

Today and tonight we are going to conclude our Study of I John. I have prayed throughout this entire series that this study has helped you understand the Doctrine of Assurance...To help you understand your POSITION in Jesus Christ. A position that cannot be fallen into or fallen out off. Once you are in God's family there is nothing that can separate you from that wonderful POSITION....And as we ~~bring our study to a conclusion~~ *have studied I John*, I hope you understand that wonderful principle.

So, take your Bibles and turn with me to I John chapter 5 and we will begin with Vs 6.....I John chapter 5 verse 6....(READ Vs 6-13)

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for your Word. We thank you for those who have come today to hear the Word of God. And our Father, we pray that the Holy Spirit might apply the truth of the Word to our lives. So that we might know what it means to have the assurance of God. And we pray this in Jesus name.....AMEN.

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If you would look at your outline, you will notice that we have been looking at examples which are outlined here in chapter 4 and 5 which when correctly understood will bring assurance to the believer's life.

First And we looked at the example of the Father in chapter 4 verses 12 to 16.

Secondly, or 2C, on your outline, we looked at the effects that love produces when we operating our life by AGAPE -love.

Third..3C..we looked at the Assurance that comes through the experience of faith...

(4C) Now, today, we want to come to the assurance that God gives to the believer concerning the person of Jesus Christ and that Assurance comes through the witness of the Holy Spirit. *Full example* *Through the Witness of the Spirit*

The word "witness" appears 10 times in verses 6 through 13. It is translated in some Bibles as "Testify" or "record". But it is all the same Greek word. And the idea is that of "TESTIMONY".. And what is it witnessing to?....It is bearing witness to the PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

So, here is real proof or evidence that will give us assurance as to the person of Jesus Christ. *How do we really know that Jesus is all that He claims to be? Well here is the proof*

Vs 6 says, "This is he who came."...."CAME"...Past Tense...It is referring to a historical event. The entrance of Jesus into the world. The fact that God became man.

So, what is under discussion is the incarnation of Jesus.

Now, please remember...All the way through this book, John divides people into two camps. There are those who believe that Jesus is God. And there are those who deny the deity of Jesus Christ. And those who deny the deity of Christ, John calls them, "PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST. They deny that Jesus is God.

So, with that in mind, John, in verses 6 through 13 gives witness to the fact that Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh. And he does this ~~with~~ by presenting to us external evidence and internal evidence.

(1D) So, first of all, let's look at the external evidence: ~~And they are WATER...THE BLOOD...AND THE HOLY SPIRIT...~~

Vs 6 says.."This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth."

Now, John gives us three external evidences to prove that Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh. WATER...BLOOD...AND THE HOLY SPIRIT...

(1E) First of all, the witness of water .

Now, some people say that this refers to the water and blood that came out off the side of Jesus when he was on the cross and the soldier put the spear into his side. And I believe that is true. That is part of the teaching. It proved that Jesus really did die on the cross. He died of a ruptured heart. And when the soldier put that spear into his side and water and blood came out, it proved that Jesus was really dead.

But ^{water} ~~it~~ also refers to something else. It refers to a witness to the face of the incarnation of Jesus.

Turn with me to Matthew chapter 3....I want you to see this in the baptism of Jesus.....Matthew chapter 3 beginning with Vs 13 (READ VS 13-17)

So, according to these verses the water or the baptism of Jesus is proof to the incarnation of Jesus. WHY? Because on that occasion a miracle happened. A voice from God the Father spoke out of the heavens and said: "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

When Jesus was baptist in water, it was the first announcement to the world that this is the promised one. This is the Messiah. This is God in human flesh.

(2E) O.K. come back to I John. The second external evidence John says is the blood. Now, this is simple. THE CROSS OF CHRIST. The cross is the one tremendous external evidence that Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh. The Bible says that the son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to die on that cross. He told his disciples that he was going to die. And when Jesus died on the cross it was for a purpose. He died for our sins. And three days later he was alive and walking around.

He came by water....and He came by blood....And he proved that he is the Son of God.

(3) The third external proof is the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 5

The Bible says in I John that the Holy Spirit bears witness. He continually bears witness; and he is the spirit that is truth.

Now, over and over again the one characteristic that is emphasised in the Bible about the Holy Spirit is that He is truth. ~~He is the Spirit of truth.~~ And He will guide you into all the truth.

So, The point of this passage is that these three witnesses....the water, the blood, and the Spirit...these three are greater than the witness of man.

Let's suppose that these three witness were just equal to man. Why will people accept the witness? You know, we will often hear a person witness, there will be two or three people bearing witness. They will stand up in a court room and give testimony to a fact that happened. And we accept it as the witness of men.

Here are three occasions that gave witness that Jesus is ~~the~~ ^{God} ~~son of~~ God. *And John says that these witnesses are* ~~the witness of God, as John says, is~~ greater than the witness of man.

Let's accept the witness and have confidence in our heart that this is g proof that Jesus is the Son of God. That is what John is saying....

For He says in Vs 8: "For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the ~~the~~ three agree in one." In other words, they all concur. They all agree that Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh.

