

THE WITNESS OF GOD

1 John 5:6-12

Intro: Let me begin this morning by asking you a question. The question is this: How you ever wondered if what we believe as Christians is really the truth? After all, we believe as Christians that the Gospel is the only true message of salvation, and that faith in Christ and His work on the Cross secures our salvation and guarantees that when we die, or when the Lord comes, we are going to be “forever with the Lord.”

These are amazing claims that we make for ourselves, and we are claiming a great deal when we encourage others to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as we have. What if this is not true?

Now this thought has crossed my mind in the past although I must go on to say that it has not bothered me enough that I have talked to others who could help strengthen my faith. I can assure you that I believe this morning that Christ is the only Savior, and that the message we have in the Bible is the truth, and that any teaching that in any way does not agree with the Bible cannot possibly be truth. There are so many different voices today claiming to have the truth which are not in agreement with the teaching of the Bible that it is extremely important for us to know that the Bible is God’s Word, and that His Word is truth.

Studying 1 John 5 has made me wonder if at this point the Apostle John was thinking about Christians who needed their faith strengthened. I mentioned to you last Sunday as we looked at the first five verses of this chapter that the Apostle John was emphasizing our faith, that is, what we believe. He mentioned faith, or believing, in verse 1, again in verse 4, and then in verse 6.

Now we all should know that there always have been people who claimed to be Christians who weren’t Christians. They may think they are because they go to church, or because they try to live good, moral, upright lives, or because their parents were Christians, or because they live in America, a so-called “Christian nation.” But they don’t pass the tests which the Apostle John has given us in this epistle, so they can’t truthfully claim to be Christians.

Now the Apostle John began by making a statement in verse 1 which is a clear statement of salvation: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the

Christ is born of God.”

Now if you let your eye run down to verse 5 you find a very similar statement expressed in slightly different words. He says that in between verse 1 and verse 5 he has been speaking of the person who believes “that Jesus is the Son of God.” Now these statements state what a true Christian believes.

I have heard people try to describe what a Christian is, and they haven't said anything about Jesus, or that He is the Christ, the Messiah, or that He is the Son of God. Believing in Jesus is more than just believing that a person lived long ago who had that name. It means that you believe the Son of God became a man to offer Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice to save sinners from their sins. And to believe in Jesus is that you are personally trusting Him to save you by His death from the eternal penalty under which you were born.

Now a person who believes in Jesus is trusting Jesus as his Savior, knowing that being “born of God,” having received life from God, He is a new creature. Salvation is not a work we do to make ourselves acceptable to God, but a work that God does in our hearts through Christ to make us acceptable to Himself. A true Christian is one who believes Who Jesus was and in why He came to earth, and that it was all for the salvation of sinners.

But how do you know if you are really *trusting Jesus Christ to save you*? Because as the Apostle John says again as he has said twice before:

- 1) You love God.
- 2) You love the people of God.
- 3) You love God's Word and obey it.
- 4) You overcome the world.

Now the point that the Apostle John is making is that the only people who can be described in these ways is a person who believes that Jesus is the Christ, and that Jesus is the Son of God. You don't find a person living like that unless he, or she, has been born of God.

That is the message of the first five verses of 1 John 5.

But beginning with verse 6 of 1 John 5, and going on to verse 12, we find that God Himself has expressed. And so we call this *The Witness of God*. And by this the Apostle John meant God's witness that Jesus Christ was

His Son. So now we come to my text for today.

The emphasis in the first five verses is on “Jesus,” as you can see in verses 1 and 5. Now “Jesus” is the Name that God gave to the child that was born to the virgin Mary. The very first chapter of the NT tells us how this came about.

Joseph and Mary were what we would say today, engaged to be married. But before they were married Joseph discovered that she was pregnant. He found this practically impossible to believe, but he had to admit that it was true. He loved her too much to make a public example out of her, and so he planned to break the engagement secretly. Just at that point the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said what we find in Matthew 1:20-25:

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

This passage explains to us how the Lord got His name, JESUS, and in verse 21 of Matthew 1 we are told what that name means: “For He shall save His people from their sins.

