

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 23

TITLE: GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON

TEXT: I JOHN 5:6-12

INTRODUCTION: (1) 9 TIMES IN OUR TEXT TODAY JOHN USES THE WORDS TESTIFIES, TESTIFY, TESTIFIED AND TESTIMONY.

* AND IT'S AS IF IN I JOHN 5:6-12 WE ARE IN A COURTROOM AND JOHN IS BRINGING FORWARD WITNESSES TO TESTIFY ON JESUS' BEHALF THAT HE IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD AND GOD THE SON.

** NOW THOSE WITNESSES ARE VERY IMPORTANT. FOR THE CHARACTER OF A WITNESS, THE TRUTH OF A WITNESS, THE FACTS OF A WITNESS, WHETHER THAT WITNESS IS A PERSON OR EVIDENCE COLLECTED IN THE PROCESS OF AN INVESTIGATION, THOSE WITNESSES COLLABORATE TO TESTIFY OF THE TRUTH OF A CASE.

*** AND EVIDENCE DEMANDS A VERDICT. TRUE OR NOT TRUE. GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY.

**** WELL IN I JOHN 5:1, JOHN GIVES TESTIMONY THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST. I JOHN 5:5, JOHN GIVES TESTIMONY THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

(2) AND FOR EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THOSE TRUTHS JOHN COULD HAVE PRESENTED THE EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES OF HIMSELF AND OTHERS WHO HAD SEEN JESUS IN PERSON, AS HE DID IN I JOHN 1:1-3. HUMAN TESTIMONY OF WHO JESUS WAS.

* FOR HUMAN TESTIMONY IS VERY IMPORTANT, FOR WITHOUT IT, JUSTICE MANY TIMES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN OUR COURT SYSTEM.

** I MEAN TO PROVE THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF A PERSON IN A COURT OF LAW, WITNESSES COME FORWARD AND GIVE TESTIMONY, WHICH IS USED AS EVIDENCE IN A CASE.

*** IN FACT, GOD SANCTIONED THE ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN TESTIMONY UPON O.T. LAW FOR DEUTERONOMY 19:15 SAYS: ON THE EVIDENCE OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES SHALL A CHARGE BE SUSTAINED.

**** DEUTERONOMY 19:15 SAYS: "A SINGLE WITNESS SHALL NOT RISE UP AGAINST A MAN ON ACCOUNT OF ANY INIQUITY OR ANY SIN WHICH HE HAS COMMITTED; ON

THE EVIDENCE OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES A MATTER SHALL BE CONFIRMED.”

(3) AND THIS IS CONTINUED IN THE N.T. FOR IN II CORINTHIANS 13:1 PAUL SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

* SO HUMAN TESTIMONY IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE PROCESS OF JUSTICE IN DETERMINING THE TRUTH.

** AND JOHN WILL AFFIRM THAT IN V. 9 OF OUR TEXT TODAY WHERE HE SAYS: “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.”

*** NOW IN THE FIRST PART OF V.9, JOHN COMMUNICATES THAT WE RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY OF MEN, BUT THEN IN THE REST OF V. 9 HE SETS THE TABLE FOR THE THEME OF OUR STUDY TODAY, FOR THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IS GREATER THAN THE TESTIMONY OF MEN.

**** HE’S SAYING, IF WE RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY OF MEN, WHICH WE GENERALLY DO, CUSTOMARILY WE ACCEPT PEOPLE’S TESTIMONY, THEN HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY OF GOD FOR THE GOD OF SCRIPTURE IS A GOD OF TRUTH!

(4) AND THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IS HE HAS DECLARED HIS SON TO BE THE ONLY SAVIOR, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, GOD THE SON, THE ONE WHOM WITH HE IS WELL PLEASED.

* THE POINT BEING, SOME PEOPLE TESTIFY THEY GIVE WITNESS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHILE OTHERS TESTIFY THAT JESUS IS NOT THE SON OF GOD.

** HENCE THE WITNESS OR TESTIMONY BY PEOPLE IS NOT ENOUGH IN GOD'S COURTROOM FOR THERE ARE TRUTHFUL WITNESSES AND LYING WITNESSES CALLED FALSE PROPHETS IN I JOHN 4:1. (QUOTE IT).

*** SO EVERYONE DOES NOT GIVE PROPER TESTIMONY OF WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE AND WHAT HE IS DOING.

