

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 1 John 5

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this short but very practical and personal letter that the Apostle John has written to you and me.

About the reality of who God is, the reality of who Jesus is and the reality of what it means to be a genuine born again Christian, to be a Child of God

And this letter was written – not to cast doubt on whether we are true believers – but to give us assurance of who we are in Jesus Christ.

How do we know that we know that we know that we are indeed Christians?

How do we know?

Jesus loves me – this I know – for the bible tells me so.

That's how we know.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said – “Nothing is certain but death and taxes”

But there are many other things that are certain – especially when it comes to the Word of God.

You see – that is what John has been telling us throughout our study for the last couple of months.

As Christians, we know certain things – we have assurance of certain things – we know the Truth

And it is this certainty and this truth that this lost world is searching for.

But it is only found in Jesus.

**[Jhn 8:31-32 NKJV] 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

Later on in John 14:6

**"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Beginning in our text this morning – John is going to close out his letter by reminding us of a few certainties in the life of the believer.

These certainties – will give us the assurance of who we are in Christ.

Let's pray...

Read text –

In our study last week –

We saw an emphasis on putting our trust (“to believe”) in Jesus as the Christ, the “Savior”

**(1 Jn 5:1 NKJV) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...**

One way we know that have been born of God is that we believe with all heart that Jesus is who God says He is.

And it is this trust that gives us victory over the world.

**(1 Jn 5:5 NKJV) Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

We become overcomers with our faith in Him – as the Son of God

He is the Messiah

But then the question is asked – how do we know that Jesus is the Christ?

John is going to provide for us three reasons or three witnesses concerning Jesus.

Remember, in the Old Testament – the law required the testimony of two or three witnesses in order to establish every fact or prove every assertion.

[1Jo 5:6-13 NKJV] 6 This is He who **came by water and blood**--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is **the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.**

Turn to Matt 3

John makes the point that Jesus came by water and blood –

There are different explanations of what this phrase means –

But I believe that the best explanation considering the context – is found here in Matt 3

**[Mat 3:13-17 NKJV] 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John [tried to] prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit [it to be so] now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice [came] from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

When Jesus was baptized, two special things happened.

There was a visible witness of the Holy Spirit descending on Him as a dove.

There was an audible witness as the Father spoke and declared that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

God the Father attests both the identity and the mission of Jesus

In this scene – you have the trinity at work

Father, Son, Holy Spirit

And this is at the beginning of His ministry – this is the “water”

The “blood” portion of the phrase is at the culmination of His earthly ministry – at His death on the cross.

The blood of His crucifixion.

It was the cross that finished the work that Jesus came to do on the earth.

**(Jn 19:30 NKJV) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**

What was “finished”?

His work of redemption.

He came to take away our sins.

It was with His blood that He paid for our sins:

Now – remember, we have to understand the context in which John writes this.

There were a lot of false claims going around the church about the identity of Jesus and the ministry of Jesus and the death of Jesus

There were people that were saying that Jesus only came in spirit – they said there was no incarnation.

They denied His humanity

There were people who were saying that Jesus really didn't die

They didn't believe that Jesus has two natures.

They didn't believe -

That Jesus is 100% God and 100% man

So for the person who says –

Did God die on the cross?

You can't kill God – a self existing being can't die

Did Jesus die on the cross? Of course He did

the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth

By way – these same false teachings are still around today in many of the cults

They deny the reality of who Jesus is.

And in doing so – they deny the real problem of humanity.

The bible's assertion is that the real problem of humanity is that we are all sinners in need of a Savior. From Genesis to Revelation – that is the message.

The Gnostics, the JW, the LDS – anyone who denies the reality of who Jesus is – the problem of humanity is never addressed.

One last thing regarding water and blood –

When we look back at the tabernacle – we find the laver where they kept the water for cleansing and there was the brazen altar where the sacrifices were made.

And so Jesus comes by water (cleansing) and blood (sacrifice)

He is our cleansing from sin.

I had you make a note **the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.**

This is something that I pointed out during our study in the Gospel of John

The Holy Spirit, without exception, His ministry has always been to point people to Jesus, to declare Jesus, to exalt Jesus

**[Jhn 16:13-14 NKJV] 13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you.**

The Holy Spirit points people to Jesus, He elevates the name of Jesus and the message of Jesus and the sacrifice of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit's ministry focuses on Jesus

And His work is in our hearts

He brings God's Word – His truth – to a point where we can understand spiritual things.

Because without the Holy Spirit we would be lost.

**7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.**

Here we are reminded that the saving work of Jesus Christ is revealed in the gospel.

The Holy Spirit working – brings conviction, bearing witness that Jesus is the Son of God.

It is the Holy Spirit that draws all men and women unto the Lord – to give them an opportunity – to give them a choice of what to do.

It is the Holy Spirit that does the work of regeneration as He resides in us and empowers us.

