

Lessons From I John

Witnesses For Jesus

(I Jn 5:6-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
 - a. Earlier in John writes of two important points.
 - i. That Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
 1. **I Jn 4:2**
 - ii. That those who believe Jesus Christ has come in the flesh are born of God.
 1. **I Jn 4:2; 5:1a**
 - b. Now John gives us several witnesses in support of these claims concerning Jesus.
3. Today we are going to study the "Witnesses For Jesus."

I. The Witness: Water & Blood (6a, 8b)

- A. Remember the false doctrine circulating at this time
 1. That Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh.
 - i. This later become known as Gnosticism.
 2. A man named Cerinthus taught...
 - i. The divine Christ descended upon Jesus at the time of his baptism.
 - ii. The divine Christ ascended Jesus before the crucifixion.
 3. Others taught that Jesus never was flesh but simply spirit and at the cross that one that died was simply a "stand-in" so to speak.
- B. What is the importance of the water and blood as a witness
 1. Considering the water refers to Jesus' baptism and the blood to his death on the cross we can see a major significance.
 - i. This specifically makes the idea of Christ not dying a false doctrine.
 - a. John is writing and saying that Jesus is the Christ, and plenty of people witnessed both His baptism and death.
 2. Thus the water and blood are a witness of Jesus being the Christ.
 - i. **Jn 1:31-34** "I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."¹
 - ii. **Jn 19:28-30** "After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- iii. **Jn 20:30-31** "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
- iv. **Lk 1:1-4** "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."

II. The Witness: Holy Spirit (6b, 8b)

A. The Spirit is a witness for many reasons

- 1. He can testify to...
 - i. The conception of Jesus.
 - a. **Mt 1:20** "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."
 - ii. The baptism of Jesus.
 - a. **Mt 3:16** "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him"
 - iii. The temptation of Jesus.
 - a. **Lk 4:1** "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness"
 - iv. The ministry of Jesus.
 - a. **Lk 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"
- 2. Even Jesus, in the flesh, said the Spirit would testify about Him.
 - i. **Jn 15:26** "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."
- 3. The Holy Spirit did this by inspiration through the apostles and other men such as Luke.
 - i. **Jn 16:13-14** "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

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- ii. **He 2:3-4** "how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."
- B. The Spirit also agrees with the water and the blood
 - 1. They all three bear witness and agree as one.
 - i. In other words they all three testify that Jesus came in the flesh.
 - 2. Why is it so important to have three witnesses?
 - i. **Dt 19:15** "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."
 - ii. **I Co 13:1** "This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses."
 - 3. Three credible and accurate witnesses establishes fact or truth.

III. The Witness: God The Father (9)

- A. Notice the logical argument presented by John
 - 1. He writes, "If we receive the witness of men..."
 - i. Do not we are humans recognize witnesses in our courts and laws and take what they say as truth especially if three different people say the same thing.
 - ii. Sure one saying something could be unreliable but three unreliable witnesses all bearing the same witness of the event.
 - 2. He continues, "...the witness of God is greater..."
 - i. If we can confidently conclude that man's witness or testimony can be corroborated by two others that make it fact then how much greater is God's.
- B. Make no mistake God the Father has bore witness of Jesus as His Son
 - 1. At Jesus baptism.
 - i. **Mt 3:17** "and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.""
 - 2. At the mount of transfiguration.
 - i. **Mt 17:5** "He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.""

IV. The Witness: The Redeemed? (10a)

- A. "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself"
 - 1. Some have suggested that this makes the redeemed or the Christian a witness.
 - i. It goes something like this, when one believes in Jesus as the Christ he does so based on the facts and overwhelming substance of evidence.
 - a. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (NKJV)

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- b. And thus the one that believes in Jesus as the Christ is a witness himself.
 - ii. Or it goes like this, those who do the will of God (as taught by Jesus shall know that the doctrine of Christ is truly from God.
 - a. **Jn 7:16-17** "So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority."
 - b. In the same manor the one who believes in the Son receives confirmation "in himself."
 - iii. In full discloser the first was my initial thought, and the second is a very well known brothers.
 - 2. Here is the problem with both those and any that try to make this say the Christian is a witness.
 - i. The text doesn't say that it says the Christian has the "witness in himself, not that he/she is the witness."
 - a. In other words the water, blood, Spirit, and Father are all in the Christian bearing witness of Jesus being the Christ.
 - b. How do they do this? Through the Word.
 - 1. **Jn 15:26** "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."
 - 2. **II Pt 1:21** "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
 - 3. **II Ti 3:16** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"

CONCLUSION

- 1. The witnesses of Jesus being the Christ are overwhelming.
 - a. They each prove beyond a shadow of a doubt to the one that desires to know the truth that Jesus is the Christ our Savior who came in the flesh and died for our sins that we may have the opportunity of heaven one day.
 - i. **Jn 1:12-14** "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- 2. Question: Are you listening to the witnesses of Jesus as the Christ?
 - a. If so continue therein and continue to grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not? They have that which will make you the Christ-like person you ought to be thus repent and make this right before God, and let us help you in the process, that we may encourage you and help you in this.

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3. Invitation²

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² Mark Copeland's sermon "Witnesses For Jesus Christ" was very instrumental in this outline, and I appreciate greatly his dedication and study of these verses.