

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:9-12**

Chapter 26- The Divine Witness

244 The Divine Witness- Part 1

WAOY Friday- Monday 09/05-08/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to begin a new section of our study by looking at what John taught about the Divine Witness- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** together:

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now here, the Apostle John is bringing to a conclusion the subject matter of this great letter and he ends with this magnificent statement about the Person of our Lord and Savior- Jesus Christ. Now, as you read **1John 5**- if you keep what I am saying here in mind- it will help you to put the pieces together. We need to subdivide this passage so that we can comprehend what John is teaching here. In verses 6-9- John is making his claim about Jesus, in verses 9&10- he is giving us the reasons to believe what he taught about Jesus, and in verses 11&12- John is reminding us of the consequences of both believing and disbelieving what he has taught about Jesus.

Now we have already gone over verses 6-8 in great length and have seen that without any hesitation- John makes the profound claim

that Jesus was God and that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. Now here in verses 9&10- John gives us two reasons why we should believe that what he taught about Jesus is true:

1. The External Objective Evidence
2. The Internal Subjective Evidence

So let's look at both of these reasons- one at a time.

1. The External Objective Evidence

Okay, someone might ask John- "You have exhorted us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, that He is God manifested in flesh, and that He is the Son of God. But why should we believe what you tell us?"

And the first answer to this question is because of what the objective, external evidence tells you. You see, dear friends, in a world that is constantly changing- we need something that is stable, that is strong, that is sure, that is steadfast, and that is unmovable. Truth is just that. But not any truth- only Divine Truth- Truth that comes from God is all that and more.

You see, beloved, Truth is the Rock that anchors our faith. Without Objective Propositional Divine and unchanging Truth- we have nothing on which to base our faith. Contrary to popular opinion- God does not want, nor does He promote faith in us that is not based on Truth. Nobody but cult leaders and false teachers expect you to blindly follow them without question and without offering you propositional Truth. God certainly has never asked anyone to believe in Him or follow Him blindly- that cannot be found anywhere in Scripture.

No, first God is, and the God has said, and then God has done and then based upon those Objective facts- God then expects and demands us to respond. For example read with me **Genesis 1:1:**

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

Now we believe that God always has been and always will be. But we don't just blindly believe that. We believe it based upon what God has said- that in the beginning- God created the heavens and the earth. But in order for God to create everything in the beginning- God must

already exist prior to Him creating everything. So *that* is why we believe that God is eternal- not because we made it up or because we grabbed that thought out of the ether waves or because it makes us feel better. Our strongly held belief that God is eternal is based upon the external objective fact that God said that He was.

And we go on from there. If God created everything that exists- then God must, by default, be greater and more powerful and more lovely and more important and more wise and more glorious than everything else that He created.

And by default that means that God is holy- meaning He is separate and different from everything that He made. And that means that God is *worthy* of our worship because He is holy. And that means that for anyone to *not* worship the God who is worthy or for anyone to worship something else that is *less* holy than God would be wrong or would be sinful.

So from the external evidence of just ten words- we can get a lot about Who God is and what God demands from us in response to that external evidence. But the point here is that for us to believe that God is what He is- is not something that we made up or something that we invented or that comes from inside of us. So the basis of our faith in God is the external evidence that is Objective and factual.

Obviously somebody made the Universe. And while some of you may think that you had something to do with it- I know that I didn't. And common sense tells me that anyone big enough to create everything out of nothing is also big enough to make all the rules and also make demands on my life.

The universe is far too complex and far too busy and far too detailed to have just popped up out of the ground- especially if you know that there wasn't any ground from which it could pop.

I was speaking with some Evolutionary proponents one day and I asked them to explain the origins of life. They said that everything came from the Big Bang. That all known matter was in a large clump and suddenly it exploded and here we are.

Now that is fine unless, of course, you want to know where the big clump of matter came from- and the best that they have to offer to explain that is that we were visited by aliens many years ago who planted the seeds of human life. That's right- the very best that modern

atheists and evolutionists and so called scientists have to offer about explaining where we all came from is that aliens did it.