And the point of Vs 9 is "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has born witness concerning His Son."

Three witnesses....And God the Father gave them to us to give us confidence, and boldness and assuranceWhat a tremendous principle to live by.....

^{idw}
But, there is internal evidence as well as external. Notice Vs 10:
"The one who believes in the Son of God has ~~at~~ the witness.....WHERE?.....
"IN HIMSELF".....

(15)

Internal evidence...You say to me, "what is this internal evidence?"
"What do you mean that I have the witness within myself? How can I know
that within myself that Jesus is God? How can I know that?"....(phases)

Well, the point is....that the internal witness is the witness of the
Spirit, himself, who comes to live within you. Let me show you how this
works....

John says in Vs 10: "the one who believes in the Son of God has the
witness in himself."...In other words, this internal evidence is based on
my believing in the Son of God....The preposition "in" is the key...

A person says: "Well, I just cannot believe that?"...Well, believe in
Christ and you will believe a lot of things afterwards. "I just can't
believe that portion of the Bible." Well, believe in Christ and ~~at~~ ~~trust~~ trust
Him and you will begin to believe things that you never thought you could
believe before. *His witness works*

You see, the Holy Spirit of God comes into your life the moment you
accept Christ and He begins to show you the things of God. The Spirit is
the spirit of truth and He guides us into all the truth.

So, believe in Christ and your mind will begin to open. WHY?...Because
before you believed in Christ you didn't have the Holy Spirit. And only
those who have the Holy Spirit can understand the things of God and see
this Bible really live. Believe ~~in~~ the Son and you will have the witness
within yourself. Romans 8:16 says: "The Spirit himself bears witness with
our spirit that we are children of God." Conclusive prove that I am a
child of God comes through the witness of the Holy Spirit who is within me.
You see, the moment I accept Christ as my Saviour, at that moment the Holy
Spirit comes to live in me. And the Holy Spirit bears witness with my
spirit that I am a child of God.....Result:....Confidence...Assurance...

(2f) But, ^{record} what else, We notice that the internal witness is, also, based ON GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE. He says at the end of Vs 10: "the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in ~~the~~ the witness that God has borne concerning His Son."

Well, what is that witness? ^{Vs 11} "THIS IS THE RECORD--THIS IS THE WITNESS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON."

What does ^{a person} ~~man~~ want more than anything? ~~???~~? Some people say, HAPPINESS. Others - money. Others immortality. But, if it was a matter of choice. To have happiness or money or to live forever, which would you take?

* If I knew that I was going to die tomorrow, what would I want today? The thing that I would want more than anything else is to have conclusive proof that I would live forever....if that was a possibility.....

Now, the Bible says that God has given a great gift to all people and it is eternal life...God who is eternal and has no beginning and is not subject to time, has life that is eternal. And he wants to give it to all people.

^{The Bible ~~says~~, says that eternal}
But, the thing we must remember is that this life is in His son, Jesus. No one receive it, except through Jesus. ...

So, the point here is that if you ^{this} are going to have internal witness, a witness within yourself that Jesus is the Son of God, you must believe ~~in~~ Christ, because at that moment the Spirit comes into your life and bears witness with your spirit that you are the children of God; and ^{that you have} ~~you, also,~~ receive eternal life. Because you have received Christ. Because life is in Christ.

Now, a lot of people have the idea that eternal life is something that God sort off holds over ones head, and says: "if you are a good boy one day I will give this to you." If, when you get to heaven, concluding that you are going to heaven, and when you get there, St Peter says: "Does your good deeds ^{measure up to} ~~measure up to~~ your bad deeds. And if they were, ^{do} we assume that God will say: "Here is eternal life," "You can live forever!"

Subconsciencsely that is how we think. However, that is ridiculous. The Bible says that eternal life is in Jesus Christ. So, the one who has Jesus has eternal life. WHY? Because he has Christ.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE CHRIST? John puts it very clearly back in Vs 10..."THE ONE WHO BELIEVES." BELIEVES WHAT? Believes that Jesus is the son of God, which basically means: God in human flesh.

Oh, dear friends, do you believe that Jesus is God? If you do, you have eternal life.

You say, "Pastor, you mean to tell me that if I just believe that this person called Jesus is God, I will have eternal life?".....RIGHT!!!!

If Jesus is not God, then He is not my Saviour. And he is not your Saviour. And there is no hope for any of us. And we might as well close these doors and do something else with out time. But, this is the witness, that God gave us His son. And eternal life is in Jesus. And God gives eternal life to the one who believes in Him.

Then, John adds icing to the cake by stating the purpose for writing this little book. In Vs 13 he says, "THESE THINGS I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU WHO BELIEVE IN WHAT?....THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD....WHY?....SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW (there is our word of assurance) SO THAT WE MAY KNOW WHAT?....THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

And so dear friends, if you don't know that you have eternal life....if there is some question in your mind...then you don't have the spirit living within you...Thus, you are not saved.

So, that is your need this morning. You need to believe in Jesus and receive him as your Savior. Then you will have the spirit and you will know that you have eternal life.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER