

1John 5:6-12

1Cor 1 – But by His (God's) doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption

1Cor 2 – For I have determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified

The apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians

Gave us the one essential for salvation

We can discuss our gifts – our wisdom and power – our great faith

How we love the body but all of the evidences of salvation

Are hinged by one thing

At its very core

Christianity is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ

Last week I asked the question – Who likes tests

I don't remember a lot of hands in the air

Today John has one more for us – the test is - Who do you say Jesus is

Jesus has said that there will be those who when they meet Him will say

Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?

In other words – We said your name when we did these things

So we must be saved

And He will respond – I never knew you. depart from Me, you workers of iniquity

When Moses went before Pharaoh

Some of the miracles he did were copied by Pharaoh's magicians

Today works are being done in the name of Jesus that aren't Christian

There is power out there – God's power and satanic power

Last week I asked – got faith – got love

But the real question that absolutely needs to be answered is – Got Jesus

John has relentlessly hammered home that a correct view of Jesus

Is essential for salvation

(READ 1:1-3 and 5:20)

Our fellowship is with God and with His Son Jesus Christ

The Son of God has come that we may know Him

You have that fellowship or you don't – you know Him or you don't

If you don't there is nothing you can do to make up for the absence

Jesus Christ is the focal point of redemptive history  
And the Father has repeatedly testified that He is the Messiah  
The Savior the Redeemer and King  
And Jesus didn't show up unannounced  
God Himself spoke of Jesus coming in the Garden of Eden  
And that prophecy was expanded and clarified throughout the OT  
Prophets gave us the precise details of His birth and life  
His betrayal by a friend and death by crucifixion was foretold  
As was His resurrection  
The reason why He would come and why He would die is all there  
There as a lead-in for a program that went – Inquiring minds want to know  
Well if you truly had an inquiring mind about the Messiah  
It's all there - written out in specific detail.  
Then in the fullness of time – God sent His Son  
When the timing was perfect – Jesus was born in Bethlehem  
And by His birth life death and resurrection  
Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies  
Since the OT Scriptures point so specifically to Jesus and to no one else  
There is no excuse for not recognizing Jesus as the Messiah – the Christ  
Jesus rebuked the Jewish leaders for their closed mind – You search the Scriptures for in them you  
think you have eternal life; it is these that testify of Me  
Then He rebuked His own disciples for their unbelief  
O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken. Was it not necessary for  
the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?  
The issue was not that the testimony of the OT was unclear  
The issue is the same now as it was - the issue is one of unbelief  
The Jewish leaders were unwilling to come to Him – they hated Him  
And Jesus didn't fit into the box His disciples had fashioned for the Messiah  
And yet all anyone had to do was study the Scriptures and there it was  
Paul elaborated on this theme – Those among you who fear God; to us the message of salvation has  
been sent. For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers recognizing neither Him, nor the utterances  
of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him.  
The very people entrusted with the interpretation of the Scriptures  
Fulfilled the Scriptures by misinterpreting them and sentenced Him to death  
In this section of His Letter, John elaborates on the theme of His Gospel  
John's Gospel was written that people might believe Jesus is the Christ And having believed they might

have life in His name

John's Gospel records the Father's witness to the deity of Christ

From a wide variety of sources

From Scripture – from John the Baptist – from the disciples – Jesus own words – Jesus works – the Holy Spirit and directly from the Father Himself

As you probably know the entire Bible is about Jesus

In the OT God called Israel to prepare a nation to receive His Son

The NT is supremely God's witness to the identity of His Son

The Gospels record the story of Jesus birth life death and resurrection

The Book of Acts describes the spread of the truth about Jesus into the world

The Epistles give us the theological meaning of Jesus life death resurrection ascension and second coming

The Book of Revelation reveals

The consummation of God's redemptive purpose in Christ

You can read any Book of the Bible and learn about Jesus

This section is all about testimony

In keeping with the Biblical principle that every fact

Be confirmed by two or three witnesses – John gives us 3 witnesses

John gives us the particulars of God's testimony

He then gives us the purpose of God's testimony

And ends with the response to God's testimony

The particulars of God's testimony (READ 6-9)

