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Episode 68 - Unveiling the Mystery of God's Love: Tribulation

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Join Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries as he delves into the profound teachings of the Book of Revelation, exploring the core question of belief: Is understanding the cross and receiving the Holy Spirit possible without recognizing Jesus as the Son of God?

Discover the profound insights from 1 John 4, where love is the cornerstone of knowing God, and understanding the significance of Jesus' sacrifice is vital to experiencing God's love in its fullness. Scott explores the implications of perceiving the cross as the manifestation of humanity's soul and discusses the pivotal role of belief in Jesus as the only begotten Son of God.

This episode challenges listeners to reflect on their faith, the reality of the Trinity, and the necessity of possessing the Holy Spirit to truly walk in love. As Scott reads through Daniel and Matthew, he uncovers the spiritual battle against misconceptions and emphasizes the importance of discernment in distinguishing doctrines of truth from falsehoods.

Prepare for an enlightening exploration into the heart of Christian doctrine and emerge with a deeper understanding of loving God by loving others, as guided by the truths revealed on the cross.

Modified Transcript:

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

This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries searching the deep things of God in the Book of Revelation. I had to ask myself a question after that last podcast. Is it possible to understand the meaning of the cross, receiving the Holy Spirit without believing Jesus is the Son of God? Do you have to believe Jesus was born in eternity to understand what happened on the cross? Well, I want to read to you from 1 John 4. This was an answer for me. This may not answer that question for you, but in 1 John 4, I want to start reading at verse 7.

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God, and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. (Now I want you to think about that for a second because if you're walking in love, you have to know God- you have to know him.)

1Jn 4:8 He that is loving not doesn't know God because, you see, God is love.

1Jn 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God. (Now you've got to know God to walk in love.) In this was manifested the love of God toward us. God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

That is a characteristic of God that we have to believe. You have to believe Jesus is the Son of God if you're going to know God, because this is what God did. He sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might have life. That is what he did. So, you have to believe that he was the Son of God.

1Jn 4:10 In this is love. It isn't that we love God, but he loved us, and he sent his Son to be an act of mercy for our sins.

Now, that act of mercy was the cross, and it's through the cross that God reveals the soul of humanity. So, if you don't see Jesus as the Son of God, then you're missing one

of the main characteristics of the love of God. He loves you so much, he gave you his Son.

1Jn 4:11 If God loved us like that, we ought also to love one another.

Again, see, there's your motivation to walk in love. Remember the two commandments: To love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. But Galatians 5:14 says that the whole law is fulfilled in loving your neighbor, and what he is saying is, if I am going to show love toward God, I'm going to love my neighbor. Well, how much love toward God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength will I love my neighbor?

That's what he's saying. If you're going to love God, you've got to love your neighbor, and you're supposed to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. So, if *God loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son to give us life, we ought also to love one another*. See, there's your motivation for receiving the Holy Spirit so that we can love one another the way God has loved us. You manifest love toward God when you love one another.

1Jn 4:12 No man has seen God at any time. If we're loving each other, then God remains in us, and his love is made complete. (James 2:22- Your works perfect your faith. Your faith ... you're taught to love God and love your neighbor. Well, your works will perfect that.)

1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we remain in God, and he is in us. (How?) It's through his Spirit.

He's given us his spirit through the cross, by understanding the cross. This is how we know we remain in him- he's given us his spirit. So, we don't simply believe Jesus died on the cross. We believe **we** died on the cross with him, and he was manifesting the soul of humanity on that cross... showing us iniquity and what iniquity does to us and how to overcome it.

1Jn 4:14 We have seen and we do testify, the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (not to pay a sin debt, but to be able to give you his spirit, which will help you, cause you to walk in love toward your neighbor.)

1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess Jesus is the Son of God, well, God will remain in him, and he in God.

1Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has toward us.

What? Verse 9: *The love God has toward us is that he gave his only begotten Son that we might live through him.* Again, verse 16.