**** HOWEVER, IF GOD HIMSELF APPEARED ON THE WITNESS STAND, STATING WHETHER OR NOT JESUS IS HIS SON, THAT WOULD SETTLE THE MATTER BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS TRUTHFUL, HE CANNOT LIE, FOR TITUS 1:2 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

(5) NOW GOD'S TESTIMONY IS ALWAYS TRUE, AGAIN GOD CANNOT LIE. SO HIS TESTIMONY IS THE FINAL

AUTHORITATIVE TESTIMONY, GOD SAYS IT AND THAT SETTLES IT. SO WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT HIS SON IS TRUE.

* BUT GET THIS, WE DON'T HAVE TO CALL GOD TO THE WITNESS STAND TODAY, FOR HE HAS ALWAYS BORNE WITNESS, HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN TESTIMONY TO HIS SON IN THE N.T. AND SPECIFICALLY FOR TODAY, IN OUR TEXT.

** FOR AS I SAID IN MY OPENING WORDS IN MY INTRODUCTION, THE WORD TESTIFY IN ITS NOUN AND VERB FORMS APPEAR 9 TIMES IN I JOHN 5:6-12.

*** AND THE ROOT WORD FROM WHICH BOTH DERIVE IS MARTUS, A WORD THAT APPEARS AT LEAST 173 TIMES IN THE N.T. IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

**** AND THE GREEK WORD MARTUS HAS THE BASIC FUNDAMENTAL MEANING OF REMEMBERING SOMETHING AND TESTIFYING CONCERNING IT.

(6) AND THAT TESTIFYING OR THAT TESTIMONY COULD BE IN A LEGAL SETTING OR IN A MORE GENERAL SENSE OF RECOUNTING FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF SOMETHING.

* AND MOST LIKELY, BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE WHO TESTIFIED TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST PAID THE

ULTIMATE PRICE OF THEIR LIVES, MARTUS BECAME THE ROOT OF THE ENGLISH WORD MARTYR.

** FOR IN CHURCH HISTORY AND EVEN NOW IN PLACES IN OUR WORLD, TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST, TO GIVE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL CAN LEAD TO MARTYRDOM.

*** WELL WITH THAT SAID, THE TESTIMONY THAT JOHN PRESENTS TO US TODAY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST IS THE TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER IN THE COURTROOM OF HIS WORD.

**** AND A VERY BASIC PREMISE OF KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, A THEME OF I JOHN, IS KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE THE SON. ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST ALONE AND IF YOU HAVE THE SON, YOU HAVE LIFE, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE SON, YOU DO NOT HAVE LIFE.

(7) AND JOHN WILL PRESENT 3 ASPECTS OF GOD'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS CHRIST. HE WILL PRESENT 3 WITNESSES WHICH THOSE 3 WITNESSES ARE THE WITNESSES OF GOD.

* AND THEN JOHN WILL GIVE THE RESULTS OF RECEIVING THOSE WITNESSES, ULTIMATELY RECEIVING JESUS CHRIST.

** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON" AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH I JOHN 5:6-12.

*** AND TO DO THAT WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS TODAY. NO. 1 THE WITNESS OF THE THREE, VV. 6-8; NO. 2 THE WITNESS OF GOD, V. 9; NO. 3 THE WITNESS WITHIN, V. 10; AND NO. 4 THE WITNESS OF LIFE, VV. 11&12.

**** AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS AND THE THEME OF GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON BEFORE US, LET'S GO TO THE TEXT OF GOD'S WORD WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE WITNESS OF THE THREE. LOOK AT I JOHN 5:6 PLEASE.

I. THE WITNESS OF THE THREE, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW THE ONE WHO CAME HERE IN V.6 JOHN STATES IS JESUS CHRIST, WHOM JOHN CALLS IN V. 5 THE SON OF GOD AND GOING BACK TO V. 1 THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE OF GOD, GOD THE SON.

* AND JOHN USES THE PAST TENSE HERE TO TALK ABOUT CHRIST'S COMING, HE CAME. AND HE DOES THAT TO INDICATE THAT THE COMING OF JESUS IS AN HISTORICAL EVENT. HE ASSERTS AN HISTORICAL FACT THAT IS IRREFUTABLE.

