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Episode 98 - Eternal Life Is Love: Revelation's Hidden Heart

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Scott Stanley reframes the book of Revelation as a call to the last generation church to live out the salvation of God by walking in love. Drawing on 1 John, John, and other scriptures, he argues that eternal life is shown and known through love as revealed in Christ.

The episode explores how Christians are called to confess sin, forgive others, and manifest God's light by embodying the love demonstrated on the cross—showing eternal life now, not only at the end.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi, my name is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, continuing to look at the book of Revelation. You know, I say that every podcast, but this Revelation podcast has developed into something more. It isn't just the book of Revelation; it is the salvation of the last generation church.

Now, I know that's what the book of Revelation is about. It's about a group of people who recognize the apostasy that took place in the first century, the apostasy that will last all the way to the end of the world. Even now, as I am recording this podcast, there is just a depth of understanding God has given me that I stay focused on. I don't know how to explain it, but I want to share something with you today that leans that way.

What I want to share with you today, I don't think anybody would argue about, and I guess really the main thing about God, the main thing about salvation, the main thing about the cross, is love... that God is love. You know, I just did a video on "I Am That I Am," and saw that that was an idiom for love. I put that on "Understanding the Christ" on Podbean, and I think going through the discussion I did in that video just cements it in your heart.

The bottom line is love. That is what God is trying to bring about in our lives, and we are his workmanship as he endeavors to create a people who are new creations. They are a new creation. They have found death on the cross, and in so doing, they are learning to overcome iniquity. You know, I say that like it's easy to do. It is not, because there are things that will trigger your thinking. There are things that you think you've overcome, and you'll discover you haven't.

So this led me to something in 1 John. This has always bothered me. It's 1 John chapter 1, verse 1, and the way this actually reads is,

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we have gazed upon, and our hands have handled concerning the Word of life.

I think, you know, to say "that," it's like you're not talking about a person. You're talking about something. You're not talking about the Father and the Son. It's something else. When I get to the end of that verse, "*our hands have handled concerning the Word of life,*" well, what if I were to rephrase that and say "concerning the life of the Word"? Because I look at the Word of God as the only begotten Son. And for me, after going through all of the podcasts that I've made, and realizing that John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word,*" we know that word, "word," is logos, and we know a logos is a concept.

So, when I look at John 1:1, I see that the Son of God was a concept in the mind of God that became flesh. Again, I see this carried out in Proverbs 8. It is just hand in glove the way those things go together. But if I bring that over to 1 John 1:1, I'm talking about the life of the Word, the life of the Son of God... the life of the Word.

1Jn 1:1 That life, which was from the beginning, that life we have heard, we have seen with our eyes, we have gazed upon, our hands have handled that life, the life of the Word.

1Jn 1:2 For the life was manifested, and we've seen it, and we bear witness and show unto you, (what?) that eternal life...

Now look at this one more time. *The life, eternal life, was manifested, and we have seen it, and we bear witness, and we're showing unto you eternal life.* Now let me ask a stupid question: How do you show somebody eternal life? What do you show them? I'm going to show you eternal life. Okay, what does it look like? Well, at this point, I am willing to say that eternal life is love. We're talking about love because God is love. The "I am that I am" is love. Before Abraham was, Jesus said, "I am."

He was walking in love. So if I am going to show someone eternal life, I show them love. Now I'm going to read this again. I'm going to look at 1 John chapter 1, looking at verse 1, and we're just going to consider eternal life. Eternal life is love.

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning is love. Love was from the beginning. We have heard it...

Stop! How can you hear when someone loves you? How can you hear love? Now he's saying we've heard this life. I'm telling you that life is love. How do you know when someone speaks love to you? Think about it. Because that is what we are supposed to be doing with others. I've heard it said, "Speak in love." Usually that means "Be nice; don't raise your voice," but see, to speak love. I'm going to manifest love to you. How? I'm going to speak love.

