

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:
The Testimony of God

Speaker:
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Date:
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Scriptures:
1 John 5:6-12

Theme: Receive the testimony of God and enjoy life in his Son.

Introduction: Have you ever had difficulty convincing someone that you are telling the truth? Often, we have to weigh the value of someone's testimony—do we believe that they are telling the truth? Are they a reliable person? In this text, John highlights the importance for testimony for our understanding of the gospel. He shows the ultimate testimony is from and about God himself.

Here are 2 aspects of the testimony to the gospel:

1. Testimony beyond doubt (6-8)

John makes reference to three elements of testimony: water, blood, and Spirit. The first two especially have found many possible interpretations.

The best interpretation is likely that they refer to the bookends of Jesus' ministry: water for his baptism, and blood for his death on the cross.

However, it is the whole of Jesus' ministry that testifies to his identity as the Son of God (cf. John 10:25, 37-28; 14:11).

The false teachers were offering a different picture of Jesus: one that left out the bloody cross and the need for a sacrificial death for sin.

Anyone trying to justify himself cannot abide the cross. They want Jesus on their own terms, not Jesus as the only Savior.

The 3rd witness John lists is the Holy Spirit. He is God's own witness to Jesus' identity, validating the truth of who he is and what he has done.

2. Witness within (9-12)

God's testimony is true. There is no greater validation, no higher standard.

To disbelieve in God is to call him a liar. It's a malicious, willful rebellion against him, calling him a fraud.

Those who believe have the promise of eternal life, and it's not just life in the Age to Come. Eternal life has broken into our lives now, in this age.

Questions:

1. Are you resting in Christ's saving work for you?
2. Do you need God's mercy and grace? Are you regularly engaging with the reality of Jesus' cross work for you?
3. How much functional authority does God's word have in your life? Do you look to it and study it? Do you submit to all it teaches?