1Jn 4:16 We've known and believed the love God has toward us. God is love, and he that remains in love is remaining in God,

... And God is in him through his spirit, because you're not going to remain in love without his spirit. Your motivation for possessing that spirit is because God so loved you. He gave his only begotten Son so that you could have life, so that you could walk in love.

1Jn 4:17 Herein is our love made complete. (How? We've known and believed the love God has toward us, that God is love, and he that remains in love remains in God.) In this is our love made complete, that we have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

In other words, we believe God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son, and we believe on the cross Christ revealed our soul... not just us, but the soul of every person on this planet. He has given us an understanding... If we want to love God, we are going to love each other because we love God, and that's how we love him. That's how you show love. As we love each other, it will complete or perfect our faith.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love. A completed love casts out fear. (How do I complete it? By walking in love toward my neighbor.) A completed love will cast out fear. You see, fear has torment. (People who live in fear do not have a completed love. You complete it by living it.)

1Jn 4:19 We love him because he first loved us (the same thing he said in verse 10).

1Jn 4:20 If a man says I love God and hates his brother, he's a liar. (This is basically Galatians 5:14.) If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he's a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

The very fact that you're loving each other shows that you love God. That is your motivation to love people, to show that you love God.

1Jn 4:21 And this commandment we have from him, That he who loves God loves his brother too.

The very foundation of our love is the fact that Jesus Christ really is the Son of God, and in 1 Corinthians 3:11,

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

There isn't another foundation for us. Now I want to ask you to turn to Daniel, chapter 8, and we're going to look at the spirit of antichrist in this verse that we're going to read. Daniel 8, I want to start reading verse 10.

Dan 8:10 It waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and cast down some of the host and stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. (That is the truth being cast down.)

Dan 8:11 He magnified himself even to the prince of the host (which we know is Christ), and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

When we look at this word "daily," there were four things that were daily: The shewbread (Exodus 25:30), the lamps, the candlesticks, or the lampstands (Exodus 27:20), two lambs (Exodus 29:38), and the incense (Exodus 30:8). When he says he takes away the daily, I have learned to apply that to the daily bread, to the shewbread. The shewbread was a symbol of the scriptures. It's in the scriptures that we understand Christ to say his broken body is the bread.

The broken body... now think about it. The broken body is an expression of humanity on the cross. That is the Holy Spirit. When he says in Matthew, "*Give us this day our daily bread,*" that means you are to take up your cross daily and follow him. Paul says, "*I die daily.*" You do that by remembering Christ on that cross. You're eating that bread daily. So here in Daniel 8:11, *He magnifies himself to the prince, and the daily is taken away, and the place of his sanctuary is cast down.* Well, that word "place" is the word

"foundation." The daily, or the Holy Spirit, is taken away, and the foundation of the sanctuary is cast down. We know, of course, the foundation is Christ; it is the Son of God. He is the foundation. So, I want you to compare this with Daniel 11:31.

Dan 11:31 Arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and take away the daily. (The word "sacrifice," of course, isn't there.) They'll take away the daily and place the abomination that makes desolate.

The "abomination that makes desolate" replaces the Holy Spirit. The abomination of desolation is the Trinity. By taking away your daily and destroying the foundation- they do that with the Trinity doctrine. In that Trinity doctrine, you lose sight of the love of the Father. See, this is your motivation to walk in love. He first loved us. How? He gave us his only begotten Son so that we could have life, and if he isn't the only begotten Son, then God didn't give you anything. His friend came and died- they've been together forever. God gave you nothing. But the reality of it is, the fact that God gave you his only begotten Son that you might have life, is your foundation. So now turn with me to Luke chapter 21. In Luke 21, verse 20,

Luk 21:20 When you see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation of it is nigh.

We know Jerusalem is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, New Jerusalem, and he is speaking about New Jerusalem here. He's taking it from Zechariah 14:2, but I want you to see what he says.

Luk 21:20 When you see Jerusalem compassed with armies, know the desolation of it is nigh.

Luk 21:21 Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains...

Now, just turn to Matthew 24:14.