** NOW HOW DID JESUS COME IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT HERE?

*** WELL, THE ANSWER IS BY WATER AND BLOOD.

**** AND TO CUT TO THE CHASE, JUST ABOUT EVERY SCHOLAR I STUDIED IN THIS TEXT COMMUNICATED THAT THE MEANING "BY WATER" IS THE BAPTISM OF JESUS "AND BLOOD" IS THE DEATH OF JESUS.

1. NOW JUST BECAUSE A BUNCH OF SOUND BIBLE SCHOLARS SAY SOMETHING, DOESN'T MAKE IT SO, WE MUST BE BEREANS WHO SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE THAT IT IS SO. AND I'M NOT MINIMIZING WHAT OTHER MEN OF GOD HAVE TO SAY, IT'S IMPORTANT, BUT WHY DO THEY SAY IT BIBLICALLY?

* WELL, THE BAPTISM AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST BRACKET OUR LORD'S EARTHLY MINISTRY AND IN BOTH THE FATHER TESTIFIED CONCERNING HIS SON.

** THE TERM WATER REFERS TO THE BEGINNING OF CHRIST'S PUBLIC MINISTRY MARKED BY HIS BAPTISM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDING UPON HIM AND THE FATHER TESTIFYING TO HIS SON, FOR MATTHEW 3:16&17 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM)

*** NOW CHRIST'S BAPTISM KICKS OFF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY AND THEN OF COURSE HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY ENDS WITH THE PURPOSE OF WHY HE CAME, HE WAS BORN TO DIE, TO SHED HIS BLOOD AS A RANSOM FOR MANY, HE WOULD SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

**** BELOVED, WATER AND BLOOD SUM UP THE INCARNATIONAL WORK OF JESUS ON EARTH, BEGINNING WITH HIS BAPTISM BY WATER AND CULMINATING IN HIS CRUCIFIXION BY BLOOD.

2. NOW OBVIOUSLY THE WATER AND BLOOD HAD TO BE COMMON DESIGNATIONS WHICH THE CHURCHES IN ASIA MINOR THAT JOHN WAS WRITING TO UNDERSTOOD. THEY WERE PROBABLY COMMON EXPRESSIONS THAT JOHN'S AUDIENCE WAS AWARE, THE WATER, THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, AND BLOOD, THE DEATH OF JESUS.

* WATER AND BLOOD MOST LIKELY WERE KEY WORDS OF THE TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE INCARNATION.

** BUT THERE IS A GREATER ARGUMENT FOR THOSE MEANINGS FOR WATER AND BLOOD IN THE NEXT PHRASE

IN V.6 WHICH TAKES US TO SOME HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FOR I JOHN.

** AND THAT IS, JOHN MOVES ON AND SAYS IN V. 6, “NOT WITH THE WATER ONLY, BUT WITH THE WATER AND WITH THE BLOOD.”

*** AND JOHN DOESN'T REPEAT THIS TO BE REDUNDANT BUT TO STRESS A THEOLOGICAL TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST THAT WAS BEING PROPAGATED BY FALSE TEACHERS WHICH I HAVE DESIGNATED THROUGHOUT OUR STUDY AS PRE-GNOSTICS.

**** FOR GNOSTICISM, COMING FROM THE WORD GNOSIS MEANING KNOWLEDGE, GNOSTICISM CAME INTO ITS FULL BLOWN TEACHING AFTER JOHN WRITES I JOHN IN THE 2'D AND 3'D CENTURIES.

3. AND THE ROOTS, THE SEEDS OF THIS FALSE TEACHING WERE BEING PROPAGATED TO THE BELIEVERS JOHN IS WRITING TO.

* AND BASICALLY THEY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN “JESUS” AND “THE CHRIST.”

** THEY TAUGHT THAT JESUS WAS A MERE MAN, UPON WHOM THE CHRIST DESCENDED AT: GUESS WHERE?

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND FROM WHOM THE CHRIST DEPARTED BEFORE THE CROSS.

*** SO ACCORDING TO THEM, JESUS WAS UNITED WITH THE CHRIST AT THE BAPTISM AND FROM WHOM THE CHRIST DEPARTED BEFORE THE CROSS, MAKING JESUS AGAIN A MERE MAN, NOT THE GOD MAN WHOSE SACRIFICIAL DEATH ATONED FOR THE SINS OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE HE WOULD SAVE.

**** THEREFORE, IT WAS TO REFUTE THIS FUNDAMENTAL ERROR THAT JOHN TESTIFIES THAT JESUS WAS THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH, GOD THE SON NOT ONLY AT HIS BAPTISM WHICH THE HERETICS COMMUNICATED, BUT ALSO AT HIS DEATH.

