

Sermon Outline

Looking Ahead:

- March 5 *"Having Assurance"* ~ 1 John 5:13-15, Pastor Corey (Celebrating the Lord's Supper)
- March 12 *"Praying for Those in Need"* ~ 1 John 5:16-17, Pastor Phil
- March 19 *"Possessing Certainty"* ~ 1 John 5:18-21, Pastor Corey
- March 26 *"Having Confidence for Life, Because of our Relationships with the Lord and within the Body of Christ"* ~ Pastor Phil

If you would like to TEXT a prayer request to The Chapel Staff, text the word "prayer" to 269-280-2878.

"The Importance of God's Testimony"

1 John 5:6-12

February 26, 2023

Introduction: How many of us have experienced any kind of courtroom case?

- Between the judge, the lawyers, the jury, and the witnesses, which is the most important?

I. The Nature of the Witness, v.6-9.

A. The types of witnesses, v.6.

1. The historical witnesses, v.6a.

- a. Jesus Christ came by water.
- b. Jesus Christ came by blood.

2. The internal witness: The Holy Spirit, v.6b.

1 Cor. 12:3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Jn. 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." Jn. 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:13

Jn. 6:63 "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life."

Lk. 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness ... ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

B. The power of the witness, v.7-9.

1. There is a unity of witness, v.7-8.

- Clarification on the King James translation.

NIV Footnote: 7,8 Late manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. 8 And there are three that testify on earth; the (not found in any Greek manuscript before the sixteenth century.)

Deut.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.

2. There is a superior witness, the testimony of God Himself, v.9!

Rm.1:2 the gospel ...³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mat.17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.
Jn.5:36-37; 12:27-30

C. Application:

II. The Results of the Witness, v.10-12.

A. On the unbeliever, v.10b, 12b.

1. Calling God a liar, v.10b.

2. Facing eternal death, v.12.b

1 Jn.1:1-3

B. On the believer, v.10a, 11-12.

1. Has internalized this truth, v.10a.

2. Has taken possession of eternal life, v.11-12.

Jn.14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Gen.3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Eph.2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor.5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Phil.1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain...I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far...

Jn.1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

C. Application: How does this witness of God impact us?

Rm.6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (The Apostle Peter)

Conclusion:

- Francis Schaffer: "The God Who is There," IVP
- C.S. Lewis: "Mere Christianity," Harper One
- Paul Little: "Know Why You believe," IVP
- Josh & Sean McDowell: "The Evidence That Demands a Verdict," Nelson; "More Than a Carpenter," Tyndale; "Reasons Skeptics Should Consider Christianity," Here's Publishing
- Lee Strobel: "The Case for Faith," "The Case for Christ," "The Case for the Real Jesus," Zondervan
- Dinesh D'Souza: "What's So Great About Christianity," Tyndale
- Darrell Bock: "Jesus according to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels," Baker; "Who Is Jesus?: Linking the Historical Jesus with the Christ of Faith," Howard Books; "The Missing Gospels: Unearthing the Truth Behind Alternative Christianities," Nelson; "Dethroning Jesus: Exposing Popular Culture's Quest to Unseat the Biblical Christ," Nelson