

1.17.21 ~ 1John 5:6-21, God Testifies About His Son...

Through Christ, God encourages, equips and exhorts us to devote ourselves to knowing, applying, and proclaiming God's Word through every aspect of our lives, giving evidence that we are in Christ.

Read 1John 5:6-8... We overcome sin, death, and judgement in Christ, no wonder God gives clear testimony that Jesus is indeed both Lord and Savior. John says Jesus Christ has come by water and by blood; in fact, that there are three who testify (the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**), and they are all in agreement:

At Jesus' baptism both the Father and the Spirit testify (**Matthew 3:16-17**), "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"

At Jesus' death (**Matthew 27:50-51, 54**), "Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split." "Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" **Romans 1:1-3**, "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son... ..who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord." **Hebrews 9:11-12**, "But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." **22**, "And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." **27-28**, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him."

Hebrews 10:4-18, "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure.' Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God.' After saying above, 'Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them' (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will.' He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the

same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying [**Jeremiah 31:33**], 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them,' He then says, 'And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.' Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin."

God has clearly given testimony, as to the deity of His Son. He has done this through the writings of the prophets, through His birth, through His baptism, through His death, and through His resurrection.

In the OT, the law required that there be two or three witnesses in order to establish truth about any particular matter:

Deuteronomy 17:6, "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness."

Deuteronomy 19:15, "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed."

This principle of 2-3 witnesses is also clearly established in the NT:

Matthew 18:15-16, "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed."

John 8:17-18, "Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

1Timothy 5:19, "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses."

Read 1John 5:9... If we accept the testimony of 2-3 men (in agreement); how much more then ought we to believe God's testimony about His Son, written in His Word, confirmed by His Spirit, and written upon the heart of each and every true believer who then lives as a testimony to God's plan, purpose and provision of eternal life through Christ.

Read 1John 5:10... When anyone genuinely believes God's testimony about Jesus Christ, God confirms in that person's heart that he/she has been saved, for God's Spirit takes up eternal residence in our heart (cf. **Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13**).

God's Spirit confirms that this testimony about the birth, baptism, death, and resurrection of God's Son, sovereignly declares His divinity!

Those who do not believe that Jesus was God in the flesh, are calling God a liar and rejecting His Son, and to reject the deity of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, is to bring eternal judgment upon oneself (cf. **John 8:24; 16:8-9**).

See **John 10:24-30**, "The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Read 1John 5:11-13. Everyone who has genuinely repented of their sins, and trusted in Jesus Christ to save them, will have the sovereign testimony of God in their heart that they indeed belong to Him, for they have received eternal life.

God wants you to be secure in your knowledge that you belong to Him. If you have any doubt as to whether or not you have received forgiveness and eternal life, please, ask God right now to forgive your sins, and settle this issue once and for all, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Read 1John 5:14-15... As God's children, we have the right and the privilege to enter the throne room of God in prayer, at any time (see **Hebrews 4:14-16**), "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

But, we must ask according to God's will (**John 14:13-14**), "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." God's people have God's Word and God's Spirit, and we can know God's will; and so, as we come to God in prayer, we ask in accordance with God's will.

Matthew 6:9-10, "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.'"

Romans 12:2, "...be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Read 1John 5:16-17... It would seem that there is sin which can lead to a believer's death. Sometimes Christians become so insensitive to sin that they do not repent; but instead, they may continue in sin and become unwilling to repent, this could bring about God's judgment, leading to physical death, so as to remove the rebellious believer from being such a bad witness for God (see **Acts 5:1-11; 1Corinthians 11:27-32**).

God may very well bring to an early end, the life of one of His children who continues in sin, unwilling to repent of it.

Read 1John 5:18-20... Humility and obedience are to be practiced by God's children, for we have been given God's Spirit and God's Word. As you serve and obey God on earth, the devil can't touch you; Satan is powerful, but he is still God's devil and he can do only that which God allows him.

We have nothing to fear from the devil, as we studied last week, we have overcome the world, the devil, and the curse of sin, through Christ. As you submit to God's will in your life, you have nothing to fear; but when you turn your back on God, living as an unbeliever, you set yourself against God, and He will discipline you because He cares for you; He may also, if you do not repent, bring your life to a premature end.

We belong to God and therefore our life must be consistent with that which pleases God. We are not to live as those who reject God's Son, for they serve the devil who is the god of this present world system; Christians, however, belong to and serve the God of the universe, the Creator and Judge over All.

If we genuinely belong to God through Christ, we know the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has come in the flesh to provide forgiveness for our sins and eternal life; this should be reflected in and through our life by obedient service to God, as we express our love for one another.

Read 1John 5:21... In closing this letter, John commands us to stay away from idols. Idols are representative of any and all philosophies and practices, attitudes and behaviors, that do not please God.

We, God's people, are to imitate our Father in heaven, and as has been sovereignly demonstrated by God's Son on earth (**Ephesians 5:1-2**), "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us."

God and God alone is to be worshipped: God's Word revealed is our divine and sovereign instruction; God's Son is our example, being the fullness of God in human flesh; and God's Spirit is our indwelling Helper, Counselor, Teacher.

And why has God lavished on us His great riches with all wisdom and power? So that we should live victoriously as overcomers in this world, with our confidence placed fully upon Jesus Christ; for it is He and He alone, who has overcome sin, death and judgment forever!

Therefore, let each of us who genuinely belong to God through Christ, commit to serve Him, through every aspect of our life, with full confidence that we might accomplish every good work that God has prepared for us to do, in Christ (**Ephesians 2:8-10**), "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

And all God's people said? Amen!