4. SO CONTEXTUALLY AND HISTORICALLY, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, GOD THE SON, NOT ONLY WAS GOD – THE CHRIST AT HIS BAPTISM, BUT ALSO AT HIS DEATH WHEN HE SHED HIS BLOOD, FOR ONLY THAT PERFECT GOD-MAN COULD DIE FOR SINNERS AND FORGIVE THEM.

* SO NOT ONLY AT THE BAPTISM OF JESUS WAS HE THE CHRIST, BUT THE BAPTISM AND THE DEATH OF JESUS WAS HE THE CHRIST, GOD THE SON, NOT JUST A MAN.

** SO THIS PHRASE REMINDS US OF THE HISTORICAL CONFLICT OF THAT DAY WITH THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST OR BIBLICAL CHRISTOLOGY.

*** AND THE WHOLE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST, FROM HIS BAPTISM TO HIS CRUCIFIXION SHOWS THAT GOD HAD COME IN THE FLESH, THE PIVOTAL TRUTH THAT THESE PRE-GNOSTICS DENIED.

**** AND GOD GAVE WITNESS TO HIS SON AT THE BAPTISM OF HIS SON BY JOHN THE BAPTIST, DURING HIS LIFE LIKE AT THE TRANSFIGURATION, TO THE CROSS, THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS HIS SON IN WHOM HE WAS WELL PLEASED.

5. AND OF COURSE THE EXCLAMATION POINT WOULD BE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FOR ROMANS 1:4 SAYS: (QUOTE)

* NOW WITH ALL THAT SAID, THE FIRST TWO WITNESSES THAT COME TO THE STAND IN GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON ARE THE BAPTISM AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST. THEY ARE HISTORICAL WITNESSES, OBJECTIVE WITNESSES.

** BUT THERE IS A THIRD WITNESS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, FOR THE LAST PART OF V. 6 SAYS: "IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT TESTIFIES, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT IS THE TRUTH."

*** NOW AS JOHN CONTINUES TO BUILD HIS CASE, HE BRINGS FORTH THE THIRD WITNESS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT IS THE TRUTH.

**** AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IN THAT HE IS TRUE AND THEREFORE, THE REVEALER AND THE SOURCE OF DIVINE TRUTH AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

6. FOR EXAMPLE, JESUS IN JOHN 15:26 SAID ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT – “WHEN THE HELPER COMES, WHOM I WILL SEND TO YOU FROM THE FATHER, THAT IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER, HE WILL TESTIFY ABOUT ME.”

* AND THEN JESUS SAID IN JOHN 16:14: (QUOTE IT).

** AND THEN PETER IS BEING QUOTED IN ACTS 5:30-32 AND SAYS:

V. 30 – THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS RAISED UP JESUS, WHOM YOU HAD PUT TO DEATH BY HANGING HIM ON A CROSS.

V. 31 – HE IS THE ONE WHOM GOD EXALTED TO HIS RIGHT HAND AS A PRINCE AND A SAVIOR, TO GRANT REPENTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

V. 32 – AND WE ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS; AND SO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM.

*** NOW GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, CLEARLY GIVES TRUTHFUL TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST. AND HE DOES IT THROUGH THE TEACHING AND PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD. HE IS THE DIVINE PERSUADER, SEALING THE TRUTH OF CHRIST TO OUR HEART AND MINDS.

**** NOW OF THE 3 WITNESSES THAT JOHN GIVES, HE IS THE INNER WITNESS, THE INTERNAL WITNESS. AND CONNECTING WITH THE OTHER TWO EXTERNAL WITNESSES, WE HAVE 3 WITNESSES FROM GOD THAT GIVES TESTIMONY TO WHO JESUS IS.

7. AND THIS CONTINUES IN V. 7. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 7. NOW RIGHT OFF THE BAT, IF YOU HAVE A KJV OR NKJV OR AN OLDER NEW AMERICAN STANDARD, NOT THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD UPDATED VERSION, YOU HAVE NOTICED ALREADY THAT I HAVE LEFT OUT THE WORD, “THE FATHER AND THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THERE ARE ONE.”

