:31 Then said Jesus to the Jews which believed... (These are not the Jews who don't believe. This is how we tie this into Revelation.) If you remain in my concepts (and again, we're not talking about reading the words of the Bible- we're talking about

understanding the concepts of the Bible) ... If you'll remain in my concepts, then you're my disciples indeed.

Jhn 8:32 And you'll know the truth, and the truth is going to make you free. (But they took him literally.)

Jhn 8:33 They said, We're Abraham's seed, we were never in bondage to anybody: how do you say then, You'll be made free?

Jhn 8:34 Jesus (speaking spiritually), Whosoever commits the sin... (The definite article is there- it's iniquity.) Whosoever commits iniquity is a servant of iniquity.

Jhn 8:35 The servant remains not in the house forever: the son remains forever.

Think about it. If you continue in my concepts, you're going to be free. If you don't continue in my concepts, you're going to be a servant to iniquity. A servant might be in the house, but he won't remain in the house. This makes me think of Matthew 22:2,

Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, which made a marriage for his son. (Skip to verse 11.)

Mat 22:11 When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which did not have on a wedding garment. (He's in the house, but he isn't going to remain in the house.)

Mat 22:12 He said, Friend, how'd you come in here not having on a wedding garment? The guy was speechless.

Mat 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, take him away, cast him into outer darkness; and there'll be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 22:14 Many people are called, but few are chosen.

So when you come back to John 8:34,

Jhn 8:34 ... Whosoever commits iniquity is a servant of iniquity.

Jhn 8:35 The servant will not remain in the house forever: The Son remains forever.

Jhn 8:36 So therefore, if the Son can make you free, really free shall you be... (free from iniquity.)

Jhn 8:37 I know you're Abraham's literal seed; but you're seeking to kill me because my words have no place in you.

What do you mean, kill him? Well, he had just told them the truth about continuing in his word and being his disciples. "*The truth will make you free.*" They refused to believe it because they're taking him literally: "*We're not in bondage.*" Therefore, they were killing the spirit. They were killing the truth of what he was saying.

Jhn 8:37 I know you're Abraham's seed, but you're seeking to kill me because my word doesn't have any place in you. (My word, my concept, not the verse, the concept that's in that verse.)

Jhn 8:38 I am speaking that which I've seen of my Father: and you're doing that which you've seen of your father (the devil- iniquity).

Jhn 8:39 They answered and they said, Well, Abraham's our father. Jesus said, If you were children of Abraham, you'd do the works of Abraham.

Jhn 8:40 But now you're seeking to kill me. (You're trying to deny what I'm teaching), a man that's told you the truth. I heard this truth from God: Abraham didn't do that.

Jhn 8:41 You're doing the deeds of your father. And they said, But we're not born of fornication; we have one Father, God.

Jhn 8:42 Jesus said, If the Divine One was your Father, you would love me: for I proceeded forth and came out of the Divine One; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (In other words, I'm Messiah. God is my Father.)

Jhn 8:43 Why do you not understand what I'm saying? (Here's a key.) Because you (King James put *cannot hear my concept, my word*. "Cannot" is "not able") ... Why do you not know what I'm saying? Because you're not able. You're not able to hear the concept.

I had to ask myself, why would they not be able to? Why are they not able? His concept was spiritual, but they were not able to hear that.

Jhn 8:44 You're of your father, the devil (which is self, the god of this world), and the lusts of your father you'll do. He was a murderer from the beginning. He remained not in the truth because there isn't any truth in self. When he speaks a lie, he's speaking of his own understanding. He's a liar. He's the father of it.

So, I want to turn to Revelation, chapter 3. I initially intended to go ahead and read all of this in John 8. But let's go ahead and turn to Revelation 3 and look at the church of Philadelphia. Verse 7, Revelation 3:7.

Rev 3:7 To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia (brotherly love); These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key of David, he that opens, and no man shuts; he that shuts, and no man opens ...

Stop. Why would he say the key of David? What in the world is the key of David? Remember, Christ was called the Son of David. We see that in Matthew 22:42. When Jesus asked them about Christ, whose son he is, they said he's the Son of David. So, if I look at David as being a type of Christ, the *key of David*- let's go to Isaiah 22, and there's a word added to this. Isaiah 22:22- The key of the house of David. If you go back to Isa 22:20, he's talking about Eliakim, and there is this prophecy,

Isa 22:21 I'm going to clothe him with your robe, strengthen him with your girdle, commit your government into his hand. He'll be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

Isa 22:22 The key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder...

