

Divine Testimony
1 John 5:6 – 12
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: We must believe God's testimony about Jesus to receive eternal life.

Introduction

when we witness about Christ to those who do not know him we put our lives on the line service speak. People may think less of us when we evangelize. Not only is Jesus put on trial sometimes we are as well. Many teachers in evangelism teaches that they are not rejecting us that rejecting Jesus. But the fact of the matter is that they are projecting both Jesus and us.

What I like about our passage today is that we can know that the person is not just hearing an argument about Christ when we witness to them. When they reject us in Christ they are also rejecting every witness that God has brought to them. While it hurts at the moment to be rejected because of our faith it will be much worse for the person who rejects us and the many witnesses that God has brought before them. Let's take a look at some of these witnesses that John gives us to see what we are to believe in.

Text – 1 John 5:6–12 (ESV)

6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **7** For there are three that testify: **8** the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. **9** If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. **10** Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. **11** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I. God's testimony gives three witnesses (vv. 6 – 9).

A The water, blood and Spirit testify about Jesus

- 1 in our last section, John has been talking about faith being the thing that overcomes the world. He makes an argument that every atheist needs to understand.
- 2 The whole Bible is a book of belief and faith and revelation. It is not a science book, a history book, or a book that focuses on any other discipline.

- 3 This is not to say that the Bible does not speak about these things or have these things within its pages, but it is about God and his son Jesus as the salvation of the world.
- 4 The Bible majors on this subject alone and minors on the other subjects. There is not a genealogy of every generation has ever lived because the Bible is not about that.
- 5 There is not an entire science of creation or historical account of every little thing that has ever taken place in the world. The Bible is about Jesus and every section bears witness of him in some way.
- 6 God himself bears witness about Jesus through three signs that he gives us. John chooses these three signs especially in his time period. These three signs dealt specifically with the false teachers in his day, the Gnostics.
- 7 He introduces the first two signs as the water in the blood. There are so many different ideas about what John refers to here, but to save time, I'm going to introduce the most commonly held understanding.
- 8 John clarifies in the next line of the verse that he does not mean just one but both sides must be taken by these false teachers. Our understanding of what John is referring to here in this passage by these two signs means that one might be accepted while another might not.
- 9 The Gnostics would regularly teach that Jesus was not actually a person in the flesh. They would be glad to accept that he was here on earth and had a spirit, but not a body.
- 10 They would regularly teach that everything Jesus said needs to be understood by a mystical secret knowledge. They would also teach that Jesus did not actually die on the cross. Nothing good could come of the flesh. Only spiritual things mattered to the Gnostic.
- 11 Most scholars understand the water and blood to be referring to the beginning and end of Jesus ministry. Thus the water refers to either his own baptism by John the Baptist or when he began his own ministry as his disciples baptize people.
- 12 The blood would refer to his blood sacrifice on the cross when he died. Thus, these two witnesses would be the book ends to Jesus' ministry, making the whole ministry a witness from God.
- 13 The Gnostics would God be okay with the blood because it is of the flesh. They did not accept the universal New Testament teaching that Jesus' blood was the sacrifice needed from a sinless human being to save the human race from sin and death.

14 The third witnesses the Spirit himself. The Holy Spirit has always testified about Jesus. The Holy Spirit points to Jesus as the truth. Thus, the Holy Spirit is part of the witness of the three.

B God's testimony is greater.

- 1 John refers to the testimony of human beings in verse nine. Then he talks about God's testimony being greater. But what is the testimony of humanity?
- 2 This could refer simply to the way that human beings refer to Jesus. No matter where you go everyone has either a positive or negative view of Jesus Christ.
- 3 Some people have a negative view of Jesus and use his name as a curse word. They don't believe in the man and especially don't believe in him as the son of God.
- 4 Others know Jesus personally because they walk with them every day. They are people who have accepted him by faith and trust in him as their sacrifice. He has become the Lord and savior of their life.
- 5 There is a lot more testimony about Jesus from humanity itself. We have disciplines such as history that can verify the places and times of Jesus. History and archaeology can give us a clear picture of his life.
- 6 Historians have written about the possibility of a man named Jesus from Nazareth. There are certain things that even these hard disciplines must accept. However, they do not accept nor can they prove or even give evidence to the rest of what we know about Jesus as believers.
- 7 John might also be referred to a rule for the case law in the Old Testament. If somebody violated the Torah, they would be put on trial. In that trial, the only witnesses or testimony that would be accepted for the death penalty had to come from two or three witnesses.
- 8 In that style and line of thinking, John gives to the three witnesses. But the third of these is God himself, in the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity. The fact that God gave these three signs or witnesses shows that this is God's testimony.
- 9 This means that God's testimony is given rather than a human beings. A person chooses to reject Jesus based on God's witnesses. It is much worse to ignore God rather than a human being.