* AND THE REASON THE NAU, THE ESV, AND THE NIV DO NOT INCLUDE THESE WORDS WHICH ARE TRUE, MEANING

THE STATEMENT IS TRUE IS BECAUSE THERE IS HARDLY ANY MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE FOR THESE WORDS.

** AND TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT BECAUSE OF TIME, I AM TALKING ABOUT A TEXTUAL PROBLEM OR TEXTUAL CRITICISM.

*** AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IN THE OLDEST MANUSCRIPTS OF THE N.T. THESE WORDS ARE NOT RECORDED, FOR IT IS NOT UNTIL 11TH AND 12TH CENTURY IN WHICH THESE WORDS ARE ADDED IN THE MARGIN, AND THEN THEY ARE NOT IN ANY GREEK MANUSCRIPT UNTIL THE 14TH CENTURY.

**** AND SPECIFICALLY ACCORDING TO NOTED TEXTUAL SCHOLAR BRUCE METZGER "THE PASSAGE IS ABSENT FROM EVERY KNOWN GREEK MANUSCRIPT EXCEPT 8, ALL OF WHICH DATE FROM THE MIDDLE AGES, AND THESE CONTAIN THE PASSAGE IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TRANSLATION FROM A LATE RECENSION OF THE LATIN VULGATE. FOUR OF THE EIGHT MANUSCRIPTS CONTAIN THE PASSAGE AS A VARIANT READING WRITTEN IN THE MARGIN AS A LATER ADDITION TO THE MANUSCRIPT." (END QUOTE)

1. NOW I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO TECHNICAL, BUT THE REALITY IS, THERE IS NO GOOD MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE THAT THESE WORDS ARE A PART OF SCRIPTURE. THEREFORE, TRANSLATIONS THAT USE OLDER

MANUSCRIPT FAMILIES TO TRANSLATE FROM DO NOT INCLUDE THESE WORDS.

* AND THIS IS NOT A CONSPIRACY TO DENY THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY WHICH WE BELIEVE AND TEACH PASSIONATELY, FOR THESE TRANSLATIONS STILL GIVE ALL THE SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCES OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

** WITH THAT SAID: V. 7 SHOULD READ IN CONTEXT: “FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT TESTIFY” AND V. 7 POINTS US BACK TO THE TEACHING OF V. 6, THAT THERE ARE 3 WITNESSES THAT TESTIFY TO WHOM JESUS IS. NO. 1 THE HOLY SPIRIT; NO. 2 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS – THE WATER; AND NO. 3 THE BLOOD, THE DEATH OF JESUS, AND THEY WILL POINT US FORWARD TO V. 8 IN THE FLOW OF THIS PASSAGE.

*** SO WE HAVE 3 WITNESSES TO CHRIST, AND TWO OR THREE WITNESSES WERE REQUIRED TO BEAR WITNESS OF THE TRUTH IN THE O.T. AND THE N.T.

**** AND WITH THAT TESTIMONIAL TRUTH BEFORE US, LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 8. NOW WE HAVE SOME MORE TEXTUAL PROBLEMS IN V. 8 AND V. 8 SHOULD LITERALLY READ: “THE SPIRIT AND THE WATER AND THE BLOOD; AND THE THREE ARE IN AGREEMENT.”

* AND V. 8 JUST PIGGY BACKS OFF OF V. 7, FOR THERE ARE 3 THAT TESTIFY, AND THE 3 ARE THE SPIRIT AND THE WATER AND THE BLOOD.

** AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROBABLY LISTED FIRST BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHOM INSPIRES SCRIPTURE AND INSPIRED MEN TO RECORD THE TRUTHS OF SCRIPTURE ABOUT THE BAPTISM AND DEATH OF CHRIST.

*** BUT ALSO AS CALVIN SAID AND I QUOTE: "IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO SEALS IN OUR HEARTS THE TESTIMONY OF THE WATER AND THE BLOOD." (END QUOTE)

**** AND THEN JOHN GOES ON TO SAY AT THE END OF V. 8, "AND THE THREE ARE IN AGREEMENT."

1. MEANING THE 3 ARE ONE, THEY ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY WITNESSES, THEY ARE UNIFIED UNITED WITNESSES OF THE SAME TRUTH ABOUT WHO JESUS IS IN THE COURTROOM THAT JOHN PRESENTS BEFORE US. THESE THREE WITNESSES ARE IN PERFECT AGREEMENT AND CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.

