



**“Jesus Christ”**  
*The Testimony of God*  
I John 5:6-12

*God’s testimony is :*

**I. Sufficient-** “for there are three that bear record” (vs. 6-7)

*God’s witness is about Jesus’:*

**A. Consecration** - “not by water only”  
*Ordination to a sacred ministry*

**B. Completion** - “but by water and blood”  
*“It is Finished”*

**C. Confirmation** - “because the Spirit is truth”  
*To us, in us, & through us (a compass...always pointing to Jesus*

**II. Superior** – “the witness of God is Greater” (vs. 8-10)

*God’s witness is:*

**A. Complete** - “there are three that bear witness”

**B. Consistent** - “these three agree in one”

**C. Corroborated** - “hath the witness in himself”

**III. Significant** - “hath made Him a liar” (vs. 10-12)

*God’s witness must be:*

**A. Respected** – “God hath given us eternal life”

**B. Realized** – “this life is in His Son”

to grasp or understand clearly.

**C. Received** – “He that hath the Son hath life”

Sentence Sermon:

*“Our faith can rest on what God says about Jesus.”*

Additional Verses

- *Romans 3:4*
- *John 1:14, 18, 29*
- *John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13*
- *Psalms 2:7*
- *John 19:30*
- *Isaiah 42:1*
- *John 5:24; 14:6;*
- *Romans 8:16*
- *I John 2:2; 4:10*
- *Matthew 3:13-17*
- *Mark 1:9-11*
- *Luke 3:21-22*
- *John 1:32-34; 19:30, 33-37*
- *Deuteronomy 19:15*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. What is the water and the blood that is mentioned?
3. Why is it significant that it is “not by water only?”
4. How does the Spirit bear witness?
5. What is meant by the Spirit is truth?
6. What is the significance of three witnesses?
7. Why does it say the witnesses agree in one?
8. How is the witness of God greater?
9. What does it mean to receive the witness of men?
10. How would you describe the witness found in believers?
11. What are the elements of the record God gave?
12. What does it mean to “have the Son?”
13. Are there any practical tips on witnessing from this text?

## **Bertrand Russell 1872 -1970 - Atheist**

### **Authored "Why I am not a Christian" 1927**

*Russell was asked what he would say to God if he found himself standing before God. His answer: "I should reproach Him for not giving us enough evidence."*

*In these verses a courtroom setting is easily imagined. Some form of the Greek word *martus*, translated "testify", "testimony", or "borne" occurs no less than 10 times.*

*John brings up 6? witnesses who will testify to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God who gives the gift of eternal life to all who trust in Him.*

v. 6.

- This is He = refers to verse 5---Jesus
- That came by = language suggests the reader would be familiar to the messianic language of "the coming one"
  - Aorist participle indicates past historical event as well as the water and blood being past events
- Water = Jesus baptism...so important that it is mentioned in all **4 gospels**
  - ❖ Why was Jesus Baptized ??? Same reason we should get baptized !! Not to save us but to identify with the Message of God's Word and the New Life only possible through

God's Grace realized in the Receiving of the Messiah sent from God.

- ❖ This witness (Jesus' Baptism) – was a full sensory witness
  - Smell the water
  - See the Spirit descend
  - Hear the Father
- And blood = Jesus death on the Cross
  - ❖ Together the water and blood are to depict His messianic office.
    - The baptism = explains the whole of His ministry
    - The crucifixion explains His Passion
  - ❖ The Crucifixion was full sensory also
    - See the beating
    - Hear Jesus, thieves, soldiers
    - The smell ...blood and sweat
    - Darkness from noon till 3
    - Curtain torn in two from top –bottom
    - An Earthquake
    - O.T. saints resurrected and appeared
- Jesus Christ = IXTUS = Jesus Christ God's Son Savior
  - ❖ Historians almost unanimously agree that the Historical Jesus suffered a brutal and bloody death but has no redemptive value and bears no significance for my salvation.
- Not by water only = He was not God only in His baptism (some saying because the Holy Spirit came upon Him ) but also....

- But by water and blood = literally “in the water and the blood”
  - ❖ Jesus was God incarnate throughout His time on earth ...even at and through the crucifixion...Gnostics say the Holy Spirit or the Divineness left Jesus before He died on the Cross.
  - ❖ John 8:17 – 2 witnesses
- And = ....wait not just 2 fold but 3 fold for his Jewish readers
- It is the Spirit that bears witness = present tense...”He is giving witness and continues uninterruptedly” Westcott
  - ❖ The Spirit gave witness ...the book of Acts ...the whole of the Bible...the work of illumination in the hearts of believers.
- Because = why should we consider a third witness??
- The Spirit is **the** truth = not only reveals it but is it...Father is Truth, Son is Truth, Holy Spirit is Truth
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#### V. 7

- For there are three that bear record = simply saying that the three mentioned in verse 6 ....bear record = same word as the word for witness in verse 6...present tense indicates they are still bearing witness whenever someone hears or considers them.
- **II Cor. 13:1; Deut. 19:15 – importance of THREE**

#### v. 8.

- The Spirit, and the Water, and the blood = notice the definite article drawing attention to previously mentioned three witnesses in verse 6
  - Also notice the Spirit mentioned first ...the one active, living witness
- And = also it needs to be recognized
  - These three agree = as a measure of accuracy...separate the witnesses and hear what they say and see if there is a consistency
  - **Contrasted to the charges Jesus faced – Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:55-59**
- In one = Consistency of evidence and arriving at the same conclusion...Jesus is God’s Son Savior of man

#### v. 9

- *If = First class conditional .....assumed as true*
- *We receive =*
- *The witness of men = required scrutiny and rules for testifying in a legal arena.*
- *The witness of God is greater= **superior in source, status, and significance.***
- For this is the witness of God = “Here then is God’s testimony about His Son(which we ought to accept because of its greatness).”
- Which He hath testified = when?, the baptism, the transfiguration, ...recorded witness throughout scripture.
- Of His Son = The focus is on Jesus and who He is.

**v. 10.**

- He that believes =
  - For John there was no middle ground, no suspension of opinion. One either believes or he impugns God's veracity.
- On the Son of God = eis = on, or in....speaks to a person's surrender and reliance on the Son
- Hath the witness in himself = Romans 8:16 – the Spirit bears witness with our spirit
- He that believes not God = stated in the negative emphasizing the lack of the desired response.
- Made Him a liar = Either God is telling the truth or He is lying ....rejecting the Word of God is to call Him a liar
- Because = why he is accusing God of being a liar
- He believes not the record = the testimony....scripture
- That God gave of His Son = The Father has testified about Jesus and has clearly told us that Jesus is God and He is pleased with His work for mankind.

**v. 11.**

- And this is the record = the record talked about in v. 10...
- That God has given to us eternal life = focus is on the quality of the life given....not just long but of great quality....cp. John 10:10

**v. 12.**

- He that has the Son = a relationship, understanding, belief or possession
- Has life = better "has the life" definite article in the greek pointing back to the life that God gives in verse 11 (John 5:24; 14:6)
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