Mat 24:14 The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mat 24:15 When you therefore see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet...

Mat 24:16 Let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains.

See, what you're reading in Luke 21 is exactly the same thing you're reading in Matthew 14, except in Luke 21, he doesn't say the gospel will be preached, but he does imply it when he says Jerusalem will be compassed with armies. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Christ will be preached. The gospel will be preached. If it isn't, they will never surround Jerusalem with armies. The only reason Jerusalem will be compassed with armies is because the gospel is being preached. So, again, in Matthew 24:14,

Mat 24:14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.

Mat 24:15 When you, therefore, (see the Trinity replacing the Holy Spirit) ... Again, when you, therefore, see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand.)

You'll see Jerusalem compassed with armies, and you'll understand that the Trinity has replaced not only the Son of God but the Holy Spirit also. He will replace your daily bread and take away your foundation with the abomination that leaves you desolate, the Trinity. When you understand that this has happened,

Mat 24:16 Then let them which are in Judea (Judea is Mount Zion. Mount Zion is the church, Psalm 78:68) ... let those in Judea flee to the mountains (or the doctrines of truth.)

So when you come to realize the Trinity has replaced the Son of God, as the Son and as the Spirit, remember what we were reading in Revelation- *Antipas, my faithful martyr*. They only attack Jesus in that Trinity. Not the Father, Jesus: He isn't the Son of God. He isn't the Holy Spirit. When you recognize this is going on, flee to the mountains. Go to those doctrinal truths that you know, that you can stand on, that you know refute the Trinity because you want to walk in love. *We love him because he first loved us and sent his only begotten Son so that we might have life*. By walking in love, you're going to perfect or complete your love.

Mat 24:17 Let them on the housetop not come down to take anything out of their house.

Now, I had to debate with myself how much of this I would cover. I thought, you know, just go ahead and do it. If the study turns out to be long, then so be it. So, I want you to look at Psalms 102. Psalms 102, I've looked at as Christ. For instance, verse 5,

Psa 102:5 By reason of the voice of my groaning, my bones cleave to my skin. (I just had this picture of Christ on the cross, but I want you to see what he says.)

Psa 102:6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness...

If you look up the word "pelican," [6893], you're going to discover it means "vomit." I think of Isaiah 28, "*All tables are full of vomit.*" They're just simply regurgitating what they've been taught. He says,

Psa 102:6 I am like vomit in the wilderness. (The wilderness of people- they don't understand. They're not in the Promised Land. This is speaking of the universal church.) He says, I'm like an owl of the desert. (That word "owl" is the word "cup," and "experience." I'm like an experience of the desert. Again, people who don't know God.)

Psa 102:7 I watch. I am as a bird alone upon the house top.

What does he mean by that? Jeremiah 19:13.

Jer 19:13 And the houses of Jerusalem, the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and they have poured out drink offerings to other gods. (Where? On their roofs, as they would worship.)

Jer 32:29 The Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.

So, when I look at Psalm 102, "*I am like a bird alone on the housetop,*" how many times have I looked up and seen a bird on a wire sitting by itself, the loneliness it gives? He says, "*I am I'm like vomit in the wilderness. I'm an experience in the desert. I am alone on that housetop. They are worshipping false gods. The true Christ is not understood.*" So, when he says in Matthew 24:17,

Mat 24:17 Let him which is on the housetop... don't come down and take anything out of your house.

Because if that is what Christ has been to you, and someone gives you a message-remember, the gospel is preached, and he is speaking to people who are going to hear the gospel, who understand for the first time, the Trinity is an abomination. With these people who were worshiping on the housetop, *"Don't take anything out of your house. You haven't understood anything. Flee."*

Mat 24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. (No garments that you're wearing are going to be accurate. You want the wedding garment.)