It is the Holy Spirit that does the work of renewing.



**[Tit 3:5 NKJV] 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

It is the Holy Spirit that reassures us that we belong to God.

The water here in verse 8 speak of our baptism – celebrating the reality of our salvation.

Remember, we are not saved because we are baptized but we do partake in baptism because we are saved.

And the blood obviously speaks of the death on the cross that provides us with salvation.

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

What John is basically saying is that under normal circumstances, we will accept the testimony of other people.

If someone says that something is true – we will normally believe that what they are saying is true.

Of course, there are exceptions – if we know that the individual doesn't know the truth or that the individual is dishonest – we might be very skeptical of what they say.

So what John is basically saying here is – since we receive the witness of men (that is what the word “if” means in the Greek) – knowing that men can be flawed at times, why wouldn’t we receive the testimony of God – knowing that God is not flawed, knowing the God doesn’t have hidden agendas, knowing that God cannot be deceived or deceive others.

And the sad thing in our world today is that there are many that choose not to believe what God the Father says about the Son.

One of the groups that comes knocking on your doors on Saturday morning – or we see them standing outside the shopping center –

They claim to have the Father – but they don’t have the Son.

And John’s response to that – they don’t have the Father because they have rejected the reality of who Jesus is and making God a liar.

One of the things we have to understand church is that God does not want us to believe by blind faith.

Our faith is to be based on reliable testimony.

And we have the most reliable testimony possible – the witness of God.

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

The issue of the verse is this – what are we going to do with God’s “testimony”?

What is going to be our response.

Imagine a courtroom –

We have been selected to be on the jury

God takes the witness stands, raises His right hand,

and swears to tell the truth, the whole truth,

and nothing but the truth so help He Himself.

The job of the person sitting on the jury is to weigh the evidence and to make a judgment based on the reliability of the witnesses.

John is saying that if we choose to reject Jesus as God’s Savior, then we are calling God a “liar”.

We are rejecting the testimony that God Himself has given regarding His Son.

**We are rejecting His spoken testimony –**

At His baptism, at the Mount of Transfiguration

## We are rejecting His written testimony

Everything that is spoken about Jesus from the prophets and in the Psalms

We are rejecting 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in His first coming.

## We are rejecting His physical evidence

When the religious leaders were challenging Jesus' ministry, Jesus said that the miracles He had performed were a testimony of God being at work in Jesus' life.

**[Jhn 5:36 NKJV] 36 "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**

Every miracle that Jesus did – from the turning of water into wine to raising Lazarus from the dead –

It's like the DNA evidence or the fingerprint evidence that God was at work in Jesus.

And that Jesus is who God said that He is.

John is not saying that we must only believe intellectually –

But believe into Him (to have a personal relationship with Him)

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

I had you make a note of the phrase, that God has given us eternal life.

How did we get eternal life? God GAVE it!

We didn't earn it or work for it – God gave it!

But want us to grasp that John is not simply talking about something that is going to happen when we die – he is not talking about just living forever and ever.

He is making reference to something that Jesus said -

**[Jhn 17:3 NKJV] 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

Jesus in His prayer – He didn't say, and this is eternal life, that they may live forever and ever.

He said, that they may know You

It goes beyond living forever

It includes loving forever and being loved forever

And this eternal life is not found in religion

It is not found in what man says

It is only found in Jesus Christ.

If the "life" is "in" the Son, then for us to find eternal life, we need to get "into" the Son.

We need to have a relationship with Him

This is the testimony that these false teachers refused to believe

They were teaching that eternal life can be found apart from Jesus sacrifice

And John says – it can't – look at verse 12

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

It is very simple church

John lays it out plainly here

He who has the Son = life

He who does not have the Son = no life

The presence of Jesus in our lives is the evidence that we have life

The absence of Jesus in our lives is the evidence of the absence of life

This eternal life is not payment that anyone can earn or prize that anyone can win – we possess eternal life through a relationship.

And God made that relationship available by sending His Son to pay for our sins.

And therefore – those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ, eternal life, began at the moment that we were born again

And the reason is – because fellowship began, the presence of the Holy Spirit began

The assurance of who we are in Christ

**13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may [continue to] believe in the name of the Son of God.**

Again – John is writing to you and to me.

To those who believe in the name of the Son of God

And he wants us to have assurance (that we may know) that we have eternal life.

Not an intellectual know – but a know where we have experienced it for ourselves.

It is this know / this experience that gives us perseverance

Because we are the children of God and part of His spiritual family,

our knowledge of God has moved into something profoundly deep and intuitive.

That knowledge alters us and makes us more and more like Him.

John says that he writes that this process of intimate knowledge and abiding faith may go on and on.

So how do we know that we are genuine believers?

John has pointed out the following –

Do we have fellowship with God and one another

Do we recognize our sinful nature

Are we obedient to His Word

Do we love this world system and it's values that is anti God

Do we love God and love one another?

