

A True Testimony (I John 5:6-12)

Introduction:

1. The message that the apostle John has conveyed throughout his letters as well as the Gospel account that bears his name could not have been made any more clear and direct; and that is the fact that Jesus Christ is the focal point of all of what he writes and all of what the Scriptures testify.
 - The story of _____ is told throughout the Scriptures and everything points to Jesus as:
 - 1) The promised _____
 - 2) The Promised _____
 - 3) The promised _____
 - 4) The promised _____
 - In this portion of our study John writes; “And the testimony is this, that God has given us **eternal life**, and **this life is in His Son**. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son does not have the life” (I John 5:11-12)
 - In the Gospel account John writes; “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **but these have been written so that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30-31)

2. There is an _____ view and plenty of false testimony about Christ of which John pulls no punches on refuting as error throughout his letter:

- “Who is **the liar** but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also” (I John 2:22-23)
- “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come into the flesh is from God**; and **every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God**; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that is coming, and now is already in the world” (I John 4:1-3)

3. One genuine source from which we can obtain an accurate testimony about Jesus Christ is from the _____ who is Jesus Christ – who is God incarnate (in the flesh)!

- “What was **from the beginning**, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the **Word of Life** – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the **eternal life** which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you to may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write so that our joy may be full” (I John 1:1-4)
- “In the beginning was the **Word** and the **Word** was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.....and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-2, 14)
- Jesus declared these words to the Jewish religious leaders; “but the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John (the Baptist), for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish – **the very works that I do testify about Me**, and the Father has sent Me.....you search **the Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; **it is these that testify about Me**; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life” (John 5:36, 39-40)

A Testimony that is Clear (I John 5:6-8)

1. John's start out verse 6 by saying; **"This is the One"** (*Houtos*), which makes the point that Jesus Christ is _____ in that He is the _____ of faith and there is no other!!
 - It is He who became flesh (God incarnate) and came into the world (Immanuel – God with us) to save us from our sins. (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35, John 1:14)
 - John the Baptist declared; **"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"**. (John 1:29)
 - John went on to testify; **"I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. I myself have seen, and testify that this is the Son of God"** (John 1:32-34)
 - In Matthew's account we have the testimony of God; **"After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said; this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"** (Matthew 3:16-17)
 - Nathanael (one of the 12 disciples) said this about Jesus; **"Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel"** (John 1:49)
 - When Jesus asked the disciples; **"But who do you say that I am? Peter responded with these words; "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"** (Matthew 16:16-17)
 - Peter makes this further claim about Jesus to the religious leaders; **"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12)
 - Paul writes; **"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** Philippians 2:9-11)

2. It is no accident that John uses the phrase; “This is the One who came by **water** and **blood**, Jesus Christ, not with water only, but with water and with blood” (I John 5:6a)

- These two words reference two significant events that “bracketed” the Lord’s earthly ministry and in both events the _____ of God is recorded as to His Son.

1) The _____ most likely represents the _____ of Jesus; “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, **a voice out of the heavens said; this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased**” (Matthew 3:16-17)

2) The _____ most likely represent _____ on the cross, and the events surrounding His death (i.e. the earth shook, the rocks split open, the tombs were opened and the saints were resurrected, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom) provided a clear testimony that God accepted the sacrifice of His Son. This testimony was so powerful that it caused one of the Roman centurion’s to declare; “**Truly this was the Son of God**” (Matthew 27:54)

- There was a **heresy** being floated around during the time of John in which some concluded that the Divine Christ descended on Jesus at His baptism but left Him before His crucifixion.

1) The main culprit behind this heresy was a man name **Cerinthus** and his intent was to “**lessen**” the value of the crucifixion and as such remove its purpose and continue to foster the denial of the resurrection.

2) What sort of problems can you see with this heresy?

3) In what ways do you see this error being promoted in some of the modern cults and modern religious teachings?

- John's emphasis; **"This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with water only, but with water and with blood"** (I John 5:6a) was no accident:
 - 1) This was a declaration that in both instances (the baptism of Christ as well as His death), the testimony of God was clear that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - 2) If Jesus did not possess His divine nature on the cross (as the heresy of Cerinthus claimed) then there is no way He could have conquered sin and death and the payment for our sins would remain un-paid. As such there would be no _____ and no _____.
 - 3) This is why Paul could write; **"He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"** (II Cor. 5:21)
- 3. A third testimony is the testimony of the _____ as John writes; **"It is the Spirit who testifies because the Spirit is the truth"** (I John 5:6b)
 - John has already established that the Holy Spirit indwells the believer (the one who confesses and follows Jesus Christ) and He is the Spirit of truth and as such is the revealer of divine truth:
 - 1) **"But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak and He will disclose to you what is to come"** (John 16:13)
 - 2) **"I will ask the Father and He will give you another, Helper, that He may be with you forever, that is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, **but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you**"** (John 14:17)
 - 3) **"This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another just as He commanded us. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in Him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us"** (I John 3:23-24)

