

## Gospel of John 5.2

### Introduction

- Jesus Christ is always on trial, then and now
  1. He is tried in the court of popular opinion every day
  2. People are curious about Him and those who follow Him
- Jesus went on trial with the Roman government while He was on earth
  1. He stood before Pontius Pilate (see John 19:10)
  2. At the same time, Pilate was the one on trial
  3. The decision he made concerning Jesus would determine his eternal destiny
- Jesus is the Judge. **John 5:26** The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. **27** And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man
- The end of chapter 5 is like a courtroom scene
  1. The word witness shows up eight times
  2. The word testify shows up three times
  3. Jesus brought forth three witnesses to make the case for why Jews should believe in Him (see Deuteronomy 19:15)
    - Not that He needed witnesses to validate who He was
    - Jews needed the witnesses because they didn't honor His witness of Himself

**John 5:31** “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. **32** There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. **33** You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. **35** He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. **36** But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. **37** And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. **38** But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. **39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40** But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

- Jesus confronts the Jewish leaders after they harassed him for breaking their sabbath
- Jesus tells them that there are witnesses who give testimony of who He is: the Messiah, the Son of God, the Christ.
- Because in the law for judgment or to accuse someone, there needed to be 2 or more witnesses to testify

**The first witness: John the Baptist.** The worker, the voice crying in the wilderness, John the Baptist. He used John the Baptist because the religious leaders considered John a prophet of God.

1. He knew Jesus very well, not only was Jesus his cousin, but John gives testimony of who Jesus is, **John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
2. He knew Jesus pre-existed before him, **John 1:15** “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ”
3. John also said **John 3:30** He must increase, but I must decrease.
4. There were many other eyewitnesses to Jesus' life, ministry, and miracles the Gospels and the epistles.

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**The second witness:** the works of Jesus Himself

- Jesus performed many works
  1. There are over thirty miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels
  2. John recorded seven of them
  3. The Jewish leaders were skeptical, they were taught to be skeptical **Deuteronomy 13:1** “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ **3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
    - They were taught to test miracle workers on what they believe
- Miracles by themselves are powerful, but alongside the other witnesses, they are an **unmistakable testimony of who Jesus is. John 14:11** Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.
- Nicodimous says something powerful to Jesus, **John 3:2** “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

**The third witness: the Word of God**

- The Old Testament Scriptures that tell what the Messiah would be like
- The Bible deals with the most controversial matters possible
  1. The existence of God
  2. The origins of man
  3. The beginning of evil
  4. The future of the world
- The books of the Bible agree with one another seamlessly
- The entire bible points to Jesus
- The Old Testament paints a picture of who the Messiah would be, and does.
  1. Over 300 descriptions
  2. Astronomical odds that one man would fulfill all of them
  3. Jesus expounded on who He was to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
- The Word of God gave testimony of Jesus
- Also, when Jesus was baptized, the Gospels tell us that there was a voice from heaven that said, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”
- The Jews knew the Word of God, but they did not know the God of the Word
- The sad reality was that the Jewish leaders were not willing to believe,
  - They knew what the Word of God said,
  - They saw the works and miracles of Jesus
  - They heard the testimony of John the Baptist

**41** “I do not receive honor from men. **42** But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. **43** I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **44** How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? **45** Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **46** For if you

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believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

- Jesus says I know you!!! And in Verse 44, Jesus tells them the reason they chose not to believe: because they are not seeking honor from God, but seeking honor for themselves
- Like many today, they are not willing to believe, they have heard what the Word says, yet they refuse to believe and receive Jesus because they are looking for their own honor
- One day, the Antichrist will come and be received as the Christ instead of Jesus, who has already come
  1. The antichrist will come in his own name
  2. The world will go after the antichrist
- Moses wrote about Jesus in the first five books of the Old Testament
  1. Another Prophet **Deuteronomy 18:15** “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

John is written that we may believe  
Believe the word of God, have faith

### What is faith

**Faith:** deals with the fact that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remove and bring forgiveness of sins. **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Faith is not blindly feeling our way into darkness, but the conviction of the substance that what the word of God reveals is true. We don't jump into the darkness hoping it turns into light.

**Faith takes God at His word and does not base its hope on visible circumstances but on confidence in the Word of God**

### Three Elements of Faith

**Intellectual element:** faith is to walk in the light, the light of the Word of God. Faith must be based on the knowledge of God; no one can believe in something they don't know. Faith is based on the best evidence, which is the word of God, and this knowledge produces faith, **Romans 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God..

We must know the Gospel to believe in it!!

- We can say that when I read the Word of God, it produces faith
- When I hear the word of God, it produces faith
- When I quote and meditate on the word of God, it produces faith
- I know that what the Word says is true.
- Do you want to grow in your faith and grow your knowledge of the word of God?
  - We cannot have faith in God without knowing God's word
  - We cannot know God without knowing the Bible

**Emotional element:** is often described as an overwhelming joy that we experience when we first realize that a loving God has provided us all that we need for salvation. An **awakening** of the soul when it acknowledges salvation and followed by immediate approval of this truth.

- The church has called this “first love”
- It awakens your heart, you find yourself sleeping with your heart awake

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- David, somewhere in His walk, lost this joy. he then repented and asked to be forgiven and restored, **Psalms 51:12** Restore unto me the joy of your salvation
  - One of the things restored in David's life was the Joy of salvation
- The emotional part of being saved has an overwhelming Joy to a man's heart.

**Willingness:** After knowing the Gospel and rejoicing because of the Gospel, we come to this truth.

that knowledge is not enough and rejoicing is not enough. Then, willfully surrendering your heart to Jesus in a full acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior

- There must be an action to our faith.
- There must be works to our faith, **James 2:17** Faith without works is dead
- One of the greatest examples is the prodigal son **Luke 15:18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

In response to placing our faith in God's love and His freely given salvation, regeneration (a renewing work of the Holy Spirit) and justification (declared righteous, that is to be right with God) take place at the moment of salvation. In addition, a person becomes heir to God's promised hope of eternal and everlasting life.

## Evidence of Salvation

- **Inner evidence:** a direct witness of the Holy Spirit giving one the assurance that they are now children of God **Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
  - This is a subjective witness in your heart that comes from the Holy Spirit that no one can take from us.
  - This is how we know that the Gospel is real, the witness of the Holy Spirit
- **Outward evidence:** a life of righteousness and true holiness **Ephesians 4:22** that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
  - This renewal is an outward evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
  - This is the objective witness from you to all who know you
  - In other words, is living a life totally committed and pleasing to God