Are we growing and maturing in Christ?

Do we have the ability to discern between spiritual truth and error?

Our works testify to the reality of what Jesus Christ has done inside of us

We are and forever will be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Jesus gives us eternal life

Not temporary life

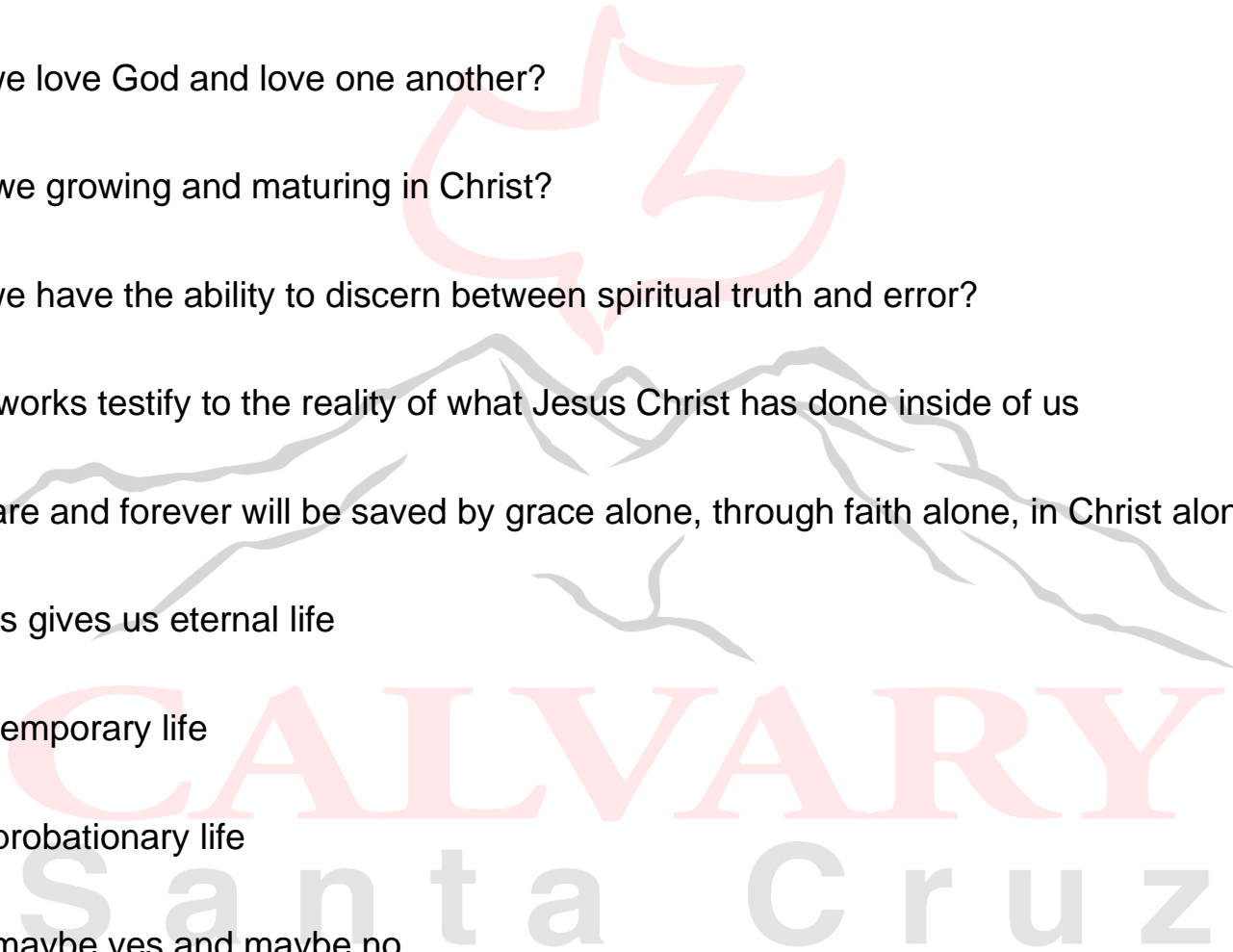
Not probationary life

Not maybe yes and maybe no

Not an on again and off again life

He gives us eternal life which by its nature, can never come to an end

It is not something that we earn by following a list of dos and don't's





It is intimate fellowship God – and that is the point of this entire epistle – which Lord willing, we will finish next Sunday.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

D. L. Moody said: "I have never known a Christian who was any good in the work of Christ who did not have the assurance of salvation."

The majority of church goers do not understand that our salvation is not based upon what we do but upon what Christ did. They think that their relationship with God is based upon their performance. They think that as long as they live "right" that God will not condemn them. This is a "works" system. To attempt to live the Christian life by works is to live under constant guilt and condemnation. But the understanding that salvation is by grace through faith and that believers are absolutely secure because of Christ's work will bring great peace to the believer's soul.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'