II. God's testimony brings eternal life (vv. 10 – 12).

A We are required to believe God's testimony.

- 1 In verses 10 – 12 John switches from giving the evidence and the witnesses to Jesus' claim to divinity to explaining that anyone not believing God's testimony is not born again.

- 2 It cannot be understated that God chooses and ordains the types of witnesses that he will use to give evidence to Christ. The ability to argue the witnesses God chooses is not given to humanity.
- 3 I hear so many atheists and others told me that the evidence that I give, that the Bible gives, is not good enough. They then postulate that God could be better at giving them evidence of him.
- 4 The problem is that we are not allowed to choose what evidence will be the strongest case for us to believe. We are given the evidence that God chooses to give to us and then must make our decision. He does not make a giant menu of options for us.
- 5 It cannot be stressed enough whether by John or by anyone else that coming to faith in Christ is exactly that: faith. We do not come to God on reason alone, and science alone, on anything alone.
- 6 The Bible is not a book about anything other than revelation of God to humanity and as it's accepting factor. While faith will include things like reason science history culture, it is first of all a book that reveals God to us and expects the response to be faith.
- 7 In the end, faith is all that we have left to explain why we trust in God. While we point to lesser factors, the fact that matters most is faith. John makes the point that the witnesses we use, that God gave us, our witnesses that appeal to that very faith.
- 8 When we are further questions about why we believe in Jesus after we have given all of the lesser reasons, our only reply can be, "I just know that I know." Faith is the last step of our reasoning and it is not explainable on any one level.
- 9 Why God chose these witnesses and not others is none of our business. I believe he chooses these things based on coming to him in faith on our own rather than something that is so convincing we have to believe.
- 10 John makes it so simple for us. If someone believes in the son of God, Jesus Christ, then that witnesses born in him/her. There is no other witness but the internal witness to the believer themselves.
- 11 But if someone does not agree with these three witnesses, then they are a nonbeliever. There is no other way to explain it. God gave the witnesses he chose and if they are not agreed with, that person is not a believer.

B Eternal life is granted to those who believe.

- 1 Eternal life is been granted to everyone who believes in Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross paid for this benefit. Eternal life is not clearly understood by unbelievers were believers.

- 2 We are used to understanding physical life only. We understand time because we operate in it. We do not understand the absence of time and the presence of life simultaneously.
- 3 Eternal is not a word that was in our vocabulary before Jesus died for us. We lived on the possibility of it becoming a concept for us, but only on our terms.
- 4 We used to think of immortality as living forever in the space of time. But the kind of eternity that God has planned for us is foreign to us. The promises of the new body in time with God without time our paradoxes to us.
- 5 This other testimony about being saved are born again is hard for us to grasp because it is a testimony that we will not feel the whole evidence of until we die.
- 6 Unlike the other testimonies of the water the spirits in the blood, this testimony will only be proven to us when we enter into eternity. Unlike the other evidence, this is experiential evidence. We will not understand its full wait until we are experiencing it.
- 7 There will always be a division between believers and unbelievers when it comes to understanding God and seeking his testimonies. As Paul has written, they are clear as day to believers but completely muddy for the unbeliever.
- 8 Certain things about the faith cannot be understood from the outside. One must become a believer to understand the fullness of the testimonies. But then again, the full benefits of something are not granted to outsiders until they become insiders.

Conclusion

belief in Jesus as God's son and the faith that comes with, the testimonies and benefits that attest to its, are hard for the unbeliever to understand all by themselves. We cannot tell God what is the best witness or best evidence for him. He gets to decide what evidence will be presented. These three witnesses had been given to us by God and they testify about Jesus' humanity and divinity together as one. While this makes it extremely hard to evangelize, we can tell when someone truly understands the grace of God on their lives. Fortunately with Christianity, not all of the testimony must come from trying it out. Some of the testimony can be understood by the unbeliever, enough so that the Holy Spirit can and live in their hearts to the things of God to hear more. We must trust that the Holy Spirit is always working on the hearts of unbelievers as we speak to them about Christ's and show them these witnesses.