And I realize that I look stupid but that is just too much for even me to swallow. It takes a whole lot less faith to believe that the Bible is true and that God made everything out of nothing than it does to believe that aliens did it.

But the point that I am making here is that Christian faith in Jesus Christ is not based upon human imagination or feelings that change over time- our faith is based upon external, objective facts.

As we read what God the Holy Ghost compelled forty writers to pen down in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible- our understanding of God and what God has said and Who God is and what God demands from us is made clear.

We read about the virgin birth, the sinless life, and the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and we find that in every case and about every subject- the witness of God is true- it is without error, it is free of contradiction, and it is factually and objectively true.

Now it is normal for us to believe what a lot of people say. If just one person says one thing and everybody else says a different thing- we tend to go with the crowd. For example, in these radio broadcasts- I have not sought to simply tell you what I think about what John said- but I have brought in what history teaches us about what the overwhelming majority of those who led in the Church for 2,000 years wrote and taught about a particular subject. What I say is as likely to be wrong and anyone else. But what Augustine taught 1700 years ago has been dissected and analyzed and torn apart and put back together a thousand times and it stands today as being absolutely in accord with Scripture- which is why what he taught could never be defeated. The same goes for Martin Luther and John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards and Charles Spurgeon and the Puritans. What these people wrote and their interpretation of Scripture has passed the test of time- and so it is profitable for us to read them and to study what they said and to put on what they wrote- even though we realize that they were not inspired.

Look, Christianity is 2,000 years old and there is not anything new under the sun. There is not any verse of Scripture and no Biblical Truth that has not been looked at and discussed at length by many, many people- most of whom were much smarter than me, and so if I am the only one in the 2,000 year history of the Church who comes to a

certain conclusion about a particular Scripture- then it probably means that I am wrong. So I don't seek to reinvent the wheel here, dear friends, I'm not trying to be creative with Truth. I don't want a "new and improved" Gospel- I don't think there is anything wrong with the Gospel that we already have. I don't want a "new thing"- I want the first thing, the right thing, and the true thing.

So John agrees with this logic and doesn't want us to blindly accept what he is assaying about Jesus either- so he tells us in verse 9:

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

So John is saying I was there, I physically touched Jesus, I literally heard the Words coming out of His Mouth, I saw Him walk on water, I saw Him rise the dead, and I saw Him feed the multitudes, and I saw Him die. And John says that he was there when Jesus appeared to them after His Resurrection and John spent 40 days with Jesus as the Lord appeared and disappeared multiple times. Then John says that he was standing on the mountain when Jesus rose up in the air and disappeared out of their sight; John was there in the Upper Room in the very first prayer meeting when the Church was born as the power of God came down upon him and 119 other people. Listen how John describes his relationship with Jesus by reading **1 John 1:1-3**:

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Now this is a profound statement by John here. John tells us here that what he is asking us to believe about Jesus is not something that

he read in a book or that he and Paul and Peter made up over one weekend- but something that he personally saw and experienced.

But then in **1John 5:9**- John says that as good as his own personal testimony and witness is, as trustworthy and reliable as his own personal eyewitness about Jesus is- there is an ever greater witness about Jesus than his own- there is the very witness of God Almighty Himself Who Personally testified several times about Jesus.

And John says that we have *two* sources of external, objective factual evidence- the testimony of man or in other words- his own testimony and the testimony of the others who actually walked and talked with Jesus and then there is another external witness about Jesus that is even greater than all of the witnesses of Man, and this greater witness comes directly from the Owner and the Creator of the universe Who spoke out of the sky at the Baptism of Jesus in **Matthew 3:17** and said:

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And the combination of both of these external, objective propositional facts brings forth strong and genuine faith that Jesus is the Son of God.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2008 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The King James Version* © 1977 by Thomas Nelson Publishers. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.