

1 John 5:6-13: Confidence in Eternal Life (6.3.18)

Intro: confidence is attractive- confidence in eternity in the face of a world that doubts; Thesis: God's witness gives reason for confidence

subject: God's witness concerning Jesus and eternal life

object: Believe in Jesus and be confident of eternal life

I. God's witness proves Jesus is the Christ [v.6-10]

- "witness" = *martureo* = "testimony"- used 7x-
- "firsthand authentication of a fact" (webster's)
- Testimony more than human- given by God Himself

A. The three witnesses [v.6-8]

1. Water

- Incarnation & birth/ Spear in the side (Jn 19:34)- birth of church
- Baptism- Gnostic context- God confirms Jesus identity at Matt 3:17

2. Blood

- death- God bookends Jesus ministry confirming Him as Messiah
- Matt 27- supernatural phenomena and Roman soldier
- Proof best seen in Resurrection (all Christianity hinges)

a. What is the evidence for the Resurrection?

i. the empty tomb

- record of Jesus' burial
- not legend- skeptics couldn't argue
- alt. explanations and why they don't work

ii. eyewitness accounts

- Jesus seen alive by multiple witnesses (500+ 1 Co 15)
- Also not legend- witnesses still alive at the time of Paul's letter

iii. transformed lives of disciples

- disciples ordinary men- all persecuted/ martyred without recanting

3. Spirit

- challenges of historical evidence- need for personal experience
- Holy Spirit & role of Spirit- John 16:14

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"- Romans 8:16

- Read WLC quote- Spirit offers face to face w/ Jesus
 - Spirit is necessary- personal exp of trying to argue evangelize
- B. God's witness to the truth of Jesus demands a response [v.9-10]**
- witness of God vs. witness of men (witness inside= HS)

II. God's witness gives confidence of eternal life [v.11-13]

A. Jesus is the only way to eternal life [v.11-12]

- *zao* vs. *bios*- only Jesus offers a better type of life (emph v.12)
- "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" - John 14:6**
- objection- Gospel too exclusive; narrow but not exclusive
 - only Gospel deals effectively with sin
 - not exclusive, given as a gift! you can be sure of this gift

B. Living for Jesus proves you have received eternal life [v.13]

- talking to Christians (who believe...); "these things"= pivotal verse

1. What are "these things"?

- markers of Christian life John has discussed in this letter

a. know God's love for you [4.7-11; 4:17-21]

- Growing appreciation of God's love displayed in trust

b. love God supremely [2.1-7; 2.15-23]

- Love God, live primarily to please Him, Prioritize God

c. spiritual growth [2.8-14]

- continually growing in Christ-like character

d. spiritual discernment [2.24-29; 3.24-4.6]

- growing ability to tell what is accurate about God/ pleases God

e. love for others [3.10-23; 4.12-16]

- attitude of heart (arguably most tangible/ definitive)

- personal struggle with this one

B. How do you apply "these things"?

a. That you may know you have eternal life [v.13a]

- God wants to give you security, overcome doubt be sure in heart

b. That you may *continue* to believe [v.13b]

- emphasize *continue*- confidence lived out by stepping into calling

conclusion: conclude wth gospel & invitation