* NOW THE WITNESS BEHIND AND DIRECTING THESE 3 WITNESSES IS GOD THE FATHER HIMSELF. LOOK AT V. 9

PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT, THE WITNESS OF GOD.

II. THE WITNESS OF GOD, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW AGAIN, JOHN BRINGS US INTO A COURTROOM TYPE OF SETTING AND IS TALKING ABOUT WITNESSES TO THE GREAT TRUTH OF CHRIST'S INCARNATION, WHO HE IS AND WHY HE CAME.

* AND IN COURTROOMS AND EVERYDAY LIFE WE RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY, THE WITNESS OF MEN. WE ACCEPT THE WORD OF OTHER PEOPLE ON A REGULAR BASIS. IT'S HARD TO FUNCTION WITHOUT DOING THAT.

** WELL, IF WE RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY OF MEN, JOHN IS SAYING, UNDERSTAND THAT THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IS GREATER.

*** I MEAN GOD'S TESTIMONY IS ALWAYS RELIABLE, HE AGAIN CANNOT LIE AND HE NEVER COMMITS PERJURY.

**** AND THE WITNESS OF GOD, THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IS THIS, HE HAS GIVEN CLEAR TESTIMONY FROM HEAVEN DURING THE LIFE OF CHRIST CONCERNING HIM.

1. IN FACT, THE FATHER DECLARES FROM HEAVEN THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS HIS SON IN WHOM HE WAS WELL PLEASED IN THE GOSPELS.

* SO THE FATHER BOTH IN HIS WORDS AND HIS WORKS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST TESTIFIED CONCERNING THE AUTHENTICITY OF WHO HIS SON WAS.

** AND JOHN'S POINT IS, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THE TESTIMONY OF MEN, HOW MUCH MORE THE TESTIMONY OF GOD.

*** AND IN ESSENCE, GOD THE FATHER IS BEHIND ALL 3 TESTIMONIES GIVEN IN OUR TEXT. I MEAN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE WATER AND THE BLOOD ALL TESTIFY TO JESUS CHRIST AND WHO HE IS AND THE REASON THEY AGREE IS THAT GOD THE FATHER HIMSELF IS BEHIND THEM.

**** SO IN REALITY, THE 3 WITNESSES FORM A SINGLE DIVINE TESTIMONY TO JESUS CHRIST, WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN. AND THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IS GREATER THAN THE TESTIMONY OF MEN.

2. WHICH LEADS US TO THE WITNESS WITHIN. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

III. THE WITNESS WITHIN, (READ V. 10)

A. NOW THERE CAN ONLY BE TWO RESPONSES TO GOD'S TESTIMONY OR WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST, TO BELIEVE IT OR TO REJECT IT.

* AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN THE SON OF GOD, LIT. THE ONE WHO HAS SAVING FAITH, WHO IS GRANTED REPENTANCE AND FAITH, THAT PERSON HAS THE TESTIMONY IN HIMSELF. MEANING THAT SAVING FAITH LEADS A PERSON TO HAVE A WITNESS WITHIN THEMSELVES AND THAT WITNESS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO COMES TO INDWELL IN EVERY TRUE BELIEVER.

** LET ME EXPLAIN. WHEN A PERSON BELIEVES IN THE SON OF GOD, THEY RECEIVE A WITNESS WITHIN WHICH IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.

*** AND NOTICE THE PREPOSITION "IN" HERE. THE PREPOSITION "IN" MEANS THAT THE BELIEVER PUTS FULL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.

1. THE TRUE BELIEVER HAS BY GOD'S SOVEREIGN GRACE RECEIVED THE TESTIMONY WHICH GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN ABOUT HIS SON.

* AND IN TURN THE HOLY SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS OF THE TRUTHS OF CHRIST INTERNALLY. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN SEALS THE TRUTH OF CHRIST TO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

** TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY, JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT THE INTERNAL TESTIMONY OR WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN AND HE BEARS WITNESS AND REINFORCES ALL THOSE TRUTHS ABOUT WHO CHRIST IS AND BEARS WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRITS THAT WE ARE THE SONS OF GOD.

*** WE ARE ASSURED WITHIN THAT JESUS IS WHO HE SAID HE WAS AND THAT HE IS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

**** BUT CONVERSELY, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ONE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE GOD'S WITNESS OF CHRIST MAKES GOD OUT TO BE A LIAR.

