

INTRODUCTION

1. Review - *witness* [Lk 24:48].

1st: We Witness of Christ

1. Rv 19:10 *the testimony of Jesus* [2x] = *spirit of prophecy: hold* testimony. Xns are to witness to the facts & the interpretation of gospel.
2. We can tell "our story" [1Pt 3:15; Mat 5:16] - as explained by gospel.

2nd: We Witness to Men's Conscience

1. Consc - [Mat 7:3-4] delicate - internal courtroom
2. *Witness* transpires in courtroom: whose? God's. We wld bring men into God's courtroom - condemned? yes, but Jesus is there to save!
3. Hb 10:19-22 enter *holy place* - courtroom w/ *clean conscience*
4. Liable to speak to any other faculty than conscience: intellect; emotions; Moralistic Therapeutic Deism [*Soul Searching*, Christian Smith, 2005]
5. Conviction of sin? 1st use of law - 2nd use of law - lead to Savior.
6. 2T 2:24-26 *teach & correcting* = use word of God [2T 3:16] - rely on God to *grant repentance & knowledge of truth* - for salvation.

3rd: We Witness as Martyrs

1. *Witness* = martyr. Witness entails discipleship & exposure to condemning judgment of men in human courts.
 - i. Act 22:20 *witness* (ASV, NASB) - *martyr* (KJV, NIV) - v52.
 - ii. Rev 6:9 disembodied martyrs - slain for their *testimony*.

2. Bearing witness is a form of martyrdom.
 - i. Rev 11:7 2 witnesses (v3) testify (v7) & are killed
 - ii. Rev 12:11 seed of the woman gives verbal testimony - even to death
 - iii. Rev 12:17 obedience & *the testimony of Jesus* [1:2, 9; 12:17; 19:10]
 - iv. **Rev 17:6 ASV & KJV *martyrs*; NASV *witnesses*: mean same thing
 - v. Rev 20:4 beheaded b/c of their *testimony*; refused mark of Beast [*the testimony of Jesus* is joined to *word of God*] focus on *worship*
3. To witness for Christ is a form of martyrdom - identify w/ prophets.
 - i. Rev 16:6 *blood of the saints & the prophets*.
 - ii. Rev 18:24 *saints & prophets* - 2T 3:12

Applic #1: Let Us Witness to Men's Consciences

1. 2C 4:1,2 in life & testimony - target men's consciences. 2C 5:10-11
2. We urge men to serve Jesus by faith & come to FJ bearing fruit of living faith to the praise of God's grace.

Applic #2: Let Us Be Willing To Be Hated For the Sake of Christ

1. Our challenge: Fear. Fear of men's judgment of us wh/ threatens harm.
2. Our love for sinners must be greater than our fear of their hatred of Christ.
3. Is Xnty in America the Xnty of witnesses/martyrs?
4. Remember: we have died in Christ already. Do not fear death - Rev 12:11. Nothg can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus [Rom 8:38].