

1 John 5:6-13

Announcements

- Tell church I miss them!, especially after two Sundays (rare!) - Pastor Ron Arbaugh! (serve!)
 - I loved serving two weeks ago - (kids (ministry pump!) and youth) - thank you!
 - Last Sunday = peak of anniversary (15 yrs) and church in Wyoming (out of small group)
- Baptisms next Sunday (in the service) - sign up and get scheduled (spread out)

Please open to 1 John chapter 5 (need a bible? ...) - will finish next week!

- Last time: New Operating System! (free from fear of judgment, compelled to love, obedience is not burdensome, overcomers in victory) Awesome!
- This time: John takes us to a courtroom. Not jury duty, parking violation, but a Case for Christ!

Message Title: "Can I get a Witness?" (playful title :) not Marvin Gaye! 100% getting witnesses!

- The Witnesses Called (verses 6-8)
- The Testimony Given (verses 9-11)
- The Verdict Declared (verses 12-13)

Everyone understands a courtroom even if only from TV. Raised judge's bench... box where witnesses sit... Jury off to the side... And some trials captivate a nation (OJ Simpson), anxious...

- Martyreo/Martyria = "testimony / to bear witness" [english: Martyr] - roughly 10 times...
- John is deliberately building a legal case!

One last opening orientation:

- Heavier "thinking" passage than normal. Mostly head, over heart/hands, but lands with heart
- Difficult in a few areas. Many churches would never preach this passage. WE DON'T SKIP!
- If newer to the faith and some goes over your head, that's okay, God will show you... (Is. 55)
- If reading out of anything other than KJV/NKJV, it won't match up (extra words), will explain!

Main issue: who is the true, Biblical Jesus and how can we "know" we have eternal life?

The Witnesses Called (verses 6-8)

One of the big things John is doing here is combating false teachings and even false emotions.

- He builds a case not just on fleeting vibes, but on core witnesses! (John himself already...)
- 1 John 1:1-2, NLT - "We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life..."

Here's the evidence in today's passage...

V. 6 - This is He who came...

- This is He ...previous verse = Jesus is the Son of God (The Divine one! (no other can claim))
- Jesus Christ - Lesous Christos. Jesus is the Christ. Key point throughout this Epistle...
- Jesus is not the one on trial here... it's the false teachings that are (Gnosticism) (explain)

V. 6 - **He who came by water and blood**

- **He who Came** = **Aorist tense** signifying a **past definite historical event**.
- And then **gives two avenues** in which Jesus was **revealed as the true Christ**. (**Water/Blood**)
- **Water (hydor) | Blood (haima)**: **Tricky little buggers to interpret together...**
 - **Sacraments (baptism / communion)**
 - **Martin Luther**, present/past (not mention of bread)
 - **Pierced Side (flowing water / blood)**
 - **Interesting in West Africa** (share story of elders)
 - **John 19:34-35, NASB** - "...one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true...**"
 - **Augustine**, but only death, but latter part of v. 6 = "**not only**" (more in a moment...)
 - **Priestly Purification (Symbolic)**
 - **Calvin/Spurgeon**, consecration by washing, sprinkling, and anointing (**intriguing**)
 - **Physical (birth and death)**
 - **A small minority** - Real birth (water) and real death (blood) - **Not a phantom!**
 - **Christ's (Baptism and Crucifixion)**
 - **The vast majority** - Oldest support (**Tertullian 2nd century**). **Contextually!**
 - **Ministry Bookends** - His Baptism, His Crucifixion (**NLT translates**), **I land here**
 - **At the Baptism of water** - Spirit descend like Dove, "**This is my beloved Son**"
 - **At the Crucifixion of Blood** - Sky dark/earth shook, "**Truly this was the Son of God**"

R Kent Hughes approaches them each as a witness to the stand...

- **Water**, were you there that day **at the Jordan**? Yes, he stood waist deep, I saw the sky open...
- **Blood**, were you there that day **at Calvary**? Yes, I saw the blood flow and breathe leave...
- **Genesis 4:10 | Hebrews 12:24** - "**Speaks a better word!**" **Vengeance vs pardon...**

V. 6 - **Not only by water, but by water and blood.**

- **John is making a point**. That **Jesus was the Christ at both ends**. **From the Jordan to Golgotha**
- **Combating Heresy of Cerinthianism** = **Christ descended at baptism** but **left before the cross**
- **Hogwash!** You **cannot separate Jesus from Christ**. **He suffered (Isaiah 53)**. **Key** = "**only**"

...let's **zoom out for the main point...** **regardless of which interpretation**, **Jesus = The Son of God**.