Okay. What do you mean, the key of the house of David? Well, if I look at David as a type of Christ, I could say the house of David would be the church, but it goes even higher than that. The house of David is the understanding of David. *I'm going to give you the key to the understanding of Christ.* Now, this is key because if you go back to Isaiah 9:6,

Isa 9:6 Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: the government shall be upon his shoulder...

Over here in Isaiah 22, the key of the house of David is upon his shoulder. But in Isaiah 9:6, the government is upon his shoulder. Now, there's something you need to understand about this word "government." The word "government," taking the letters from the Ancient Hebrew, looking at the pictures, this word "government" is "a body of people who turns the head of the people through power and legislation." Let's just say the government that was on his shoulders is a body of people who will help you turn the head. If I say the key of the house of David, I could say, I'll give you the key of the understanding that Christ possessed. The "government" is the people who will turn your head to look at the scripture, to look at the verses in a different way. Remember, we can read the verses, but do you understand the concept?

You need to have the key to understanding Christ's thinking so that you can receive his faith. The government, the ones who do that, the ones who can help you do that, are on his shoulders, are his burden. It is his ministry. It is through the ministry that he is able to turn the head and open a door for you that can't be shut and shut a door that can't be opened. You're talking about spiritual, literal truth.

The key to understanding the mind of Christ is in his ministry- those who can explain the spiritual meanings. Philadelphia is the only church that is not told to repent because, in this situation, there's no repentance required. You simply turn your head from literal to spiritual. We're not simply reading the words. We want the concepts. We want to understand what is actually meant by the words of Christ.

He tried and tried to tell them, *"I am Messiah. I'm the Son of God. John bore witness. My Father bore witness."* But they wouldn't believe him. The very thing they trusted in, their literal interpretation of Moses, is the very thing that's going to condemn them because they believe those words literally, and they believe it's true. The very thing they're trusting in will be the very thing that condemns them. Again, to Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7.

Rev 3:7 To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia, these things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key (we could just say of the house of David). He'll open, and no one can shut; he'll shut, and no one can open. (He does that through his ministry using the scriptures. It's the concepts in the Bible, not the words.)

Rev 3:8 I know your works. I have set before you an open door of spiritual truth, and no one's going to be able to shut this. (Once you see it, they will never talk you out of it.) For you have a little strength, and you've kept my word, my concepts. You haven't denied my name (the Son of God).

Rev 3:9 I'm going to make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but they're lying. I'm going to make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I've loved you.

Now how do we know the synagogue of Satan? The synagogue of Satan is described in Romans 2:17.

Rom 2:17 Behold, you are called a Jew, and you're resting in the law, and you're making your boast of God.

Rom 2:18 You think you know his will, and you're approving the things that are more excellent because you're instructed out of the law.

Rom 2:19 You're confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

Rom 2:20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes. You have the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

That is your synagogue of Satan. That is a description of the people who say they are Jews and are not. What he is saying to the church of Philadelphia is that these people who are in the synagogue of Satan are going to come and worship at your feet. If they're going to know anything about God, they've got to come to the people who have the open and shut door. They have to come to the people who understand spiritual truth. Verse 10, Revelation chapter 3:

Rev 3:10 Because you've kept the word of my patience, I'm going to keep you from the hour of temptation, which is going to come upon the entire world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The "earth" is "self." The earth is the flesh. If you can see spiritually, you're going to have a much better understanding of what is going on in the world around you and what God is doing with this church. You will be a child of light, not a child of darkness.

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold to that fast which you have, and don't let any man take your crown.

Rev 3:12 He that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God...

Now, in this verse, he's going to say "my God" four times, But it's the last three that became significant to me.

Rev 3:12 ... He'll go no more out: I will write upon him the name (which is the character) of my God (Holy Spirit), the name of the city of my God, New Jerusalem (that's the Holy Spirit): and my new name (that's the Holy Spirit).

Three is complete. The name, the city, and the Son are all Holy Spirit because Isaiah 54:5, talking about Jerusalem, says, "*your Maker is your husband.*" The bridegroom will marry the bride. *Now Jesus is that spirit.* He is the definition on the cross of the Holy Spirit. The key to the house of David is the ministry- the ministry that can turn your head from literal to spiritual. They will help open a door, and no one will shut that door. They will open a door and allow you to see higher, have a higher understanding of truth, and glorify God in your life. The ministry is the key. It's that group of people who can "turn the head."

Most gracious Heavenly Father, we worship you. We love you. We thank you. We praise you. All in Jesus' name. Amen.