Mat 24:19 Woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Two things. In Revelation 12:1-2, you see the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of 12 stars. She's with child, *prevailing in birth and pain to be delivered*. We've talked about this. Paul says, *"I travail in birth until Christ be formed in you,"* Galatians 4:19. To be with child is to be helping another person. You're trying to help another person see the truth. Now, what we're getting ready to read here connects together. *Pray that you're not with child or that you give suck in those days.*

Heb 5:13 Everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Heb 5:14 Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who, because of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I can read that and say he's talking about overcoming sin, but he isn't. He's talking about the doctrines. See, when he says, *"You're able to discern good and evil,"* it doesn't mean you can discern, should I steal that or not steal that? The good and evil he's talking about is the truth. If you're a babe drinking milk and you're not able to eat the strong doctrinal truths that God is giving, then you're going to have trouble distinguishing the doctrines of what is true and what is a lie.

Remember what you're reading in Matthew 24... the gospel is being preached. You're going to see that they have replaced the Son of God and the Holy Spirit with the Trinity.

If you are trying to help another person see the truth, or if you are that other person still drinking milk, "*Woe be unto you.*" Why? Why would that be a woe? Verse 20, Matthew 24.

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight (into the mountains, your flight away from that lie) ... pray that your flight is not in the winter or on the Sabbath day.

What is "the winter"? When you look at the feast days, there are seven feasts. You come to the seventh, and you wait five months before you go back to the first feast again. Those "five months" are "the winter." If I go back to the Old Testament to look at this word "winter," the Strong's number is [2779]. Listen to the meaning of this: "To pierce, to taunt, a piercing." If I look at this in the New Testament, it's interesting to me that Acts 27:20 uses the same word, but they don't call it winter.

Act 27:20 When neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us...

The word "tempest" is winter in Matthew 24. In other words, there is coming a taunting, a piercing with words that is going to come from the people who have replaced your daily. Pray that your flight isn't in this taunting, in this time... in this winter time that is five months. You see the taunting in Revelation, chapter 9, when you see the bottomless pit opened. These are the arguments against the trumpets. These are the locusts. It says in Revelation 9:5 that they torment men for five months.

Now, just bear with me. Five months is a hundred and fifty days. A hundred and fifty days is the length of time the ark floated on the iniquity of men, on the flood. A hundred and fifty days- five months. What happened at the end of one hundred and fifty days? The boat settles, and God gives them the sign of the rainbow. The rainbow is a promise that he will never allow iniquity to cover your earth again. It's only for those who believe. Well, if I see the five months or the hundred and fifty days in Revelation 9, in Revelation 10:1, you see what?

Rev 10:1 A mighty angel comes down from the heavens clothed with a cloud and a rainbow. (Here is your rainbow. What is the cloud? It's the church. This is Christ in the

church. He has the sign of the rainbow- no more iniquity. We're going to get rid of this iniquity.) His face is as the sun. His feet as pillars of fire.

Consider your hands and feet, you have fingers and toes. In the Old Testament, fingers and toes are the same word, and fingers and toes represent faith. My hands without fingers, my faith without works is dead. Why my toes? Because my toes keep me balanced as I walk in the way of God. His feet are fire. Through the church, he is cleansing these people who have come into the truth. He is healing those who have heard the trumpets and have come into the church, taking us back to Matthew 24.

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight is not in those winter months (the taunting, the piercing), neither on the Sabbath day.

The Sabbath is the symbol of rest. If you're not trying to come out of it until the Sabbath, it's too late because God's people will have entered into their rest. But let's just keep connecting this.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation...

What tribulation? It's the winter months. It's the piercing. It's the torment that they are going to give you. What difference does it make? Again, look at what he's saying in this whole thing. If you are not able to discern righteousness, if you are drinking milk, pray that your flight is not in this tribulation time. Pray that your flight is not in this piercing time when they are going to come against the church. There's never been a time like this, he says.

Mar 24:22 Except those days are shortened, no flesh will be saved.

What he is saying there... We're going to make "the flesh" spiritual. "The flesh" is "fleshly understanding." During this piercing and the coming against truth, nobody's flesh or iniquity, fleshly thinking, will be healed. King James put the word "saved." Save's a good word, but it means "healed, to be healed." You want to be healed.

