

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 27- The Divine Witness

#### 250 The Divine Witness- Part 4

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WAOY Thursday 09/11/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue look at what the Apostle John taught about "the Divine Witness"- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

**9** If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

**10** The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

**11** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

**12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Now on our last broadcast- we were looking very closely at verse 9 – so I want to read that verse again together today:

**If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.**

Now what John is saying here is that as reliable and trustworthy as the witness of the Apostle is about Jesus- the witness that God the Father gave to us about Jesus is even greater. But what is the witness that God gave to us about Jesus? On our last broadcast- we were looking at a very familiar passage concerning the Baptism of Jesus that is found in **Matthew 3:13-17** and I want to read that passage again today:

**13** Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.

**14** But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

**15** But Jesus answering said to him, "**Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he permitted Him.

**16** After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,

**17** and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Now we saw last time some interesting things about Baptism and today I want to look at what happened as soon as Jesus was Baptized- so let's read verses 16&17 again together:

**16** After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,

**17** and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Now this passage ties in with what I was teaching about The Doctrine of the Trinity earlier in our journey through **1John** as we can see here all three Persons of the Trinity present at this Baptism. In these verses- God the Son is being baptized; while God the Holy Spirit comes down upon Jesus and God the Father speaks from Heaven and says:

**"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**

The Doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is One in Essence but is eternally manifested in three Persons of God the father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. These verses show us all three Persons operating simultaneously during Jesus' Baptism.

Now if the ancient heresy of Modalism that has been adopted by many in the Jesus Name Pentecostal Churches was right- then this event could not have occurred. Modalism, you might remember was an ancient heresy brought forth by a Roman named Sabellius who taught in the third century that God operated in what he called "modes"

throughout History. Sabellius taught that Jesus was God but that Jesus was Father in the Old Testament; He was Son in the Gospels and Jesus operates today as Spirit. These verses expose Modalism as being untrue. The only way that Modalism could be true here at the Baptism of Jesus would be for Jesus to have been a ventriloquist and bounce His Own Voice off a cloud when God spoke because clearly the Voice of God came from Heaven while Jesus was in the water. So, God the Father and God the Son had to exist simultaneously- destroying the very foundation of the heresy of Sabellianism or Modalism.

Likewise, the ancient heresy of Arianism that challenged The Doctrine of the Trinity in the fourth century and adopted by the organization called Jehovah's Witnesses is also disproved in these verses. Arius, you may remember taught incorrectly that Jesus was not God at all but was a created being and yet here at the Baptism of Jesus- God calls Jesus His Son – making Jesus to be equal with God.

So what we have is a far greater witness about Who Jesus is from none other than God the Father Himself as God testifies or witnesses to the fact that Jesus was God by calling Him His Son and that Jesus was sinless by saying that Jesus pleases Him perfectly.

So, this event of Jesus' Baptism was a powerful moment when false ideas about Who Jesus is were forever torn down and right ideas about Who Jesus is were forever established.

Now I really don't believe that we have the right to argue with anything that is in the Bible. We are not to disagree with what Moses or David or Isaiah or Paul or John or any of the other 40 writers of sacred Scripture said. No, as sons and daughters of the Lord Christ- we have a duty to bow our knees to the authority of the Bible and change whatever we have to in order to come into alignment with what God has spoken through the pages of the Holy Bible.

As I have said many times- you are perfectly free to disagree with me about a whole host of issues and still be in right standing with God- but you are not free to disagree with anything that John or Paul or Peter wrote in Scripture and still be in right standing with God. What Scriptures teaches about God and the ways of God and Salvation and Who Jesus is- is what we are to accept and believe and teach and preach and love and obey and defend.

Nobody has the right to disagree with anything that John wrote in this Epistle and still think that he can be in right standing with God- in fact

John himself said this very thing in **1John 1:1-4**. In that passage, John said:

**1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —**

**2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —**

**3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

**4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**

John says here that what he has written in this Epistle is not something that he read out of some garden catalog- but what he personally saw and heard and physically touched. And then in verse 3 John says that the purpose of him writing this Epistle was so that we could have fellowship with him and the reason that John wanted us to have fellowship with him is because John says that his fellowship is with the Father and Jesus.

Now this is an amazing statement that no human being on earth can make today. In his Divine authority as being the last living Apostle of Jesus Christ- John said that what he wrote and how he lived his life and how he conducted Church and what he believed and what he taught were right and was correct and was exactly what we need to believe. So John says that if any of us ever hope to be in right standing with God and with Jesus- we must be in right standing with John- because John was right.

Now I could never make a statement like that because I have been wrong about many things- but John *could* make a statement like that because he was one of the men who were specifically chosen By Jesus Himself to establish Christianity on the earth. And the way that the Apostles established Christianity on the earth was by what they taught in the 21 New Testament Epistles. We do not establish Christianity today; we do not receive new revelation today; we do not set up the church today- we teach and preach the already established Revelation that is contained in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible; we love and defend the already existing Church that is built upon the foundation of the

Apostles and Prophets with Jesus Christ being the chief Cornerstone and against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. We do not develop or formulate new truth or stamp a “new and improved” sign on the Gospel. We preach and teach and obey and love and defend the very same Gospel that Paul preached and we are not ashamed of that Gospel and we earnestly contend for the very same faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

So our offices and our ministries and our anointing and our gifts and our authority differs from those of the Apostles- precisely because our roles are different. They set up the Church and they established the Gospel- we carry on the Church that they set up and we preach the Gospel that they established.

So what John wrote in this Epistle is infinitely more important than anything that I would write or that anybody else on earth today would write because what these men wrote in these Books is inspired- it is God breathed; it is infallible in that it cannot contain any error and it is inerrant in that it doesn't contain any error. What John and the others wrote is authoritative and it is relevant and it is eternal.

So while what I say and what I teach about Jesus may in some small way be true and even helpful- what John and the other Biblical writers said and wrote about Jesus is infinitely more valuable than anything that I would say.

But then John goes on to say that while what he and Paul and Peter said was extremely true and very valuable- John said that what God has personally said is of even greater value and is even more important than anything they said. That is what John meant when he said in **1John 5:9**:

**If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.**

Now lest anyone think that they can now say that what God says to them personally overrides what John taught in this Epistle- John says this in the last part of verse 9:

**... for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.**

John is saying here that what he and the other writers of the New

Testament have written in the 27 Books is the correct and full witness of God concerning Jesus Christ. So no other so-called “revelation” about Jesus that adds information to God’s Witness as contained in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible or that takes away from this Witness is to be accepted by genuine believers. John says, “This is God’s Witness of Jesus Christ”.

So we need to take heed to ourselves, dear friends that we do not believe and we do not teach any other revelation about Jesus other than that Divine Revelation or Witness contained in the 66 Books of sacred Scripture that came directly from the Mouth of God concerning Who Jesus is.

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.

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