

Theme: God has testified that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and only those who believe in Him have life.

I. Intro - A Reliable Witness?

A. Court martial in Augusta

1. The only witness was caught in a lie
2. The case crumbled

B. The reliability of the witness is key!

C. Who and what is the witness for Jesus?

D. How do we know they are truthful?

II. The Subject of the Testimony: Jesus Christ

A. John is speaking of Jesus in this whole section

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:6

1. Jesus is the one the testimony is about
2. God's testimony centers on Person & work of Jesus

B. The testimony is about Jesus Christ, Son of God

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:1, 5–6

1. The Jesus receiving God's testimony is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God
2. God's testimony is concerning the Authentic Jesus Christ, Son of God - fully God, fully man, in One Person, the Only Savior of the world

C. Jesus Christ, Who came by water and blood

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. 1 John 5:6

1. Both water AND blood is clearly important for John
2. Three possible meanings for water and blood here
 - a. Sacraments (baptism and Supper) - Luther & Calvin
 1. Good symbolism; sacraments are important
 2. John uses past tense - Jesus came, not he comes
 3. No place else does 'blood' alone stand for Supper
 4. Water is symbol; blood is the reality symbol points to
 5. I disagree with Luther and Calvin
 - b. Death of Jesus - Augustine
 1. These are spoken of in John 19:34 at death of Jesus
Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. John 19:34
 2. But the order of water and blood is reversed
 3. In John 19:34 water and blood came from Jesus; here here comes by them
 4. Key point is not only water, but also blood; two different things - but death of Jesus is just one thing
 5. I disagree with Augustine
 - c. Baptism and death of Jesus - Tertullian, most scholars today (and me)
 1. The beginning & end of Jesus' public ministry
 2. Clearly refutes known Gnostic errors - Cerinthus

Cerinthus taught “after his baptism Christ descended upon him (Jesus) in the shape of a dove from the authority that is above all things. Then he preached the unknown Father and worked miracles. But at the end Christ again flew off from Jesus. Jesus indeed suffered and rose again from the dead, but Christ remained impassible, since he was spiritual.” (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 1.26.1)

3. Also refutes Gnostic teacher Basilides

Basilides taught that God “sent his own first-begotten Nous (he it is who is called Christ) to bestow deliverance on them that believe in him, from the power of those who made the world. He appeared, then, on earth as a man, to the nations of these powers, and wrought miracles. Wherefore he did not himself suffer death, but Simon, a certain man of Cyrene, being compelled, bore the cross in his stead; so that this latter being transfigured by him, that he might be thought to be Jesus, was crucified, through ignorance and error, while Jesus himself received the form of Simon, and, standing by, laughed at them. For since he was an incorporeal power, and the Nous (mind) of the unborn father, he transfigured himself as he pleased, and thus ascended to him who had sent him, deriding them, inasmuch as he could not be laid hold of, and was invisible to all. Those, then, who know these things have been freed from the principalities who formed the world; so that it is not incumbent on us to confess him who was crucified, but him who came in the form of a man, and was thought to be crucified, and was called Jesus.” (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 1.24.4.)

4. Rejection of Jesus dying on cross continues in Islam

5. Jesus Christ was not only demonstrated with power to be the Son of God at His baptism, but in His death on the cross.

III. The Authentic Testimony of God

A. There is the testimony of men sent from God about this

We accept **man’s testimony**, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 1 John 5:9

1. This is probably referring to John the Baptist

a. John testified Spirit came on Jesus at baptism

Then John gave this testimony: “I **saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.** ³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to **baptize with water** told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ **I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.**” John 1:32–34

1. Gnostics liked John the Baptist and agreed Jesus baptized
2. But notice it is the Spirit - not the Christ - that comes down upon Jesus - and REMAINS
3. John testifies Jesus is the Son of God

b. John testified of the coming death of the Son of God

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**... ³⁴ **I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.**” John 1:29, 34

1. Jesus is the Lamb - the One Who will die so that our sins may be forgiven
2. The Lamb of God is the Son of God - they can not be separated in John’s testimony

2. This is strong testimony for Jesus Christ

B. The authentic testimony of God regarding Jesus Christ

1. God’s testimony is greater than mans testimony

We accept man’s testimony, **but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.** 1 John 5:9

- a. John’s testimony is great, and so is that of other humans

b. But God has testified - and that is far greater!

2. God's threefold testimony regarding Jesus

And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 1 John 5:6–8

a. No surprise it is three again! (see 1 John 1:6-10; 2:12-14; 2:15-17)

b. NOTE: KJV/NKJV has added words here - see video on website to understand why

3. The three - the Spirit, the water, and the blood

a. The Spirit always testifies that Jesus is Son of God

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, [the Spirit of truth](#) who goes out from the Father, [he will testify about me](#). John 15:26

1. This is primary task of the Spirit - to testify of Jesus
2. The Spirit Who overshadowed Mary, Who descended on Jesus when He was baptized, Who led Him into the wilderness, Who anointed Him to do mighty works - this Spirit always testifies that He is the Son of God, the only Savior of the world.

b. Water - The Father testified of Jesus at His baptism

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ [And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."](#) Matthew 3:16–17

1. Not just John - the Father testifies to Jesus!
2. At His baptism, the Spirit descends upon Jesus, John cries out this is the Lamb of God, and the Father says this is My Son - and I am pleased with Him! This is the strongest public testimony imaginable.

c. Blood - The cross testifies that Jesus is Son of God

So Jesus said, "[When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am \[the one I claim to be\]](#) and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me." John 8:28

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But [I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.](#)" ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. John 12:31–33

1. For John the cross of Christ - which appears to be the lowest point of Christ's humiliation - is actually His moment of triumph and exaltation, for at the cross the fallen world was judged, Satan was defeated, and Jesus drew lost humanity back to Himself.
2. John says "Behold the cross - the power of God, and the testimony that Jesus is the Son of God, Savior of the world!"
3. To deny the cross is to gut God's testimony to Jesus, and to deny salvation itself - for there is no salvation apart from the cross. This is why the cross - that symbol of suffering and shame - has become the treasured symbol of our faith.

4. The testimony of God - life is in the God's Son alone

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11–12

- a. The testimony of God through Spirit, water and blood - eternal life is found only in the Son
- b. To have the Son of God is to have life
- c. To deny the Son of God is to reject life itself.

IV. Applying the Authentic Word

A. Have you accepted the testimony of God about Jesus?

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son....¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:10, 12

1. John the Baptist and apostles testified to Jesus
2. God testified by Spirit, baptism and death of Jesus
3. The Spirit of God is still testifying to Jesus today
4. Do you hear His voice today? Do you believe Him?
5. Jesus is the Christ, Son of God, only way to heaven
6. Don't call God a liar - receive Christ today!

B. How do we believers respond to God's testimony?

1. By grace we have believed the testimony of God
2. Because of Jesus we have life eternal!
3. Do we believe the Spirit can still testify powerfully?
 - a. The Spirit still testifies powerfully today!
 - b. He convinced us - He can convince our unbelieving friends and family
 - c. This is still the most powerful testimony - pray for the Spirit to do His work!
4. Do we also testify of Jesus? We are called to hold fast this testimony!

C. Prayer for God's testimony to go forth

The Authentic Testimony of God

1 John 5:6-12
August 9, 2015
Prayer
Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Christology; Incarnation; cross; Jesus; Holy Spirit; false teaching and heresy

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth... who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father— go forth to serve Him in peace! Revelation 1:4–6

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.⁷ For there are three that testify:⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.⁹ We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:6–12