

Study Guide



"Testimony Concerning the Son of God" 1 John 5:6-12 – Dec. 4, 2016

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

The six verses of 1 John 5:6-12 speak to several topics consistent to John in all of his writings.

One prevalent theme throughout John's writings is the word "**witness**." There are 64 references in John's writings – and the overwhelming majority of times the word is used, it is used to provide testimony to the truth of who Jesus Christ is.

The theme of "**eternal life**" also permeates John's writings. Indeed the book of 1 John begins and ends on the topic of eternal life. These six verses will reinforce, to the believer, that the testimony regarding the truth of Jesus Christ is what leads one to eternal life.

For more in depth study check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

December 18-28—South Sudan

For further information visit

norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

December 4th— Family Christmas Program Practice

December 11th— Church Picnic, no 9am service activities, [budget request due](#)

Schedule Change for December

There will be no 9am Sunday activities or services offered from December 11th - January 1st. Please join us for our 10:30am service during this Christmas season.

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Jesus?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[In Christ Alone](#)":

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save

'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

The Reality of Who Christ Is (6-9)

John, in writing his epistle to the church, does so because the reality of who Christ is – God Incarnate – is being challenged by the false teachers. They simply refuse to believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man.

One of the lies told by the false teachers dealt with their heretical teaching that the divinity of God descended to Christ when He was baptized, but was taken away at His death. The result of this teaching would be that He was a mere mortal who died on that cross – and not the perfect sacrifice for man's sin.

John is divinely inspired to remind the church that Jesus Christ was born not only of water, but by water and blood. Being born of the water refers to the time that Christ was baptized. It is important to note that Christ did not become divine at this time – He already was. His baptism served as the start of His earthly ministry and to identify to man that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Being born of the blood refers to Christ's death on the cross. 1 John 1:7 reminds us that the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin. The reference that Christ came by the water and the blood reinforces the fact that the blood does not refer to something that we did to Jesus – but something Christ did for us.

So, how do we know all of this is true? The Holy Spirit gives testimony to the authenticity of Jesus Christ. This act of testimony is a continual process – not a singular event.

The Holy Spirit's testimony represents truth. Three times in John's gospel, John refers to the truth represented by the Holy Spirit. This is important because for testimony to be believed, the witness must be reliable. We can believe the Holy Spirit is truth because of the continual divine assertion of this fact.

In verses 7 and 8, the testimony of the Spirit is reinforced by Christ's baptism (water) and His death (blood). The importance of this in the culture of the time was that testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses was needed in order for a legal charge to have standing. Verse 7 reiterates that the testimony of all three – the Spirit, blood and water are all in agreement to who Christ is.

Verse 9 presents a practical scenario that must be considered. If we believe human testimony, should we not believe God's testimony about His Son – because God is greater?

The Consequences of Belief and Unbelief (10-12)

One of the attributes of scripture is that those things that are most important are remarkably clear. Such is the case in verses 10, 11 and 12. Consider these simple, but profound statements of truth:

1. Verse 10a tells the reader that belief in Jesus Christ accepts the testimony of God.
2. Verse 10b tells the reader that to discount the testimony is to, in essence, call God a liar.
3. Verse 11 clearly states that eternal life is found through Jesus Christ.
4. Verse 12 tells us that belief in Jesus Christ leads to life, but the consequences of disbelief is that no life exists because no relationship with Jesus Christ exists.

Throughout scripture, there are three important truths about eternal life:

1. We cannot earn it or buy it – it is a gift.
2. It is found only in Jesus Christ – no other alternative is available.
3. It is a **present** possession (Kruse). When we become a Christian, we have it.

Closing Comments (5)

The purpose of providing the testimony of Christ is to draw people to Christ. When people are drawn to Christ and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – eternal life ensues.

Praise God for the provision of His Spirit who brings the truthful testimony of Jesus Christ to those who would not know it on their own.

Sermon Questions

What does it say?

1. In verse 6 what two ways does John say that Jesus came? Who testifies about Jesus according to verse 6?
2. In verses 7-8 what or who are the three that testify in agreement about Jesus?
3. How does verse 9 compare the testimony of men versus the testimony of God concerning his Son?
4. What does verse 10 say about the people who believe God's testimony about his Son? What does it say about those who do not believe God's testimony about his Son?
5. According to verses 11-12 what is the content of the testimony that God has given to us about his Son?

Sermon Questions

What does it mean?

1. In verse 6 John introduces the word-symbols “water” and “blood”, and in verse 7 he says that the water and the blood testify, along with the Holy Spirit concerning Jesus. What do you think the “water” refers to and what does the “blood” refer to? Read Matthew 3:13-17 and Hebrews 9:12-14 to assist with answering this question.
2. How did God use the baptism and death of Jesus on the Cross to testify to us about his Son? How does he use the Holy Spirit to testify to us concerning Jesus (John 16:12-15 and Romans 8:15-17)?
3. What is the significance of three witnesses in agreement concerning a testimony? Please read Deuteronomy 19:15 to answer this question.
4. What do you think the first sentence of verse 10 means—“Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.”?
5. What do we learn about eternal life in verses 11-12? When does eternal life start—now or sometime in the future? What is the defining characteristic of eternal life according to John 17:3? Also read John 11:21-26 to examine a real life example of questioning and learning what eternal life in Jesus is.

Sermon Questions

How Does it Apply?

1. What difference does it make to you to know that your eternal life with Jesus has already started? How do you think that eternal life will change when this life is over and you are in the physical presence of Jesus? Read 1 John 3:2-3 and John 17:3 to stimulate your thoughts about these questions.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in 1 John to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Model Answers

What does it say?

1. John says that Jesus came by water and blood. The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus.
2. In verses 7-8 John says the Spirit, the "water", and the "blood" all testify together and in unity concerning Jesus.
3. The testimony of God concerning his Son is much greater than the testimony of men about his Son.
4. Verse 10 says that those who believe in Jesus have a testimony within themselves (in their hearts). They have a subjective assurance within their hearts that God's testimony about his Son is true.
5. God's testimony is that he gave us eternal life in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life, and whoever does not have the Son does not have life.

What does it mean?

1. The probable meaning of “water” in verse 1 is Jesus baptism that marked the beginning of his ministry. It is here (Matthew 3:13-17) that Jesus is anointed by the Holy Spirit to do his work of ministry, and God, the Father, expresses his love and acceptance of his beloved Son, Jesus. The “blood” surely refers to Jesus’ blood that was shed on the cross as a sacrifice for forgiveness of our sins against God.
2. God used the baptism of Jesus to commission him and empower him for his three years of teaching and ministry leading up to the Cross. The Cross of Jesus testifies that Jesus was without blemish and was able to take the sins of the World upon himself to reconcile us to God. According to John 16:12-15 the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and declares him to us. In Romans 8:15-17 we are told that the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, heirs of God, and fellow-heirs with Christ Jesus.
3. In the Old Testament Law, no person could be convicted of a crime unless there were 2 or 3 witnesses that agreed in their testimony against him.
4. This means that when a person becomes a true believer, he enjoys an additional measure of assurance in his own heart concerning truth about Jesus. His own heart testifies in agreement with the “water”, the “Cross” and the Spirit.
5. We learn that eternal life is a gift from God. This eternal life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son in this life, has eternal life—now. Eternal life starts when we become united with Jesus in faith. Whoever has the Son has life. According to John 17:3, the defining characteristic of eternal life is that we know the only true God and know Jesus whom he sent.