

# **SINGLE ALLIANCE**

## **The Greater One**

### **One Greater Than Our Heart**

#### **I. Introduction**

- A. Last week we saw the Jesus is greater than the temple and the priesthood
- B. This week we will look at the fourth place in the NT that states that the Lord is greater than someone or something
- C. **1 John 3:20**-When our heart condemns us, God is greater than our hearts

#### **II. The Story of Two Trees**

- A. To understand what 1 John is saying we need to understand what the Bible is really about. Many know things **about** the Bible, without really knowing what the Bible is **about**.
- B. You can boil down what the Bible in one sentence. **It is about the story of two trees.**
- C. **Gen. 2:9**
  - 1. **Tree of life- The trusting tree/ the truth**
    - a. This speaks of union with God in which He expresses His life and nature through us
  - 2. **Tree of the knowledge of good and evil- The trying tree/ the lie**
    - b. This speaks of trying to do good and avoid evil in order to be more like God
- D. The Old Testament is the record of mankind being stuck in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and not being able to deliver Himself or become any more like God. Actually they grew worse! Many Christians are still stuck in this tree fighting fig leaves!
- E. To show man he was in the wrong tree God gave 613 commands of good things to do and bad things to avoid. By the time Jesus showed up the Jewish nation was gasping for breath under the load of the law and condemnation.
- F. The Law is a list of do's and don'ts that you must do to try to be more like God. If you are trying to change yourself to be godlier [like God] then you are stuck in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Many people are trying to change and asking God to help them. God does not answer this prayer. His salvation is of grace, not a mixture of your effort and His work.

G. Jesus came and fulfilled the law for us. He died on a tree. Through this tree we receive the very life and nature of God inside of us.

H. We need to learn a new way of living. It is found in **Galatians 2:20**. Jesus is loving us and giving himself to us. Our part is to trust Him to impart His nature through us. This is called fruit bearing.

I. Instead of trying to change yourself, you can allow Christ to transform you from the inside out.

J. Righteousness is not a thing or a state of being. It is a person who wants to live through you.

1. **Romans 10:1-5**- Righteousness under the Law was merely written about. It was only described but not experienced. Righteousness of faith speaks- It is a person- Jesus. Jesus desires to manifest righteousness in you and through you!

### III. The Fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

A. Fruit of the wrong tree- Guilt, condemnation, depression, and death- If we are experiencing this we can know we are stuck in this tree. **Prov. 14:12**- There seems a way that is right to a man, but the end of it is death.

B. Ignorance of righteousness and condemnation hold people in bondage to sin.

C. Before the life of Christ will flow through you, you must get rid of condemnation- **Romans 8:1-2**

D. **Hebrews 12:1**- You must lay aside every weight before you can lay aside the sin- The law and condemnation are weights that must be laid aside before victory over sin is found.

E. The Tree of the knowledge of good and evil is **THE LIE**. The Tree of Life and union with Christ producing the Christian life is **THE TRUTH- John 8:32**

F. A revelation of righteousness in you will break the power of unrighteousness. The word addiction comes from the Greek word **adikia**. This word is the word translated throughout the NT as unrighteousness. Those bound to addictions have not learned to draw from the righteousness in their inner man, which is the very life and nature of Christ Himself.

G. It is our own heart that condemns us when we fail. God is greater than our heart. He knows all things. He knows what Jesus did to forgive you and make you righteous, even if you don't. God is not the one who is condemning you. Receive His forgiveness and trust in the tree of life!

H. Pray