

The First Epistle of John

(Week 52 – 1John 5:9-12)

Text: 1John 5:9-12 (ESV), *“If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

I. Review of 1John 5:6-8: The Testimony Concerning Jesus Christ

A. In the KJV, in 1John 5:7-8, the portion, “in heaven” to “in earth” is considered an interpolation

1. It was not found in earlier Greek manuscripts
2. It was never quoted by the early Christian apologists (Ante Nicene Fathers)
3. KJV supporters feel this doctrine supports the trinity and that it is satanic to remove it from the Bible.
 - a. Other ways to prove the doctrine of Trinity:
 - i. Doctrine of Trinity – God is one yet three distinct beings: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This doctrine acknowledges the deity of Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Genesis 1:26 – God said “Let us make man in our image...”
 2. John 1:1 – the Word was with God and was God
 - ii. Doctrine of Arianism – This doctrine denies that Jesus is God; He is God’s first creation. It also denies the personality of the Holy Spirit (ex. Jehovah’s Witnesses).
 - iii. Doctrine of Modalism – Trinitarians believe that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist at the same time; Modalists do not (ex. United Pentecostal Church). They believe the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are the same person.

II. The Testimony of God

A. 1John 5:9 (ESV), *“If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.”*

1. We often receive and trust the testimony of men
 - a. For example:
 - i. We often trust what a sword-in witness says during a court trial
 - ii. We often trust what a family member, friend or neighbor tells us
 - iii. We often trust what a doctor tells us
 - iv. We often trust what a mechanic tells us
 - v. Unfortunately, we even find ourselves often trusting what a gossip tells us
2. However, God’s testimony is more trustworthy than man’s testimony
 - a. Man’s testimony can be flawed but God’s testimony is perfect and always true!
 - b. God gave the testimony:
 - i. The water – Jesus’ baptism (Matt. 3:16-17)
 - ii. The blood – Jesus’ death (the amazing scenes that took place at His death)
 - iii. The Spirit – The working of miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

3. 1John 5:10a (ESV), “*Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...*”
- a. **Question: What testimony is John referring to here?**
 - i. God’s testimony concerning Jesus being His Son (vs. 9b)
 - b. **Question: What does the phrase “has the testimony in himself” mean?**
 - i. Just as a man’s thoughts and actions are impacted when he receives another man’s testimony, a true believer’s thoughts and actions are impacted when he receives God’s testimony...
 1. God’s testimony in him causes him to know that Christ is his Advocate (helper) and the propitiation of his sins (cf. 1John 2:1-2)
 2. God’s testimony in him leads him to practice righteousness (cf. 1John 3:7-10)
 3. God’s testimony in him leads him obey God’s word (cf. 1John 2:5)
 4. God’s testimony in him leads him to love the brethren (cf. 1John 4:7)
 5. God’s testimony in him gives the assurance of eternal life (cf. 1John 5:11)
 6. God’s testimony, when received within us by the hearing, believing and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ, changes our lives, our behavior, our thoughts, our character and our hearts!
 - c. **But what about those who do not receive the testimony of God?**
 - i. 1John 5:10b says... “*...Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son*”
 1. Anyone who refuses to believe God’s testimony of Jesus (like the Gnostics, who did not believe Jesus came by water AND blood) stand defiantly before God, calling Him a liar!
 2. Those who reject God’s testimony stand condemned already because they do not believe in the name of God’s Son (cf. John 3:18).
 - d. **But those who have received God’s testimony...**
 - i. 1John 5:11-12 says... “*And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*”
 1. Physical death is as a separation of body and spirit (cf. James 2:26) while physical life would be the opposite!
 2. Spiritual death is separation from God; Spiritual life (eternal life) is the opposite!
 3. Those who have God’s testimony in them have spiritual life!
 - The terror of death is replaced with the assurance of life!
 - Jesus said those who believe in Him, though they may physical die, will live (cf. John 11:25)
 - What an assurance! Which leads us to 1John 5:13... next week! 😊