

God's Testimony **1 John 5:6-12**

INTRODUCTION: John is using a courtroom metaphor.

Biblical background: Every accusation must be supported by 2 or 3 witnesses. Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Mt 18:16
These witnesses must agree. Mk 14:55-56

GOD'S THREE WITNESSES. v.6-9

1. The testimony of the water proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God. Mt 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22

- John was referring to Jesus' water baptism: *This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.*
- John was refuting a false teaching: Jesus was a very good man—but not the Son of God.
- John was speaking about Jesus' life & ministry: His perfect life & miracles prove He is the Son of God.
- This applies to us today: If you are a Christian, then the record of Christ's perfect life is yours!

2. The testimony of the blood proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God.

- John was referring to Jesus' bloody death on the cross.
- John was refuting a false teaching: God would not participate in human suffering. Ref. Cerinthus
- John was speaking about the atonement & resurrection that only a holy, perfect Sacrifice could accomplish.
- This applies to us today: If you are a Xn, then God's wrath & judgment for your sin no longer rest on you!

3. The testimony of the Spirit proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God.

- There is an 'inward' testimony of the Spirit: God at work in our hearts and lives today (experientially).
- There is an 'outward' testimony of the Spirit (through the apostles, miracles, the written Word of God).
- This applies to us today: If you are a Christian, then the Bible is not only true history, but *your* history.

4. The validity of the testimony—these three witnesses come from God Himself. v.9

- If we receive man's testimony, the testimony of God is greater.
- Will you receive God's own testimony about His Son Jesus Christ?
- No further testimony (revelation) is coming or is needed. Heb. 1:1-2: "enough said"
 - God has spoken: Clearly...personally...and finally.

GOD'S TESTIMONY—IN US! (OR NOT) v.10-12

1. Whoever believes has God's testimony in them. v.10a What does this mean?

→ Water witness: This is my beloved son, daughter with whom I am well pleased! You are righteous in My sight.

→ Blood witness: The blood of Jesus Christ makes paid your penalty. I have forgiven you.

I am WITH you in your suffering. I won't leave you alone when things get hard.

→ Spirit witness: I am at work in you (now, today) through My Word. I am committed to you.

2. Whoever does not believe God's testimony essentially is calling God a liar! v.10b

- Reject God's testimony (Jesus is my Son; believe in Him.) and you are testifying against God.
- The problem is not with the One speaking (i.e. God Himself), it is with the one refusing to hear.
- John Stott: "Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied, it is a sin to be deplored" [accusing God of lying]

3. Whoever believes has eternal life. v.11-12

- Those who believe God's testimony about His Son receive eternal life. v.11
- Those who believe in God's testimony about His Son begin to change in this present life.
-Eternal life in *this* life. The age to come breaks into the present age. Eternal life begins when you believe.
- God says: "Know Jesus; Know Life. No Jesus; No Life." v12.