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning (the love of God), we heard it, we have seen, with our eyes, God's love...

If I consider the apostle John or any of those apostles, and I see Jesus healing lepers and healing and forgiving prostitutes, healing people whose lives are just shattered... I can see John saying we have seen love with our eyes. We have gazed upon love. Our hands have handled love concerning the life of the Word. Really, it's the Word of life.

1Jn 1:2 For the life was manifested, and we've seen it (the life of love we've seen it), and we're bearing witness, and showing to you that eternal life (we're bearing witness in showing you).

Again, how are you going to show anybody eternal life, unless there's a meaning to that? We're going to show you eternal life. It's love. We're going to walk in love, and we're going to show you eternal life.

1Jn 1:2 ... Which was with the Father (love), and was manifested unto us (through his Son- love).

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard, we're declaring unto you...

They have seen love and heard love. You see, I know that love isn't something tangible, but it's something specific. This is something that God would have all of us possess. *He so loved you. He gave you a Son that you wouldn't perish, but that we might enter into life.* Well, do you think entering into life means at the end of the world, and you're going to float up to heaven or something, when you can enter into life right now? If eternal life is love, if it's truly understanding what love is, verse 3,

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we're declaring unto you, that you may have fellowship with us: and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1Jn 1:4 And these things we're writing unto you, so that your joy may be full.

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we've heard of him, and we're declaring unto you, God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 And if you say you have fellowship with him, and you walk in darkness, we're lying, we're not doing the truth:

1Jn 1:7 But if you're walking in the light, as God is light, then you're having fellowship with one another, and the blood, the death of the Son of God, is cleansing us from sin.

1Jn 1:8 So if we say that we have no sin recorded on our conscience, we're deceiving ourselves, and the truth isn't in us.

1Jn 1:9 But if we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to dismiss it, and then he will cleanse you from the iniquity that caused it.

You see, that is Psalm 32. *Blessed is he whom the Lord will not impute sin.* Again, if you will confess your sin, he will dismiss it, and then he'll cleanse you from all iniquity. Now I just want to read some eternal life verses, and I wasn't planning on taking a long time to do this podcast. I thought, well, you know, this is pretty simple. But as I read these verses, it began to be profound. For instance, let me read one to you.

Jhn 6:54 Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has love; and I'll raise him up the last day.

To eat his flesh and drink his blood, I'm telling you, the bottom line is love. You don't eat his flesh or drink his blood without entering into life, eternal life, and love. If I am eating his flesh, it is showing me how to love others. That's the purpose of it: To manifest to humanity what their problem is, and allow you to forgive yourself and allow you to forgive others.

Eternal life, I believe with all my heart, you'll have eternal life because you're walking in love. For them to say "Well, we're telling you about it, we're going to tell you about it and explain eternal life too, we're going to show it to you" ... Well, how do you show it except in love? So in John 6:68, Simon Peter says to the Lord,

Jhn 6:68 ... Well, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

What are those words, do you think? Those were the words that would lead a person to love. Those are the words that would teach a person that God is love and how you walk in love.

Jhn 17:2 As you have given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him (that he would give you an understanding of love).

That is what the man was called to do. He is the anointed of God to teach you how to walk in love. Here is one of my favorites, John 17:3.

Jhn 17:3 This is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God (and by the way, God is love) and that you would know Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

See, this is life eternal. This is life eternal... this is how you walk in love. You've got to know the Father, and then you know Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is the one who portrayed the knowledge of God on the cross. You do this, you have love.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but God's gift to you is love.

If you walk in love, you won't see death. Now, he can give you eternal life, but see, is that something you're waiting for him to give you, and it all happens at the end? Oh, you get eternal life. No, *the wages of sin is death*. God gives you something that you don't walk in death. You all can love.

