

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 27- The Divine Witness

### 252 The Divine Witness- Part 6

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WAOY Tuesday 09/16/08

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 we have spent the last several broadcasts looking at verse 9- and we have seen several examples how God the Father Personally gave witness or testimony concerning Who Jesus is. And John tells us here in verse 9 that God's witness is greater than the witness of any Man. So what do we receive from the witness that God gave concerning Jesus? Well, there are several things to know.

First of all in both cases where God the Father uttered His Own Voice from Heaven and acknowledged Who Jesus is- God said three things about Jesus that are vitally important to us:

1. God said that "**This is my beloved Son**"- meaning that this Man- Jesus Christ- was the Son of God or in other Words- this was God Almighty in human form. So that witness confirms to us that Jesus is God or in other words- Jesus is fully Deity as well as being fully human.

2. God also said both times, **“in whom I am well pleased”**- meaning that Jesus and only Jesus had fully obeyed the Father’s Law that God gave to Moses. This means that Jesus was in fact absolutely sinless.
3. And in God’s witness about Jesus that He gave on the Mount of Transfiguration- God Almighty gave a command concerning Jesus when He said, **“Listen to Him”**- meaning that we should listen to what Jesus said while He was on earth and we should listen and obey what the Spirit of Jesus spoke through the Apostles in the 21 New Testament Epistles.

Now all that is witnessed by man concerning Jesus is true- but what God the Father personally witnessed about Jesus is far greater than what any man says. And the highlight of all that God the Father witnessed concerning Jesus is when God raised Jesus from the dead.

You see, dear friends, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is God’s seal of approval on everything that Jesus said and did while He was on earth and this is God’s salute and verification that Salvation made available to sinful unworthy man by the finished Work of Jesus Christ and by Christ alone.

No one is saved through the Church or through baptism or by keeping church sacraments or by going to confession or by praying the rosary or by speaking in tongues or by giving money to the Church or by being a nice person. Mary, the mother of Jesus does not escort us into Jesus’ Presence- the Bible does not teach that and Mary is not a co-redemptrix with Christ for Salvation.

Salvation is by Grace alone- part from any action on our part at all; Salvation is through Faith alone- apart from any human works; and Salvation is by Christ alone- the finished work of Jesus in His sinless life and His death and burial and Resurrection. The holy red Blood of Jesus washes our evil black hearts and makes them whiter than snow and then God- in the greatest act of Love the world has ever known- takes the sinless, spotless Righteousness of Jesus and imputes that Righteousness to us and we receive it by faith alone and that is why we can go to Heaven.

What we believe about Jesus is not up to us to decide. We do not have the right to invent a Jesus Who is different than the Bible

describes. And we do not have the right to assign certain qualities or attributes to Jesus that are not assigned to Him in Scripture. In other words, Jesus is what the Bible says that He is and nothing more.

And let me tell you how that Truth impacts us today. Someone might have a dream or a vision or an angel may come down and reveal additional things about Jesus that the Bible does not teach. Someone may utter a prophetic message or give tongues and interpretation in a service that contains additional information about Jesus that is not found in the Bible.

The Apostle John teaches that without hesitation- we are to outright reject such a dream in our day; and we are to ignore such a prophecy; and we are to disbelieve such an angelic visitation. And we are to catalog all such manifestations as attempts by well-meaning but wayward and unstable people to create another Jesus that is not witnessed in the Bible. That is what it means to accept the Biblical Witness of Jesus- that we reject all other witnesses.

Now John also teaches us that in addition to the two witnesses of Jesus of man and God- that there is a third witness. So, let's read **1John 5:10** again together:

**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.**

John teaches here that there is a third testimony about Who Jesus is- and that third testimony comes from inside the believer. Now how does the believer have an internal testimony about Who Jesus is? Because the believer has been filled with the Holy Spirit and his body is now the temple of God the Holy Spirit. Now please read **2Corinthians 6:14-18** together with me:

**14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?**

**15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?**

**16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I *WILL DWELL IN THEM AND***

***WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.***

**17** "Therefore, ***COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,***" says the Lord. "***AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;*** And I will welcome you.

