

The Need for Revival:
Witnessing
Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
Sunday, April 2, 2023

John 1:6–10 ⁶There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. ⁹There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John opens his gospel with the ministry of John the Baptist and reminds us that he, John, was sent by God, and that he was sent to be a witness to His Son, Jesus the Christ. The purpose of his witness was “So that all might believe through him.” His testimony was about the LIGHT.

“Jesus is the point of life; we are the pointers.”

Jesus is the true light which enlightens every man. He is the light for the world. He came so that man could know and be reconciled to his creator, the One, True God. “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”

God’s Witnesses.

God’s word declares that He has surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses. The first witness is creation itself. *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they (mankind) are without excuse.”* (Romans 1:20)

God formed the nation of Israel through whom He would reveal Himself to all nations of the world. God said to Abraham, “Through you, all nations will be blessed.” However, God’s chosen people failed to be a faithful witness.

God would choose many diverse ways to reveal Himself to man, until the fulness of time when He would send the greatest witness of all, the witness of His only Son, Jesus!

Hebrews 1:1–3 ¹God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Think on these words, *“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”* How can this be? The bible gives us the answer.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

This is why Jesus called Peter blessed. **Matthew 16:17–19** ¹⁷*“Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”*

The church has been built by and belongs to Jesus Christ and has been endowed with His power and authority. He has given to His church and only to His church, the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Witness of the Church.

His last words before His ascension were to the founders of His church. **Acts 1:8** *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

Everyone who receives Christ, receives the Holy Spirit of God. By His power we are born again! By His power, we are baptized into the church, and, in Christ, we are afforded all the benefits of being a child of God. If you have been saved, you have a story to which you can be a witness.

The Quality of Our Testimony.

We, the church, are the SALT of the earth. We possess the saline qualities of the righteousness of God. We are like a city on a hill which can't be hidden, but that is highly visible to all. We are like a candle when lit in a dark room. Our presence gives light to all who are around us in the dark.

The Powerless Testimony.

Jesus asked, "What if the salt loses its saline qualities?" If this happens then it becomes good for nothing.

1 Peter 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler.

Romans 2:24 For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it is written.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

The devil has sought to render the witness of the church ineffective through the tarnishing of its testimony. He has successfully diluted the power of the gospel by infiltrating the church with the liberal doctrines of men – Having a form of godliness but denying its power!

2 Timothy 4:3–4 ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

We must guard against the darkness of the world seeping into the church, seeping into our lives. The devil is bent on extinguishing the light. The church which loses its savor is good for nothing when it comes to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ephesians 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

Prayer for Boldness.

Without question, our witness is subject to all kinds of opposition. Evil hates the light! This is why Jesus told His disciples to wait on the power of the Holy Spirit before they set out to be His witnesses. We need His power today. We need the power of His righteousness within us. Just like the early church, we have access in prayer for all that we need to carry out the purpose and will of God for us today!

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.