1Tm 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on love (eternal life), whereunto you're called, and you have professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Of course, to fight the good fight, lay hold on eternal life. Why do you lay hold of eternal life? It's love. You know, the more I read this, the more sense it makes, because I know again love is the bottom line. This is really what the book of Revelation is about: That a group of people who find the love of God, they find it for themselves, and they find it to give to others. They find it to share.

Tit 3:7 Being justified by his grace (his long-suffering and patience), so that we should be made heirs according to the hope of love.

You know that's true. Again, how are you going to show anybody eternal life, except you show them the life of God? *This is life eternal, that they might know you, the only true God, and Jesus*, because Jesus is the one who portrayed it for you.

1Jn 3:15 Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know no murderer has love (eternal life) abiding in him.

King James, "eternal life." It is eternal life. Again, I'm realizing maybe I'm seeing another idiom that the whole ballgame, the whole shooting match is to walk in love. That's everything. We want to possess love, and I know I'm preaching to the choir. I think the people who listen to these podcasts are on top of it. I think you're understanding, and I thank God that he has people on this planet who are understanding to walk in love.

1Jn 5:11 This is the record. (Here's the witness.) God has given us love, and this love is in his Son.

That's a true statement. I don't even have to defend that. That's a true statement.

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have love, and you may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Anything God does for you, it's love.

1Jn 5:20 We know the Son of God has come. He has given us an understanding that we may know him that is true, that we are in him that is true, we are even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and love.

Jude 1:21...

Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, until your love is perfected.

So actually, as I thought through this, I thought, "Well, you don't need to record this. Maybe you shouldn't even do a recording this week." But hopefully, somehow, through these words, somebody understands the importance of love and the power of love. See, there is a power and authority that happens because if you're seeking love, then you will love God by loving your neighbor. If you're seeking love, you will have a reason to want to apply the cross to your life, and in so doing, you're going to be showing love to everyone around you.

Again, the gospel is going to be preached for a witness to all nations. When I thought about Exodus 34, where the glory of God is declared, he declares the name, and he says, "*gracious, merciful, longsuffering.*" He is declaring love. Love is the name of God. That is who he is. He says in there, "*I will lift up iniquity, rebellion, and sin.*" So this is what he wants to do for the whole world. *God would have all men be saved*, but he knows they're not going to do it, but he would have all men be saved (1Ti 2:4).

So here at the end, he has a group of people who understand love, and they're being tested because they're going to go preach the gospel. The gospel will cause a tribulation, and that tribulation is happening because you are having some success in sharing the truth. In so doing, you are put in a position, as love is defined in Exodus 34, part of it being *lifting up iniquity, rebellion, and sin...* that is exactly what you're doing to the world. You're trying to lift up your iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

You are walking in love to blow the trumpets, to sound the trumpets, prepare these people for what's getting ready to happen... as mankind grows in anger, in resentment, and bitterness. As mankind grows in their adversity, you are loving them, trying to lift up iniquity, rebellion, and sin. God has called you to do this. So you will need to remain in a place where you are showing them eternal life. "*This is life eternal, that they might know you, the only true and living God, and me*" (Jesus-Jhn 17:3). Why me? "*Because I'm portraying your understanding on the cross.*"

Life is in the Son. Why? Well, he portrayed God's understanding on the cross. It's very simple. Eternal life is love, and on the cross, Jesus showed you how to do it. He showed us love, the life of the Word, concerning the life of the Word of God. The Word was in the mind of God. He was a thought that became flesh. It was God's way of devising a way to teach us to receive his understanding of us so that we could walk in love like him.

Praise God. Walk in love, understand that eternal life is love, and if you're not loving, you don't have life. It's really that simple. We want to have the Father, we want to have the Son, we want to possess the Holy Spirit. We want to manifest to the world the love of God. We want to manifest what we have seen. We want to manifest what we have heard. We want to show them eternal life. Again, there is only one way to do it, and that is through love.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, there is nothing like serving you. I pray that somehow the words spoken find their way into our inner man and that we manifest your Holy Spirit and that you are glorified, in Jesus' name. Amen.