

1 John

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1 John 5:9-13

Vss. 9-10

- John concluded the previous verses by pointing out that when considering the question as to whether or not Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God there are three witnesses to that truth: The Spirit, the water, and the blood. Deuteronomy 19:15 tells us that in a Jewish court a single witness on any given question would not be even heard or considered. However, if there were a second witness whose testimony was in agreement with the first, then their testimony together would be accepted as absolute truth. If there were THREE witnesses whose testimony agreed, then the question was elevated to incontestable fact. For John, the testimony of the Holy Spirit (which was the testimony of God Himself) beginning with the baptism of Jesus and continuing throughout Jesus's ministry was huge. Then, you couple the Spirit's testimony with the testimony of the water, the demonstration of obedience and submission to the Father, and you have ample testimony proving that Jesus is the Son of God. And then when you add to that the testimony of the blood, whereby at the cross, Jesus proved His full submission to the will of His Father and took the sins of the world on Himself, then you have an incontestable fact that Jesus IS the Son of God!
- So, John reasons, if you and I will in a court of law accept the testimony of people, how can we not accept the testimony of God whose word is greater than any human being's word. Throughout John's gospel is a constant theme of witness to the Sonship of Jesus. There is John the Baptist (1:15); Jesus's own miraculous deeds (5:36); the Old Testament Scriptures are a witness (5:39); The Father Himself is a witness (8:18); and there is the Spirit "even the Spirit of Truth...He will bear witness of Me" (15:26). God's people, God's power, God's Word, God's Spirit, and the very voice of God Himself all bear witness that Jesus is His Son who brings His salvation. If we accept the testimony of people, how can we not accept the testimony of God?
- If we still choose to deny that Jesus is God's Son, then we are making God out to be a liar. For John, it really is just that simple: either God and all of His testimony concerning Jesus is true, or God is a liar. For John there is no gray territory. Either the testimony of God is true or not and if you reject the truth of God's testimony, woe to you when you stand before Him!

Vss. 11-13

- John concludes his argument, and in truth the letter itself, with these verses and the statement, "...you have eternal life". The word here for "eternal" is *aionios*. It's one of those Greek words that has no straight to English translation. Yes, it means to live forever, but more, it means "to possess eternity". In that sense the word can only be applied to God, for God alone possesses eternity. Yet John says God has given us *aionios*, eternal life which comes to us in the form of His only begotten Son, Jesus. Thus John wants us to understand that what God's gift of eternal life really is: it is nothing other than the life of God Himself. Think of the qualities of God's life: peace, a life without fear; holiness, a life of purity and joy; completeness, a life where we hunger for nothing; love, a life where there is no bitterness or hatred; and so much more.
- What John wants us to know is that through Christ the life God offers us is not merely eternal, a life without death, but more than that, God is offering us the rich life He lives.
- Finally, John is forever the pastor. He began this letter because people from the outside had come into his churches and shaken the belief of his people. John knows, and God knows, that our faith is more often than not just a slender thread by which we perilously hang. John isn't asking that we take it all on blind faith, but that we may KNOW that we have eternal life. Slender though the thread may be, we rest secure in the knowledge that the testimony of the three (the Spirit, the water, and the blood) is true, and can be taken as undeniable fact, that Jesus IS the Son of God and in Him is the eternal life of God as the Father's gift to those who believe, so that come what may, we KNOW we have eternal life!