**18** "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Now in this passage- the Apostle Paul teaches that we are not to be what he calls, "**bound together with unbelievers**". Now this is a concept called, "Christian Separation". And Christian Separation is the Biblical concept that every Church taught and every Christian practiced as late as just 150 years ago- but which has become foreign and strange to the modern Church.

Christian Separation is the concept that teaches that genuine believers do not allow pagan, worldly, sinful, and ungodly philosophies and indoctrination to capture their hearts and minds. It is the concept that says that as a believer- I am to look at life the way that the Bible teaches that life is- and *not* the way that people who do not believe in God teach. Christian Separation says that I am to fashion my likes and my dislikes; my loves and my hates; my desires and my dreams; based upon Divine Scripture rather than what the lost world promotes and accepts.

Now some people today call this having a "Christian World View" and they might travel to a retreat over a weekend to learn about having a Biblical worldview rather than an ungodly world view. And that is fine except it is extremely naïve to think that we can feed off the world six and a half days a week and expect to go to a retreat over a single weekend and then presto- we will have a Biblical World view.

My dear friends, please hear me on this- we can't constantly drink in what the world is pouring out except for a few hours on Sunday Morning and then expect to have a Biblical World view. You simply cannot get there from here. Having a view of life that is biblical rather than worldly will take a lot more work than that.

There is no way to understand what God says about life and marriage and money and love and politics and Government and our responsibility as citizens of a country by opening your Bible for an hour and a half in

Church on Sunday Morning or by listening to somebody talk for 30 minutes or by watching a video tape or by going to a retreat.

Obtaining a Biblical World view is going to take you and me opening our Bibles every day- for quality time spent with God and His Spirit and His Word on an ongoing and continual basis. And to do that is going to make demands on our lives.

You see, having a Biblical World View is nothing more nor less than knowing and believing and putting into practice on a daily basis what God has said in His Word while at the same time- rejecting what the pagan world teaches. And we cannot know what God has said and we will automatically accept what the pagan world teaches unless and until unless we open our Bibles and read it on a daily basis.

You see, dear friends, having a Biblical world view is nothing more than walking with God; it is simply living out our Christian faith in how we conduct our daily lives and there is no way that anyone can do that unless reading and studying and knowing and learning and loving and obeying the Word of God becomes a priority.

And let me be real clear about this- reading and studying and learning God's Way through fellowshiping with God through Prayer and Bible Study is going to demand something that most people are simply not willing to give in our day- TIME.

I can't tell you how many people tell me every day that the only reason that they don't read and study their Bibles is because they don't have the time and you know what- I don't buy that for one second. Because I notice that these same people always have time to go out to eat and they always have time to go fishing or watch the game or plant a garden or go shopping or do any number of things that will never help them develop a Biblical World View. So we really do have time to do whatever we place a high value on- don't we?

So it really is not that we don't have the time- it is that we don't love God or love God's Word enough to reorder our lives so that we will make time for what really matters.

Now those of you who know me- know that I am a real stickler about this because I believe with all my heart that it is absolutely sinful that God's people don't spend more time with God in prayer and Bible Study. And you don't have to listen to me about this because after all- who am I? I'm nobody that anyone should listen to. I'm just a flat footed, four

eyed poe dunk preacher from South Mississippi. I'm a sinner who has been marvelously saved by Grace- I'm nothing.

The famous preachers are the ones who should lead the way on this issue- not me. The ministers with mega churches and world- wide television audiences and million dollar books sales- they are the ones who should be telling you that you are kidding yourself to think that you can obtain a Biblical world only by spending quality time with God in prayer and Bible Study. They are the ones who should develop a daily Bible Reading Plan. They are the ones who should be telling you to turn off the TV and put down the video games and turn off the cell phones and the radio and get before God and spend the first few hours early every morning with God and Divine Truth.

But you know what? Most of them won't tell you that. So God had to raise up a silly donkey who could speak to our madness and call us to repentance and to grab the horns of the altar and to weep between the porch and the altar and to return to God's Word so that we can once again know God and know His ways.

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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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.