

Series: John

Title: Five Witnesses Christ is God our Savior

Text: John 5: 30-47

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Less than fifty years after the Lord finished redemption and arose to God's right hand, the deception of Gnosticism denying Christ is God in human flesh. They may say he is "a God" or a created son but they make him inferior to God the Father. The Spirit of God used the apostle John to write this gospel, as well as his three epistles, declaring Christ is God.

In John 5, the Lord Jesus declared seven ways he and the Father are one: God the Father and the Son of God are one:

*One in working*—**John 5: 17: My Father worketh hitherto and I work**

*One in love and knowledge*—**John 5: 20: For the Father loveth the Son and sheweth him all things that himself doeth...**

*One in quickening his people*—**John 5: 21: For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.**

*One in judgment*—**John 5: 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son**

*One in honor*—**John 5: 23: That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father who sent him.**

*One in justifying his people and giving us eternal life*—**John 5: 24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life.**

*One in will*—**John 5: 30...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

Then the Lord gives witnesses. Christ said,

**John 5: 31: If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. 32: There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.**

Christ is God the Truth—the fulness of the godhead bodily—as we will see the Father bore witness of him—so he needs no other witness. Later the Lord Jesus said, "*Though I bear record of myself, my record is true*" (Jn 8: 14).

So why is he willing to bring forth witnesses? This is another example of how fully Christ is the fulfillment of the law for his people. The law said a man could not be his own witness. The law required 2 or more witnesses. Therefore, being made under the law, to fulfill the law for his people, Christ brings forth witnesses to verify his word. Christ is the end of the law to them that believe. He fulfilled every law in perfection and justified his people from our sins in breaking every law.

**Subject:** Five Witnesses Christ is God our Savior

**Illustration:** If you were sitting on a jury in a court room and five witnesses came forth verifying this man is who he says, would you believe him?

Here are five witnesses that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, the Savior of those who believe on him. May the Spirit use these witnesses to give faith to his redeemed who have not yet believed on Christ. May the Spirit strengthen faith in every believer

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**John 5: 33: Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34: But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35: He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.**

Long before John the Baptist came on the scene, God declared he would come before Christ bearing witness of him. Isaiah said John the Baptist is the voice of one crying in the wilderness make straight the way of the Lord. Malachi wrote the Lord's word concerning John the Baptist as Elijah:

Malachi 4:5: Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

The Lord Jesus said of John the Baptist

Matthew 11:14: And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

The Pharisees came to John the Baptist and he told them, 'I am not the Christ' then he bore witness to the Truth!

John 1: 29: The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30: This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me...32: And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33: And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34: And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Christ says I do not need John's witness but "*that ye might be saved.*" Christ needs not our witness. We preach the gospel of Christ that sinners might believe on Christ and be saved.

Christ said to the Pharisee's, "*[John the Baptist] was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.*" The Pharisees rejoiced in John's gospel for a time. But they were stony ground hearers. They had not root in themselves. Therefore, when Christ received all the glory for working all the works of salvation and they received none then they were offended.

Before we move on, notice, how the Lord Jesus commends John the Baptist "*he was a burning and shining light.*" The light Christ commends is that John preached Christ the Light in truth. Though the Pharisees did not believe him, though men forgot him, Christ remembered him and commended him for preaching Christ in truth. Christ cares for all His believing people and never forgets them. We may be forgotten and despised by the world but we are remembered and loved by our Lord and Savior. A book of remembrance is written for each of his redeemed. Their tears are all in His bottle (Ps 56:8). He knows what his people do for Him—even things we do not recognize—and Christ said those who confess me before men, Christ will confess before his Father in heaven.

## **CHRIST'S WORKS**

**John 5: 36: But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.**

Christ finished the works God gave him to do. In every work Christ was fulfilling the law and the prophets. His works declare he is God. He did them by his own power as God. The prophets said he would heal so Christ gave the deaf hearing, speech to the dumb, sight to the blind, cleansed the leper, gave life to the dead. He manifested his power as God when he calmed the sea, turned water into wine, fed the multitude by a miracle and much more. All these bear witness that he is God in human flesh sent of the Father. But more than that Christ finished the work of saving his people; He said the Father gave me these works to finish.

Daniel 12: 7:...all these things shall be finished!

For God's elect, Christ finished the transgression, made an end of sins, made reconciliation for iniquity, brought in everlasting righteousness, sealed up the vision and prophecy, and anointed the most Holy.