- John re-states his point; “For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement” (I John 5:7-8)
- 1) The testimony of the Spirit is witnessed throughout the life and ministry of Christ and that testimony is in full agreement that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and the “Lamb of God who comes to take away the sin of the world”. In other words the testimony of the Spirit was evidenced by the **historical realities** (His baptism and His death on the cross) as seen throughout the life of Christ and they are _____.
 - 2) The _____ (the baptism of Christ) and the _____ (the death of Christ) are historical facts that are unable to be disputed.
 - 3) The conclusion by John is that _____ (the Spirit, the water and the blood) and what they agree on is that a **single divine person**, Jesus Christ, was involved in these events.
- This statement argues against the heresy of Cerinthus as well as all heresies that attempt to _____, _____ or _____ the humanity or deity of Jesus Christ.
4. Just a little side note - some English versions (KJV, NKJV) add/insert the following language between verse 7 and verse 8; “in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth”.
- This insertion appears to have been added sometime in the Middle Ages and can only be found in 8 manuscripts dated around that time. It is absent from all other earlier Greek manuscripts and therefore concluded by most scholars to **not** be a part of the inspired text.
 - The assumption is made that the reason it was inserted was to be used as proof of the Trinity. We can safely conclude that the proof of the Trinity does not rest on this passage as there are multiple evidences of the Trinity (The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) woven throughout the whole of the Scriptures. **It is probably safer to agree that its 16th century insertion into the English Bible was unnecessary.**

A Testimony that is Concise and Compelling (I John 5:9-12)

1. In this passage; John presents one of the most concise and compelling testimonies as to the _____ of Christ's death on the cross and the _____ of God over the lives of each and every person.

- The _____ of this **testimony** as seen through the **water**, the **blood** and the **Spirit**; is intended to cause unbelievers to recognize their need for God's plan of _____ that is found only through Jesus Christ.

- 1) **"If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. **And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son**. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life". (I John 5:9-12)**
- 2) This testimony by God ought to be accepted based on the fact that He is God
- 3) The reason that John makes a distinction between the testimony of men and the testimony of God is that false teachers had a _____ purpose which was to deceive people into thinking that they really do not have eternal life through the Son of God (I John 2:25-26). The false teachers (due to their denial of Christ) were at enmity with God and therefore John is showing that they are in error because their testimony conflicts with God's testimony.
- 4) The "**eternal life**" that John is speaking of involves much more than just our future destiny of living forever with God. It is "**the life**" that begins the moment we embrace and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and continues forever! (See Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:7, John 10:25-30)
- 5) This "**life**" is found only in Jesus Christ and only those who believe in Jesus can possess it. It was Jesus who said; **"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me"** (John 14:6)

- Perhaps nothing is more compelling than the testimony of the _____ of God in the lives of each and every person, whether they believe in Him or not.
- 1) “If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. **And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life**”. (I John 5:9-12)
 - 2) There is just no way for a person to remain _____ on this issue and what a person chooses to do with God’s testimony as to Jesus Christ will in fact determine their _____ destiny. (Matthew 12:30)
 - 3) A person who trusts in Christ as Savior will evidence genuine and true faith in Him. That faith will provide all that is necessary to **persevere**, which reveals they belong to God; “Therefore being **justified by faith** we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope in the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance, and perseverance, proven character, and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts **through the Holy Spirit who was given to us**” (Romans 5:1-5)
 - 4) Those who deny Christ will not have this “justification by faith” and will have to stand before God on their own merits and accomplishments and because they “do not have the Son” **they will not have** “the life”. The Scriptures are clear; “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God**”. (Romans 3:21-23)
2. Another compelling passage found in the Gospel of John also sums up God’s plan of redemption; “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)

3. What John wants to make very clear to his readers is that the testimony of God is the _____.
4. All others that contradict or try to change the facts to fit/find their own way to God are in complete error and in the end will suffer the consequences of that error; “He who has the Son has life; **he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.**” (I Jn. 5:12)

Concluding Remarks:

1. The unifying theme throughout John’s letter is that Jesus Christ is the son of God and the only One through whom we can be saved. This is what he witnessed to be true and what he proclaims to be true and he begins his letter with that in mind; “What was **from the beginning**, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the **Word of Life** – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the **eternal life** which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you to may have fellowship with us; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ**. These things we write so that our joy may be full” (I John 1:1-4)
2. It is not a trivial matter to deny the **True Testimony** which has been given by God Himself:
 - “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, **a voice out of the heavens said; this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased**” (Matthew 3:16-17)
 - **To the one who embraces this truth;** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12)
 - **To the one who denies this truth;** “How will we (you) escape if we (you) neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3)