In the preceding section John had given us the joys of being an overcomer

But you might ask – why be a believer in the first place

After all His own had rejected Him

The Jews believed He was a lying deceiver –

They accused Him of leading people astray

They called Him a glutton and a drunkard

They had even accused Jesus of being demon possessed

They were circulating stories that the disciples had stolen the body

Why believe in Jesus – that of course is the question of the ages

John writes that you should believe in Jesus

Because of the infallible testimony of God Himself

This One and no other is God's Son who came into the world

And God is the One who has told us this  
You see - Jesus life did not begin when he was born  
He did not come into existence – He came into this world  
He is not a created being – He always was and He always will be  
Earlier John had written that the Son of God had appeared  
In point of fact – He was sent  
The incarnation of God’s only Son  
Is the glorious central truth of redemptive history  
And the foundation of the Christian faith  
And it is to the coming of His Son that the Father testifies  
John gives us three elements that confirm that testimony  
The water the blood and the Spirit  
There is some discussion as to the meaning of the water and the blood  
Some connect it to Jesus death when water and blood flowed from His side  
They are the witness that He died  
Some connect it to baptism and the Lord’s Supper  
But they are not the Father’s witness of the Son  
They are the believer’s witness of faith  
Actually it’s pretty straightforward  
The water is a reference to Christ’s baptism  
And the blood is a reference to His death  
Those two events bracketed the Lord’s ministry years  
And in both instances the Father testified concerning His Son  
The phrase - Not with water only, but with water and with blood  
Emphasizes an important spiritual point  
The heretics preached that  
The Father affirmed Jesus at His baptism and renounced Him at His death  
They taught that at His baptism the “Christ Spirit” descended on mere man  
And just before His death the Spirit left Him  
They believed that Jesus died as a mere man devoid of the Spirit  
Just like any teaching that denies the truth of Christ’s substitutionary death  
This was a satanic lie  
John is countering that false teaching – you see  
Jesus was born the perfect God-man lived a perfect life

And died for the sins of the world  
If He didn't there is no salvation for anyone  
All of us are dead in our sins  
At the beginning of Jesus earthly ministry He was baptized by John  
Although He was sinless it was still right for Jesus to be baptized  
By being baptized Jesus publicly identified with sinners  
Now after He came out of the water two extraordinary things happened  
First –the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus as a dove  
The manifestation of the Spirit provided visual evidence of Jesus nature  
There was visual testimony and there was verbal testimony  
Out of the heavens God spoke  
This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased  
God spoke and declared Jesus nature and position  
The baptism of Jesus is the witness of water  
John introduces a second witness – the blood representing Christ's death  
As He had at Jesus baptism the Father gave testimony to Jesus  
First in the middle of the day the sky was supernaturally darkened  
And it lasted for three hours  
Now in the movies they almost always show thick dark clouds moving in  
But that wasn't what happened  
If it was nobody would have thought a thing about it  
The Light of the world was becoming black sin and  
The sun just stopped shining  
It wasn't an eclipse – they don't last three hours  
I believe that no matter where you were on planet earth it grew dark  
Suns stars moon everything just stopped giving out their light  
Then at the moment of Jesus death the veil of the temple  
Was torn from top to bottom  
The curtain which separated the Holy of Holies from ordinary men  
Was torn miraculously  
The Father's act symbolized that Jesus sacrifice was sufficient  
The way was opened for ordinary men to come into the presence of God  
But God wasn't finished testifying  
In yet another amazing miracle

The earth shook, rocks were split in two, the tombs were opened  
And many of the saints were raised to life

So convincing was God's testimony of His Son

That a battle hardened Roman soldier who witnessed the execution

Cried out – Surely this was the Son of God

The Father testifies to the Son through water and blood

The Father testifies of the Son through the ministry of the Holy Spirit

He is the Spirit of Truth meaning that

The Holy Spirit is the source and revealer of divine truth

If you allow Him He will lead you into truth

Acts 10 - Peter to Cornelius – You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth the He is the Spirit of power

The Spirit was involved in Jesus conception and His baptism

The Spirit was there in the wilderness during the temptation and throughout His ministry

Jesus as man was reliant upon God

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for ministry

Jesus did His Father's will in the power of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said – If I alone bear witness of Myself, My witness is false. John bears witness to the truth, but the witness I receive is greater than that of John, for the works, which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who has sent Me, He has borne witness of Me.

