

The First Epistle of John

(Week 50 – 1John 5:6-8 – part1)

Text: 1John 5:6-8 (ESV), *“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.⁷ For there are three that testify:⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.”*

I. Review:

A. 1John 5:1-5

1. **The first vital sign of the New Birth:**
 - a. **Belief in Jesus as the Christ and Son of God (vv. 1, 5)**
2. **The second vital sign of the New Birth**
 - a. **Love for God’s children (v. 1b)**
 - i. **We love His children by obeying His commands**
3. **The third vital sign of the New Birth**
 - a. **Love for God expressed in obedience to His commandments**
4. **The fourth vital sign of the New Birth**
 - a. **Faith that overcomes the world**
 - i. **If one is part of God’s Family, they have already overcome the world because they chose God over the world!**
 - b. **John says in the second part of verse 4, “*And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith*”**
 - i. **Faith is:**
 1. **Recognizing that God has a superior wisdom to our own**
 2. **Recognizing that He sees what we do not see**
 3. **Recognizing that He knows where certain choices will lead us**
 4. **Recognizing that His judgments are perfect and ours are faulty**
 - c. **Faith that says, “I believe Jesus is the Christ” overcomes the world!**
 - i. **Such faith has caused many to face their torturers without ever denouncing Jesus as the Christ! (cf. Rev. 2:10)**

II. The Testimony Concerning Jesus Christ

A. Is Christianity merely a subjective experience?

1. **If one were to say, “Jesus Christ changed my life!” the skeptic would respond, “That’s great for you but it doesn’t prove Christianity is true for everyone else!”**
 - a. **As examples, the skeptics may say:**
 - i. **Buddhism changed Richard Gere’s life**
 - ii. **Scientology changed Tom Cruise’s life**
 - iii. **Kabbalah Judaism changed Madonna’s life**

B. Authentic Christianity is objective:

1. **At the start of the epistle, John spoke of his objective experience with Jesus:**
 - a. **1John 1:1-3 (ESV), “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*”**
 - i. **John wasn’t relying on some subjective, inner feeling.**
 - ii. **He spoke of his witnessing Jesus as the Christ!**

2. As John combats Gnosticism, he establishes God’s testimony concerning Jesus Christ...
 - a. 1John 5:6, *“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”*
 - i. **Question: What is meant by water and blood?**
 1. Some say it refers to baptism and the Lord’s Supper
 - **Objection:** John says “He who CAME...” referring to some historical coming. Jesus didn’t come by “The Lord’s Supper;” rather, the Lord’s Supper was established after Jesus came.
 2. Some say it refers to the water and blood that flowed from the spear wound inflicted upon Jesus’ death (John 19:34-35).
 - **Objection:** 1John says Jesus CAME BY water and blood, as opposed to the Gospel of John that says blood and water CAME OUT of Jesus.
 - a. In other words, one bore witness to His being the Christ while the other bore witness of His death.
 3. The interpretation that seems more fitting is:
 - **Water = Christ’s baptism**
 - a. This was a historical experience that bore witness to Jesus being the God-man.
 - i. Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV), *“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; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”*
 - ii. The Spirit of the Lord was to come upon the anointed one (Messiah-Hebr.) – Isaiah 61:1
 - iii. Jesus claimed to be that anointed one spoken by Isaiah (Christ – Grk) – Luke 4:18
 - iv. God, the Father, gave testimony that Jesus was His Son, implying His divinity (cf. John 5:18).
 - **Blood = Christ’s death**
 - a. This was also a historical experience that bore witness to Jesus being the God-man.
 - i. Matthew 27:51-54 (ESV), *“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake*

and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"

- ii. **At this event, the Father intervened, not with words, but with miraculous events!**
 - iii. **Eccl. 8:8 says no man has power over the day of death, yet, Jesus had power, for He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" then He died (Luke 23:46).**
 - iv. **For this reason, the centurion, among the signs he saw, said what he said!**
- **This interpretation also fits with the historical setting of 1John, which deals with Gnosticism:**
- a. **The Cerentian Gnostics taught that Jesus was a mere man whom "the Christ" descended upon at baptism and departed before death.**
 - b. **John refuted this false teaching by saying Jesus Christ came by water, and not only water (baptism) but by blood, that is, by death!**
 - c. **He was Christ at baptism and at death!**