

## The testimony of God about Jesus

A testimony of a witness in a court of law is thoroughly cross examined to verify the truthfulness of their testimony. Although all witnesses take an oath of truthfulness when entering the witness stand, their testimonies still have to be verified due to the inclination of people to lie and to give partial truths. God, on the other hand, is truth. His nature is truth and he cannot lie. All that he says is true and so his testimony is always valid.

1 John 5: 6 – 13 This is the one who came by water and blood —Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### 1) The threefold testimony of God

- 1 John 5: 6 – 8 This is the one who came by water and blood —Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
- According to the law of Moses a matter is to be confirmed by two or three witnesses.
  - Deuteronomy 19: 15 One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.
- Hence, although the witness of God himself is sufficient, He has allowed three witnesses that are in agreement to bear testimony of the validity of Jesus.
- The Water
  - The water is significant of the baptism of Jesus by John, where he stated that he would be baptised to fulfil all righteousness.
  - Although John's baptism was a baptism of repentance Jesus went through is as an act of obedience to set the example for his followers who would also be commanded to be baptised and to baptise others.
  - However, Jesus' baptism was more than an act of obedience. It was an event of His Father's affirmation.
    - Matthew 3: 16 – 17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.
    - Here we see the testimony of the Father about Jesus – He is my Son, whom I love.
    - We also see the agreement between the water and the Spirit.
- The blood
  - As baptism is symbolic of our cleansing, so the blood does the actual cleansing of our hearts.
    - 1 John 1: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
  - Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil in our lives, and he did that by his blood.
    - 1 John 3: 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
    - Revelation 12: 10 – 11 Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
- The Spirit
  - We have seen that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism and Jesus was affirmed to be the Son of God.
  - Later on Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would come on the disciples and testify about Him
    - John 15: 26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father —the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.
- These are some ways that God testifies about Jesus via the Spirit, the water, and the blood.

## 2) The response to the testimony of God

- 1 John 5: 9 – 10 We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.
- We accepted human testimony about Jesus.
  - Starting off with the Apostles who Jesus said would be his witnesses when the holy Spirit came upon them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and bore testimony of Jesus from that first Pentecost after the resurrection until their deaths. They were eye witnesses of Him as they lived with Him for three and a half years.
  - After Jesus' resurrection over 500 people saw him.
  - Paul, the apostle, met him on the road to Damascus and testified of him from then on.
  - The early church, historians, and even non-believers have testified of him throughout the ages.
  - We are all believers today because we believed someone's testimony about the Lord.
- If we believed and received the hope of eternal life through someone else's testimony, then let us too be a blessing by being a testimony of his grace to others.
- If we believe human testimony about Jesus, how much more should we believe the testimony of God?
  - As we have heard human testimony has to be verified as people are prone to lie or be biased to their own opinions. However, God is not a liar that His testimony has to be verified concerning Jesus.
  - John 5: 31 – 40 If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

"You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
- Thus, accepting the truthfulness of the testimony of God by believing that Jesus is the Son of God, Saviour, and Lord glorifies God by upholding that he is a God of all truth. Truth is his very nature, and he cannot lie.
- Rejecting the testimony of God about Jesus makes God out to be a liar. This is an absolute insult to God, who cannot lie.

## 3) The result of accepting or rejecting the testimony of God

- 1 John 5: 11 – 12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
- John is very direct about the result of accepting or rejecting the testimony of God.
  - Whoever has the Son has life
  - Whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
- Once again it is very clear that eternal life is only found in Jesus, the Son of God, and nowhere else.
  - This life is in his Son
  - He doesn't give life apart from himself as he is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the resurrection and the life.
  - We find life in him – in relationship with him; in communion with him.
  - We are in him as the branch is in the vine drawing its life from the vine so we draw our very life from Him.
- If we are cut off from him our life is worthless; it withers up and dies.
- Have you accepted the testimony of God concerning his Son Jesus?
- Do you have life in him?