- **But there's another witness John wants us to consider...**

V. 6 - **And it is the Spirit who bears witness**, because the Spirit is truth.

- In one sense this does line up with the baptism by water...
- **Matthew 3:16-17** - "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, '**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**'" - some sort of **visible witness** that people saw!
- **Luke 4** - **Spirit leads into wilderness, preaching in Synagogue**, "**Spirit is upon me**" (**Isaiah 61**)
- But there's an **even more key nuance here** John is communicating... **The Spirit is truth!**

- John 15:26, 16:13, NASB - "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, **the Spirit of truth** who comes from the Father, **He will testify about Me...** when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth..."
- **The Spirit of Truth** testifies and reminds us of the true Jesus (opposed to a spirit of error)
 - Friends, there are lying spirits in this world (1 John 4 - "test the spirits")

V. 7 - For there are **three that bear witness**: We've **already looked at three**: (Water, blood, spirit)

- But here's where we need to **take a big, fat pause**, and then we'll move on... (leave on screen)
- Vv. 7-8 - "...in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth..." - manuscript discrepancy (KJV/NKJV vs all others)
- This is really **a whole sermon in itself**... (spend just a few minutes today... hang in there!)
- The **New Testament has more manuscript evidence** than any other ancient writings - by far!
 - **Over 24,000 manuscripts/copies!** (5,800 greek, roughly 10,000 latin, roughly 9,300 coptic/ethiopic/arabic/armenian, etc)
 - **That's legit! God's Word is infallible! Amen!?** But the manuscripts (copies) are not...
 - If there are any errors in a manuscript, we will know given the **sheer number!** This gives us **assurance, not doubt** (mostly minor scribal spelling/punctuation) **Now, this verse...**
- **Johannine Comma** = most famous textual variant in the entire New Testament...
 - Absent in all language copies found except...
 - **Earliest Greek manuscript** = 14th cent (not very early), couple earlier Latin copies
 - But not as early as the initial Latin Vulgate.
 - **No early church fathers quoting verbatim** (prior to 4th century), absent from Nicea (325) & Constantinople (381), or Ephesus (431) - Which is a big deal given content
 - There are some references by the 4th / 5th century (Priscillian) (potential merit!)
 - A couple manuscripts w/ margin notes - either overzealous copyist or maybe started as a margin note and later someone thought they belonged...
 - **Erasmus initially left out** of the first published greek NT in the early 1500's, but due to some people pushing back due to a greek copy with the margin note, he **included it in his 3rd edition**, which became the **basis for the Textus Receptus** mainly used for KJV translation (newer translations have since left it out based on older manuscripts).
- **Should we regard it as initially authoritative?** Likely not. But, two encouragements:
- **Your Bible is reliable** - Good news, any area of question is called out...
- **The Doctrine of the Trinity stands alone** without v. 7. **The Bible doesn't need our help!**
 - The Jordan River, The Great Commission, Pauline benedictions... (2 Cor. 13)

***I told you, today's passage would be big thinking and brian juices, how ya'll doing?

We cannot be dogmatic about the V. 7 witness, but **we can be about verse 8**, so let's do that!

V. 8 - "The **Spirit**, the **water**, and the **blood**"

- **Three that testify**: "(1) the Spirit; (2) the water; (3) the blood"
- **V. 6 - Christ came** = past tense
- **V. 7 - Three that testify** = present tense (These three still are witnesses to this day!)
- **A solid courtcase**, and in some ways, all three apply throughout the biblical narrative...
 - High Priestly symbolism, Mary's birth of Jesus, Christ's baptism, flowing from side at cross, even the last supper, washing, eating, drinking... **Deep stuff!**

V. 8 - And **these three agree as one**

- This little phrase is **a bigger deal than we think...**
- **Deuteronomy 19:15** - "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses** the matter shall be established."
- **John isn't just being poetic**, He's meeting **God's own standard for witnesses and a verdict!**
- **The Spirit, water, and blood** all look to the person of Jesus **from three perspectives** and **all land on the same verdict**. **He is the Christ! He is the Son of God!** (in your face Cerinthus!)

So then, **what are you trusting in** for eternal life?

