"Life, Love, and Victory" (1 John 5:1-12)

- **A** ¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.
 - **B** ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
- **A'** ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - **C** -⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
- **D** ⁹If we receive the <u>testimony</u> of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the <u>testimony</u> of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.
 - **E** ¹⁰The one who believes in the Son of God has the <u>testimony</u> in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the <u>testimony</u> that God has given concerning His Son.
- **D'** ¹¹And the <u>testimony</u> is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Analysis of the Text: Verses 1-5 are the first section of the text with bookends formed by the words, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God," and "who believes that Jesus is the Son of God," respectively. Verses 9-12 all speak of God's testimony concerning His Son and form the third section of the text parallel to the first. The center section of the text, verses 6-8 speak of Jesus Christ coming by water and blood and the triple testimony of water. blood, and the Spirit. Water and blood do not likely refer to Christ's natural birth. As verse 6 shows, water and blood are taken separately rather than together. Water and blood likely do not refer to the blood and water coming from Christ's side when he was on the cross and pierced by the spear of the centurion. John 19:34 speaks of "blood and water" coming out rather than "water and blood." Calvin and Luther take water and blood as references to the sacraments. Water may indeed refer to baptism but bread, not blood, is the symbol for the Lord's. Water and blood bracket Christ's earthly ministry. He was baptized with water to begin His earthly ministry and Christ shed His blood complete His earthly ministry. This interpretation goes back to Tertullian (c. 160—c. 225). The point is that the Son of God did become a man and carry out His ministry in this world as a man. The Spirit bears witness to this truth. The Law required testimony to be validated by two or three witnesses. The structure of the text points to this testimony as central.

Main Point of The Text:

B

Δ'

- 1. What is the Text About? Answer: Those who have eternal life believe in Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, and in God's Testimony concerning Him.
- 2. What does the text tell us about those who have eternal life, who believe in Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, and in God's Testimony concerning Him? Answer: They overcome the world by loving God's children and by keeping God's commandments.
- 3. Main Point of the Text: Combine the answers to 1 and 2.

Those who have eternal life believe in Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, and in God's Testimony concerning Him; they overcome the world by loving God's children and by keeping God's commandments.

Main Lesson of the Text:

 $\overline{\text{IF}}$ you have eternal life by believing in Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, and in God's Testimony concerning Him, $\overline{\text{THEN}}$ you overcome the world by loving God's children and by keeping God's commandments.

<u>Food for Thought</u>: Note how subjective faith and feelings affect objective actions and behavior. Is the reverse also true; do actions affect feelings?