

# THE TESTAMENT TO REAL LIFE: (1 JOHN 5:6-13) | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 2/12/2023

I. Evident Witnesses of Jesus Christ (6-10) | II. Eternal Life IN Jesus Christ (11-13)

**INTRO:** In our last lesson (1 John 5:1-5), John provided the Overcomer Basics for the true **C.O.G.** He then summed up his exhortation with a question and an emphatic answer in (v.5), *Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* (Expound)

Earlier in his epistle, John stressed two important FACTS... 1) That Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1 John 4:2), and 2) That those who believe Jesus Christ has come in the flesh are "**of God or born of God**" (4:2; 5:1a). – But, John was also aware of the circulating false doctrine of the Gnostics, which claimed that the "Christ" did not experience death. So, John returns to use of facts, which provides: **THE TESTAMENT TO REAL LIFE (1 JOHN 5:6-13)**. (Expound: Real life comes from truth!)

*The Testament to Real Life is revealed by...*

**I. EVIDENT WITNESSES OF JESUS CHRIST (6-10):** READ Text – A key word here is the word "**Witness**" (8x's). – {Grk: *martureo*} which means: to be a witness, i.e. testify; or to give evidence for, to bear record. – Throughout the Bible we learn of various types of witnesses: John the Baptist (John 1:7, 5:33); the Cloud of Witnesses (Heb 12:1), the Two Witnesses in (Rev 11:3), the very Works of Jesus bore Witness (John 5:36), and Jesus Himself revealed that the Scriptures bore witness: *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."* (John 5:39) – The apostle now provides five additional witnesses, as evidence that JESUS ACTUALLY CAME! (6b)

*The first two evident witnesses are...*

**A. The Water and the Blood (6a)** *This is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ.* In this context, the "water" likely refers to Jesus' baptism, and the "blood" refers to His death on the cross. – It was important for John to mention both witnesses as FACT! Jesus' presence at the baptism and suffering in the flesh on the cross, **disproves Him as a phantom!**

- The waters of Jesus' baptism and the blood that flowed from His side offer testimony concerning who Jesus Christ truly was and what He came to accomplish.
- Therefore, the Jesus we must believe on was not a phantom, but was part of a **Real, Material, Flesh and Blood Earth**.

*But these two "witnesses" are joined by another...*

**B. The Witness of the Spirit (6b,8b)** – According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit's role was to **testify about Jesus** (John 15:26) *"...the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."*

1. The Spirit was especially involved in the earthly life of Jesus, as **the Spirit testified to...**

- The conception of Jesus (Matt 1:20) – The act was *"Of the Holy Spirit."*
- The baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:16) – The Spirit *"Rested upon Jesus."*
- The temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1) – The Spirit *"Lead Him into the Wilderness."*
- The ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:18) – *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."*

2. John affirms that the Holy Spirit also **"AGREES"** with the **Water** and the **Blood**, i.e., **they all testify that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh!** – The significance of having three witnesses agreeing may be taken from the requirement found in (Deut 19:15), *"by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established."*

- *"A priest was always ordained by sacrificial blood, cleansing water, and oil that spoke of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. So, Jesus also had these three witnesses to His priestly ministry."* (Spurgeon)

3. Worth noting is that **most translations omit the words** from *"in heaven"* (vs. 7) through *"on earth"* (vs. 8). Apparently, there is reason for doing so, since these words are found only in four or five manuscripts, and none dating earlier than the 14th century A.D.