Now, going back to 1 John 5:6 the Apostle John spoke of the coming of the Lord into the world, and said that he “came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ.”

As we approach this section we need to keep in mind that in speaking of *the witness of God*, God’s witness has to do with the nature of Jesus of Nazareth, that being the Son of God in human flesh, born of a human mother but without a human father, He maintained His full Deity even

though he was in the flesh.

There have been a number of attempts to explain the meaning of “the water and the blood, some link it to the Lord’s Supper, others to the blood and water that came out of the Lord’s body when it was pierced with a spear. But the most accepted and most reasonable is that the water referred to the baptism of the Lord, and the blood to His sacrifice on the Cross.

Let me read to you Matthew’s account of the baptism of our Lord. You will find it in Matthew 3:13-17:

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Here we have the Father speaking from heaven, and plainly declaring that Jesus was His Son.

But notice also in this passage that the heavens were opened at that time, and the Spirit of God descended upon our Lord in the form of a dove. And so even though Matthew did not explain the water and the blood, yet in them, we have two witnesses, and Matthew cited the fact that the Holy Spirit here in our text was witnessing to the Deity of Jesus.

I am not going to deal with verse 7 because I do not believe that it was in the original text. And the same can be said of the words, “in earth,” in verse 8. No Greek MSS up to the fifth century after Christ had these words. It is believed that some scribe added these word because the three witnesses of verse 6 made him think of the Trinity. But in John 5:31 our Lord said, “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.” He meant by that that in a court of law, what a witness says about himself or about what he is done, that witness does not enter into the case. But in John 5 the Lord went on to say that John the Baptist witnessed to His Deity. Also that the works that the Lord did, witnessed to His Deity. And third

that the Scriptures confirmed that He was the Son of God.

So, as verse 8 obviously continues from verse 6, we have three witnesses to the Deity of Jesus – the water, His baptism, His blood – His death on the Cross, and the Spirit, the Author of the Bible. On two or three witnesses see Deut.17:6; 19:15; Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28. And the point is that they all three agree. Remember what the centurion said as he watched the Lord die: “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39). But we are not counting human witnesses; we are looking for *the witness of God*.

The Apostle Paul did write in Romans 1:3 and 4 concerning the Gospel of God, mentioned in Romans 1:1, but defined in Rom 1:3-4 as:

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

In verse 9 the Apostle Paul reminded us that we receive the witness of men all of the time. Should we not much more accept the testimony of God which “He hath testified of His Son”? Not to accept the testimony of God is to make Him a liar. When people reject the Deity of the Lord, this is what they are doing.

But another point that the Apostle Paul made in verse 10 about true believers is that they have the witness of God in our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God. You and I who know the Lord, know what that witness is. We believe in the Deity of the Jesus Christ because of the witness of God to our hearts, and that is what God used to draw us to Christ.

The word “record” in verses 10 and 11 is the same word which is translated “witness” earlier in verse 10.

What is the witness of God? It is given very clearly in verses 11 and 12. There can be no compromise with this. The Apostle John probably would not have a lot of trouble if he talked to them about God, but the problem would come up when he mentioned the Lord Jesus Christ. But we have the witness of God concerning His Son. Eternal life is in God’s Son. If you have Him, you have life. If you don’t have Him as your Savior, there may be a lot of good things that we can say about you, but one negative is that you do not have eternal life. You are still in your sins, and on your

way to hell. There are people, professing Christians who are saying, that we need to find point of agreement between ourselves and Muslims so we can get along with each other. But regardless of how much we might agree on, there can be no compromise concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He came to earth to do the will of the Father which was to offer Himself as the Savior of sinners. Even when our sins were charged to Him, and He was made sin for us, yet not in any way nor at any time did He ever cease to be God. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So we read in Hebrews 13:8. This is the witness of God. “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.” “For God so loved . . .”
“ Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Closing verses: The Witness of God – 1 John 5:11 and 12.