The water the blood and the Spirit all testify as to the identity of Jesus

The three who testify are in perfect agreement

And convincingly demonstrate that Jesus is precisely who He claimed to be

Jesus is the Christ the only begotten Son of God

It is foolish to receive the testimony of men and believe every word

And then reject the testimony of God

We have the particulars of God's testimony

So let's consider the purpose of God's testimony (READ 11)

God testified through the water through the blood and through the Spirit

And the whole purpose of God's testimony

Is that sinners might receive eternal life

Now everyone is going to live forever

Some to everlasting sorrow - some to everlasting joy

When the Bible speaks of eternal life

It means that we will live to everlasting joy

And it means that we will participate in the everlasting life of Christ

Remember we are not adherents to some creed

We are in an everlasting vital living relationship with Jesus – the Son of God

Jesus defined it in His prayer in John 17

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and know Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

In the ages to come we will experience and know Jesus and the Father completely

That is eternal life

Jesus said – No one come to the Father except through Me

Peter added – There is no other name under heaven that has been among men by which we can be saved

The Jews of Jesus day were working hard to earn eternal life

And they rejected the only pathway to it

But in these last days God has spoken to us through His Son

Paul to the Corinthians – We speak God’s wisdom, the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory – nobody is that stupid

God’s wisdom comes to us by God’s power

And through His power He saves us

We have the particulars of God’s testimony

We have the purpose of God’s testimony

Let’s finish with the response to God’s testimony (READ 10,12)

Pontius Pilate asked the question – What shall I do with Jesus, who is called the Christ?

This of course is the most important question in the history of the world

It has echoed down throughout the centuries

There are only two possible responses – to believe or to reject

No one can remain neutral

Jesus said – Whoever is not with Me is against Me

What you do with Jesus determines your eternal destiny

If you are in Jesus Christ – if you are born again

John says the most incredible thing happens  
If you believe in Jesus you will have that testimony within yourself  
Saving faith in Jesus results in a lifelong hold on eternal life  
True faith perseveres  
There are two differing positions held here  
There are those who believe the saved can become unsaved  
Either through intentionally abandoning of the faith  
Or benign neglect they can lose their salvation  
The other position is that a wandering heart is evidence of not ever having been saved in the first place  
In other words once you are saved you are saved forever  
But they believe those who are saved persevere to the end  
This is important - no matter which position you hold  
They both agree that if you do not persevere in the faith  
You have no assurance of your salvation  
Now I am not talking about sinning – we all sin – you will sin  
John has already told us - if you say you have no sin you make God a liar  
You might even live in sin for an extended period  
But if you are saved  
You know the truth and you will always return to the truth  
To refuse to believe the testimony of God about His Son  
Is the exact same as calling God a liar  
Which is the most severe of all blasphemies  
God is truth and cannot lie  
He doesn't just speak the truth – he is truth  
And anything contrary to what He has declared is never true  
Rejecting God's witness about His Son is not some unfortunate occurrence  
It will not be forgotten or overlooked in the name of tolerance  
It is a heinous and damning sin and an affront to God's nature  
Those who reject the testimony of God shouldn't be comforted or reassured  
Calling God a liar is no trivial issue – eternal souls are at stake  
John ends this section with two options  
They are based upon the two possible responses to Jesus  
Those who have the Son have life  
Those without the Son do not have life

The answer to Who Jesus is and what you do with Him

Is the most important question you will ever have to answer

It is the most important test you will ever take

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall; friendless forsaken, betrayed by all

Harken, what meaneth the sudden call? What will you do with Jesus?

Jesus is standing on trial still; you can be false to Him if you will

You can be faithful through good or ill. What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be

Some day your heart will be asking; What will He do with me?