2. IN OTHER WORDS, TO DENY THAT JESUS CHRIST IS WHOM GOD SAID HE IS, TO REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN THE TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN CONCERNING HIS SON, RENDERS GOD A LIAR, A VERY SERIOUS CHARGE.

* AND FOLKS, WHEN WE DO NOT SURRENDER TO THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST, WE IN ESSENCE CLAIM TO KNOW THE TRUTH MORE THAN GOD DOES.

** AND MANY PEOPLE WOULD NOT DARE TO CALL GOD A LIAR, BUT THAT IS THE POSITION A PERSON TAKES WHEN THEY REFUSE TO BOW TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON.

*** WE ARE SAYING, GOD I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR WITNESS IS ENOUGH, I REJECT WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY IN COURT, I CANNOT BELIEVE, WHICH IS SAYING GOD HAS PERJURED HIMSELF, A SERIOUS ACCUSATION.

**** MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, JOHN SAYS IF WE DO NOT EMBRACE THE TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN, WE ARE SAYING WITH OUR LIVES: GOD IS A LIAR, I CANNOT BELIEVE HIM, I WILL NOT YIELD MY LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST.

***** BUT WE HAVE SEEN IN OUR TEXT TODAY, GOD CONFIRMS THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS SON THROUGH TRUSTWORTHY WITNESSES, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE WATER AND THE BLOOD. THE EVIDENCE SHOULD LEAD A PERSON TO BOW AND RECEIVE JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR. FOR ETERNAL LIFE ONLY COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. PLEASE LOOK AT V. 11 WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE WITNESS OF LIFE.

IV. THE WITNESS OF LIFE, (READ V. 11)

A. NOW JOHN IS PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD AND CLEAR AS HE ENDS THIS PARAGRAPH ABOUT GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON.

* AND IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR, THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, THE TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US (TRUE BELIEVERS) IS THIS, GOD HAS GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE AND THIS LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE IS IN HIS SON.

** BELOVED, GOD GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE WHEN WE EMBRACE HIS TESTIMONY ABOUT HIS SON, FOR THE TESTIMONY, THE WITNESS FROM GOD IS THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE, IT'S IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

*** AND THIS GOES RIGHT ALONG WITH WHAT JOHN HAS SAID IN HIS GOSPEL REPEATEDLY. QUOTE JOHN 3:16, JOHN 3:36, JOHN 5:24 AND JOHN 20:31.

**** AND WE ARE REMINDED AGAIN ABOUT THE EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRIST AS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SIN AND GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE, FOR THIS LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE IS IN HIS SON.

1. AND IT COULDN'T BE ANY CLEARER THAN IN V. 12. LOOK AT IT PLEASE.

B. READ V. 12. NOW IN V. 12, JOHN CLOSES OUT THIS SECTION BY SETTING OUT THE ETERNAL RESULTS OF THE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO GOD'S WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST:

* HE WHO HAS THE SON HAS LIFE; HE WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE SON OF GOD DOES NOT HAVE LIFE.

** AND ONLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE FATHER'S TESTIMONY TO THE SON AND RECEIVE JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR HAVE ETERNAL LIFE; BUT ALL WHO REFUSE TO DO SO DO NOT HAVE THE SON AND CONSEQUENTLY DO NOT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

*** BELOVED, THE WITNESS OF LIFE COMING FROM TRUE CHRISTIANS IS THEY TRULY HAVE CHRIST, THEY HAVE BELIEVED THE TESTIMONY OF GOD.

**** BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE CHRIST, YOU DO NOT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, BUT ETERNAL DEATH, SEPARATION FROM GOD WILL BE YOUR JUDGMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE, QUOTE REVELATION 20:14&15.

IN WRAP UP: (1) GOD HAS GIVEN US 3 WITNESSES IN OUR PASSAGE TODAY ABOUT CHRIST. WE NORMALLY ACCEPT MAN'S TESTIMONY, SO WE HAVE GREATER REASON TO ACCEPT GOD'S TESTIMONY.

* NOT TO DO SO IS TO CALL GOD A LIAR. FOLKS, HIS TESTIMONY IS THE FINAL WORD ON THE SUBJECT.

** THE EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT IS JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, THE ONLY SAVIOR.

** DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU TRULY KNOW HIM? IF YOU TRULY DO, YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. AND THAT PROFESSION OF FAITH LEADS TO A LIFE OF WANTING TO KNOW HIM MORE AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN. (LET'S PRAY)