- **Pastor John Courson** questions the omissions, stating *"...One of the most powerful statements of the Trinity takes its place with other passages whose validity is questioned..."* (John 8, Mark 16:15, and Rom 8:1). *"If these texts were not so pivotal, I wouldn't think so much about the controversy. But I see something more than coincidental in attacking such powerful passages."* (And I agree with Pastor Jon, just look at v.9)

*The fourth witness mentioned is...*

**C. The Witness of God (9)** – *"If we receive the witness of men..."* John now mentions the logic of believing human testimony, which we all do in everyday conversations. But John says that **God's Witness is Greater!** i.e., we should then have more confidence in God when He testifies of the Son! – (John 8:18b) *"...the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."*

1. Scripture records that God has born witness to Jesus on other occasions:

- At His baptism (Matt 3:17) – A voice from heaven, *"This is my beloved Son...pleased."*
- At the mount of transfiguration (Matt 17:5) – *"My beloved Son...Hear Him!"*

2. **The Witness of God is the most reliable testimony possible!**

*The Four Witnesses mentioned so far are a Real-Life Testament, confirming WHO JESUS CHRIST IS... thus prompting all of mankind to believe in the Son! (Do you know Him/Believe?)*

*This leads to the Fifth witness...*

**D. The Witness "IN" the Believer (10a)** – *"He who believes in the Son of God HAS the witness IN himself..."* (Eph 1:13-14) confirms this, and so does (Rom 8:16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.* The Holy Spirit provides **an inner confirmation** of our standing before God **ABOUT WHO JESUS IS!** – This happened with...

- The **apostle Peter** at Caesarea Philippi (Matt 16:15-16)
- **Saul of Tarsus**, who **became the apostle Paul** on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:17-20)
- And it happened to the **Ethiopian Eunuch** on a desert road (Acts 8:35-37).

- *These and countless others have believed the four-fold witness, and the Spirit of God confirms that they are indeed Born of God and belong to God...amen!*
- In the second half of (v.10) **John Testifies to another FACT** that all must be careful with!
  1. **The Great Sin of Unbelief (10b)** – Those who choose NOT to believe in the Son of God condemn themselves to hell! **(John 8:18)** *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* – John also says that failure to believe in God's testimony of Jesus Christ labels God as a LIAR! – On the other hand **(John 3:33)** says, *He who receives His testimony has certified that God is true.*
  2. **The Greatest Assumption of Mankind** – Many people can easily deceive themselves into thinking that some feeling is an indication that they are saved, or that God has confirmed something to them. But **(Prov 14:12; 16:25)** says, *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. So be careful!* In **(tt. Matt 7:21-23)** Jesus spoke of such who trusted in their good works... *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' NO REAL RELATIONSHIP!*

*The Testament to Real Life is...*

## **II. ETERNAL LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST (11-13) READ Text –**

- A. **The Testimony (11)** – **The Testimony God gives to believers is ETERNAL LIFE!** It is absolutely free! **(Rom 6:23)**, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* – But notice John's statement is **past tense**... *"has given."* (not will be given)
- B. **The Guarantees (12)** – John restates **TWO REAL FACTS**. If you have the Son, You have life: **(John 6:47)** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. But if you are found without the Son, (John 3:36b)* the apostle makes it clear that *"...he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* (Conditional Guarantees!)
  - The story of the **Rich Young Ruler** comes to mind here **(Matt 19:16)**. *(he went away... sad, not saved! He didn't follow through.)*
- C. **The Assurance (13)** – After trekking through the entire epistle of 1<sup>st</sup> John, we finally come to the **theme verse of the letter**. This statement brings both **ASSURANCE**: *"that you may KNOW that you have eternal life,"* and also **ENCOURAGEMENT** not to waiver in our belief in Jesus Christ the Son!

- We must remember that the **Gospel of John** was written to **AROUSE FAITH**. And we learn here that the **1<sup>st</sup> epistle of John** was written to **ASSURE FAITH**! **DO YOU HAVE IT?**
- **Do you have the Son?** Have you received the testimony of the **first four witnesses** (*water, blood, Spirit, God*) which **provides their evidence whether you believe them or not**; but if you will believe them, then you will receive the fifth (*the witness in yourself*)!

This is **THE TESTAMENT TO REAL LIFE (1 John 5:10-13)**