John 17:4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Greater than physical healing, through his gospel, he creates a new, eternal, holy spirit in his people. He raises dead sinners to spiritual life. Christ gives spiritual eyes and ears. Hakes lame sinners walk by faith in Christ. In sinners whose carnal minds are enmity against God, he creates a spirit to serve him in love and will not allow the sin-nature to dominate us so as to apostatize from Christ. It is in this spirit that we worship God, rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh. Christ finishing these works makes natural men hate Christ and his gospel and his people because it reveals their sins.

John 15:24: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

But Christ's works FOR AND IN in his people make us believe on him and love him and love those begotten of him

## **GOD THE FATHER**

**John 5: 37: And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.**

Christ is God—the fulness of the godhead bodily. No man has seen God or heard his voice except by Christ.

John 1:18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

However, God the Father *did* speak from heaven bearing witness of him. At his baptism

Matthew 3: 16:...the heavens were opened unto him, and [John the Baptist] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

When Christ was transfigured in his glory, Peter wanted to build three tabernacles: one to Moses (law), one to Elijah (prophets), one to Christ (but all is fulfilled in Christ). So the Father spoke,

Matthew 17: 5: While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. [when Peter looked up again he saw none but Christ]

Above all God the Father bore witness that Christ is his Son who finished his works when he raised Christ to his own right hand. He that believes on Christ bears record the Father's witness is true. He that believes not calls God the Father a liar. *"This is the record, God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in his Son; he that hath the Son hath life, he that hath not the Son hath not life."*

## **THE WORD OF GOD AND THE SCRIPTURES**

**John 5: 38: And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39: Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40: And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**

This word is the word of God the Father by which his children are born again. His word abides in us. We have the witness within. So the scriptures—the whole bible—the whole word of God bears witness of Christ. We behold Christ not merely in the gospels and epistles but in the law, the psalms, and the prophets. Christ is the promise in the promises to Adam, Abraham, Moses, and David and all the prophets. The whole book testifies that the Lord Jesus is Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of God's chosen

people, the Righteousness of God provided for his people. The message is that salvation is through faith in Christ alone apart from our works—"The scriptures are they which testify of me."

## MOSES AND THE LAW

**John 6: 41: I receive not honour from men. 42: But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 43: I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. 44: How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? 45: Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46: For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47: But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?**

Every sinner trusting in his works is merely trying to impress men and receive honor from their fellow worms. Our business is not with men but with God. It is God to whom we have to answer not men. We have no priests on this earth. Only one is our High Priest, Jesus Christ the Righteous. He alone is our Advocate with the Father.

The issue is does God accept us and he only accepts those who come to him through faith in Christ. Honor as an accepted son of God, righteous and holy, only comes from God. And Christ declares that God the Father only honors those who honor his Son by faith in him, apart from anything in us or done by us.

Christ said the Pharisee who claimed to love the law, and who appeared outwardly to obey it, did not even believe the word of Moses. Proof is they if they had believed then they would have believed on Christ because Moses wrote of Christ. The moral law declares every sinner guilty before God. But the moral law also bears witness that Christ is the Righteousness of the law for his people who believe on Christ. Moses wrote of Christ:

Romans 3: 20...by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being WITNESSED BY THE LAW and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God which is BY FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

The ceremonies declare Christ is the High Priest and Lamb, the Altar, the Tabernacle who is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Hebrews 8:1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"

Moses wrote of Christ and Moses believed on Christ. Moses was not made righteous by the works of the law but through faith in Christ apart from his doing.

So here was God in human flesh—the perfection of the fruit of the Spirit—who declared he is the Son, one with the Father. He who is the Truth declared he is God in human flesh who gives life by his word. Christ brought forth five witnesses: John the Baptist, the works Christ finished, God the Father, the scriptures, the whole law of Moses.

Yet the Pharisee's did not see Christ in Christ. They did not see his fruit, his goodness, his love, his good works. They were saying "do something to show us you love us. Prove to us by some sign that you are who say you are." So they crucified him. Why all this? *They did not have the love of God in their hearts—only enmity against God and his Son.*

Without love in the heart there is only enmity. Christ finishing the works of salvation that no sinner can perform made them know what sinners they were. Gladly they would be religious without Christ. But they would not confess they were sinners with absolutely no good thing in their flesh and be made righteous

through faith in Christ alone. That is the depravity of the natural heart in every sinner by nature. So do not be surprised when sinners do not see good works in you but reject you and call you a sinner.

The Spirit of God must put the witness in our hearts. “He that believeth hath the witness in himself.” Then we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By that witness in the new man Christ continually grows in grace and knowledge of him, making us continually repent and confess our sins to him. His witness makes us persevere in faith, loving Christ and our brethren until the end.

May the Spirit form Christ in the heart of one of his lost sheep and strength faith in each one who believe

**Amen!**