- **Culture's opinions? Your social feed? Your own feelings?**
- **Look to God's Word today, beloved! God's testimony, not your own opinions/feelings...**

The Testimony Given (verses 9-11)

You'd think John would move to closing arguments, but instead he **calls another witness**. **The Father!**

V. 9 - If we receive the witness of men, **the witness of God is greater**

- **Argues from lessor to greater** - we live **our entire lives off of the credibility of witnesses we'll never meet** (history, science, medicine (**Covid!**), airplanes, weather, etc)
- John argues, **how much more** should we trust the testimony of God Himself?
 - We trust the **five star review** from 'BurrtoMan57' about a taco stand but most people hesitate to trust the testimony of Almighty God!?
 - We trust **dinner on a stranger's word** but **eternity on our own feelings? Wake up!**

V. 9 - For **this is the witness of God** which He has **testified of His Son**.

- **Definite article in the genitive** = **THIS IS GOD'S TESTIMONY** of **His own Son!**

V. 10 - He who believes in the Son of God **has the witness in himself**

- **Many witnesses today! Blood, water, spirit, even the Father**, and now **within you. His people...**
- **Romans 8:16** - "**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**"
- **Inner testimony is now within us, God's people**. You can **say amen by taking communion...**
- This **fights through moods and moments**. **Life crashes around us**, but there's **something that runs deeper...** a **settled inner "yes"!** To Christ that **survives even in the darkest night...**

V. 10 - He who does not believe God has **made Him a liar** because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

- **Dare you!?** It's **one thing to disagree with men**, it's **another to disagree with God**.
- **Refusing to believe** in **the Biblical Jesus** is **not just a difference of opinion**, it's **an assault on God's Character**. **God is not a man that He should lie or fail to keep His promises** (Num. 23:19)
- **Unbelief is not neutral**. **There is no neutral. Undecided is decided.**

And now for the **purpose of the testimony** John has been building towards...

V. 11 - And **this is the testimony**: that... (two things)

- V. 11 - **God has given us eternal life** - **Praise the Lord** Not just **Bios...** but **Zoe... (eternal)**
- V. 11 - And **this life is in His Son** - Here is where it's found... **The means, nay, the location!**
 - And **no other!**

The Verdict Declared (verses 12-13)

The judges' gavel has landed and there is *no lack of clarity... No grey areas...*

V. 12 - He who has the Son **has the life** - John 14:6 (definite article!)

V. 12 - He who does not have the Son of God **does not have the life**. = binary!

- This *binary teaching* is all throughout the Bible: **Trees, roads, houses, light/darkness, etc...**
- **All people are headed to one of two destinations... eternal life or eternal death.**
 - There is **no third option or category**... written in the **Lambs Book of Life** or isn't...
- And **notice what it does not say**: he who *attends more... tries harder... or cleans himself up...*
- **He who has the Son. Do you!? To have the Son** is to have *everything the Father promises.*

To quote The Apostle Paul in light of this...

Romans 8:33–34 - "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**"

- **Christ has already done all the work for justification! Case closed!**
- **All that's left is to respond...**

And that is **why John writes verse 13...**

V. 13 - **These things I have written to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God

- For those that **already believe in the name!** *There is no greater name. Name above all names!*
- V. 13 - That you may **know that you have eternal life** - the **stated aim of the text!**
 - **Oida** = a **settled, established, secure knowing**. "Not feelings... or fleeting hope..."
 - **Present tense throughout** = **ongoing assurance** - **continue to believe and know!**

Also, **John has written a previous Gospel** to *those who have not yet come to this place of faith...*

- **John 20:31** - "**But these are written that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."
- **The Gospel** was written to *those who need to hear and believe* and **find life in His name!**
- **The Epistle** is written to *those who need to continue to hear and believe* and **be assured.**
- **Assurance is not arrogance**, it's **humbly responding to truth.**
- **A man once told D. L. Moody** that he was worried because **he didn't feel saved**. Moody asked, "Was Noah safe in the ark?" "Certainly." "Well... what made him safe, his feelings, or the ark?" - That's a good word!
- **Imagine a child who asked his father every day**, "Am I still your son today? Are you sure?" It would **break his heart**. **Your Father wrote you a whole letter** so the question would be settled...

Closing:

Many saints lack assurance. Some of you do. Stop basing your salvation *off of your feelings...* and **be comforted once again by the Word of God.**

- **As we move towards communion, consider the Night of Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12)**
- God did not walk through the streets **inspecting the emotions inside each house...**
- **He looked for the blood on the doorpost!**

Well, the witnesses have spoken. The testimony has been given and the verdict stands:

- **If you have the Son, you have eternal life!**

There's a final witness in all of this....

1 Corinthians 11:26 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes...**" - To eat the bread and drink the cup **is to give testimony!** To be a martyr.

- **GOSPEL.** Altar Call... He's calling you to the table, friends... **He prepares it!**

Communion - Pre-Packaged Elements!

1 Corinthians 11:23–24, ESV - "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, '**This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**'"

1 Corinthians 11:25, ESV - "In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, '**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**'"

PRAY - Numbers 6!