Mat 24:22 ... But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.

The elect are the people that God knows are coming into the truth. If you give them a chance, they will see it, and they will be redeemed from all iniquity. Again, I just want to say this one more time. When a person recognizes the falsehood of the Trinity, when they see that truth, if they are drinking milk, the antagonism that's going to come against the church, (who is the last day church, the last generation church who's trying to help them see the truth) ... the piercing that will come on the last generation church is probably going to be such a great influence that people who drink milk are not going to be able to deal with it and remain faithful to the truth. And that's what he means.

Pray that your flight away from that lie, into the mountains, into the truth, is not in those winter months where the locusts are coming at you or all of this is happening, because there's going to be great tribulation, great distress, great affliction on the church. It's never been like this before on the church. If God doesn't shorten the time, no one's iniquity is going to be healed of these babes, of these people trying to find the truth. What does he mean, he's going to shorten the time? Well, bear with me.

I can remember a day when a movie came out, and it was called The Da Vinci Code. In this Da Vinci Code, if you haven't seen it or if you haven't heard of it, basically, Leonardo da Vinci, who painted The Last Supper, they're claiming put a code in that painting, believing that Mary Magdalene had sex with Christ and they had a child. That is what The Da Vinci Code, what the movie was about.

Well, when that movie came out, when I watched some of these television evangelists, for the longest time, this was all they could talk about, how demonic it was. They were pounding the pulpit, telling their church, don't go see this movie. Oh, this is demonic. This is not of God. Satan has put this up. I couldn't believe how hard they came against it. Well, today, you can turn on that movie and watch it all day long if you want to. Why? They're not afraid it's going to influence anybody anymore.

How does God shorten this time where the worldly church is coming against the truth? They will reach a point where they will feel like the last generation church is no longer influencing their people. It's interesting when you read this. He says, again in Matthew 24:22,

Mat 24:22 Except those days are shortened, no flesh (no iniquity), will be healed. But for the elect's sake (those whom God has chosen), those days will be shortened. (Now what?)

Mat 24:23 Then if any man will say, lo, here's Christ or there, don't believe it.

See, the world is still going on. The churches are still there. Nobody's been killed and destroyed. All of this is spiritual. When they reach a point where they don't feel like their people are being influenced, they're going to back off. What you read here, though, as you continue reading this, is that they have no light. Their sun, moon, and stars have no light anymore. They've backed off from their piercing and attacking the truth, but they have no light. Why? Because they've rejected the gospel.

The gospel's going to be preached. Listen. If you're sucking milk, if you're a milk drinker, watch out. It's going to be hard for you to retain the truth with all that's going to happen when they see that maybe you're turning your back on the Trinity. Maybe you are recognizing that Jesus really is the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit is a picture of what happened on the cross. They will come hard against that.

For you and me, people who are in this church, we have time to get this down in our hearts and be able to see the verses and explain them to somebody who needs our help. When the universal church is coming hard against the truth, we need to be able to share the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and lead someone to the Son of God, that they might receive the Holy Spirit... I should say, be able to baptize someone into the name of Jesus, that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 24 is not a complete, total destruction of this planet. It is an attack on God's church, which is teaching the truth, and the warning is for people who don't know their Bible well enough to sustain the winter months, to sustain the locusts coming out of the pit. The world will continue to go on. When all of this is going on, it's quite possible that, like my next-door neighbors, my neighbors won't even know it's even happening. They're not church people. They don't care. They don't listen to anything like that.

But it's the church world that's going to be turned upside down, and when we lose our influence on their church, it's all going to come to a stop. These babes who come into

the church (Revelation 10), the church will help them overcome their iniquity before God sends them to Jacob. It really is that simple.

By our literal interpretations, we have made this more difficult than it is. I'm not saying the tribulation isn't difficult. It will be. But you can help yourself by getting this truth down and understanding it so you can help another person, so that you yourself are not deceived by it.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we love you. And what can I say but thank you for the warning. May you be blessed in Jesus' name. Amen.