

IV. God is the One Witness (9-12)

- A. Having established the witnesses for who Jesus is, John argues from the lesser to the greater.
- i. God has given testimony through the prophet John the Baptist.
 - ii. God has given testimony through Scriptures which were fulfilled and through the apostolic witness of John.
 - iii. God has given testimony by His Spirit which reveals Christ to you.
- B. To not believe God's triple testimony is to call God a liar.
- i. John 3:14-18
 - ii. Do you believe the testimony which God has given concerning His Son, Jesus the Messiah?

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Without 1 John 5:5, what cultural error might 5:4 affirm? Why is it essential to always define the object of faith?
- How might 5:1, 5-6 express something of the error of the false teachers which John has been dealing with?
- What aspect(s) of Jesus' ministry are being referenced by "water and blood"? Explain your answer.
- What is the significance of having three witnesses?
- How is the Holy Spirit involved in both the witness of "water and blood"? How is the Spirit also a distinct witness from the other two?
- Why do we require the Spirit's testimony to believe in the glorious reign of Jesus as the Son of God?
- Why is it essential to believe in Jesus as the suffering and rejected Messiah just as much as in the glorious reign of Jesus on high? What kinds of error could result from neglecting either?

Light, Life, Love – the Gospel we heard from Him


Calling Three Witnesses

Jerry Cisar — November 15, 2020

Text: 1 John 5:5-12

Introduction: Not just any faith... (5)

I. Messiah and Son of God (5b-6)

- A. Son of God vs. Messiah
- i. John's wording may reveal something about the false teaching of the anti-christs.
 - a) "This is that." 
 - b) *Son of God* refers to Christ as the exalted Son at the right hand of the Father, reigning in glory.
 - Psalm 2:1-8
 - Philipians 2:9
 - ii. Two stages or phases of Jesus' existence following the Incarnation were central to the Gospel itself.
 - a) Romans 1:1-4
 - b) 1 John 3:16

*If suffering and rejection were not essential to **Jesus'** ministry as messiah, then it wouldn't be essential to our ministry as those those who have been given an anointing, a christening.*

- B. So, what is meant by water and blood? How does that relate to Jesus Messiah?

II. Why Three Witnesses?

- A. What is the significance of “three” witnesses?

- i. Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15

- ii. Matthew 18:16

Given what is at stake in whether people have faith in Jesus as suffering-Messiah and Glorious Son of God, John knows the importance of having a solid basis for this faith.

III. Calling Three Witnesses (6-8)

- A. The Water (John 1:29-34)

- i. John the Baptist makes plain that he is bearing witness *based on* the testimony of the Spirit coming down on Jesus.

- ii. Why are “water and blood” tied closely together?

Jesus’ baptism by John was a consecration to His death. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit for His role as Messiah, which was a commitment to deliver God’s people through His own death.

- B. The Blood (John 19:30-37)

- i. Receiving the Spirit vs. giving up the Spirit

- ii. This text bears witness to the fact of Jesus’ death.
 - a) John himself saw it and is bearing witness to it.

➤ 1 John 1:1-2

- b) We can believe based on his apostolic testimony.

- iii. John immediately also calls two witnesses from God’s Word:

- a) Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12
- b) Zechariah 12:10

The two Spirit inspired Scriptures and the Spirit anointed apostle John combine in this text as 3 witnesses of this one event!

- C. The Spirit

- i. I offer that John sees the Spirit as both a third witness *and* as encompassing the other two.
 - a) The water: John the Baptist saw *the Spirit descend on Him like a dove.*
 - b) The blood: the Spirit inspired Scriptures are called to bear witness immediately.
 - c) *The testimony of the Spirit that reveals the resurrected, glorious and reigning Son of God to believers.*
- ii. The Spirit’s witness in John
 - a) John 5:25
 - b) 1 John 2:20
 - c) John 15:26
 - d) John’s resurrection testimony