



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 5:6-12 - DO YOU BELIEVE OR REJECT THE TESTIMONY OF GOD?

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God has gone to such incredible lengths to make the truth of His Son Jesus Christ known. God the Father Himself has given the greatest testimony that is more demanding and worthy of our acceptance, more reliable and trustworthy than any other given in this world.

I. 1 JOHN 5:6-12 – PART THREE – DO YOU BELIEVE OR REJECT THE TESTIMONY OF GOD? (1 JOHN 5:10-12)

(5) “And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (6) “This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with the water and with the blood.” (7) “And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.” (8) “For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.” (9) “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater, for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son.” (10) “The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son.” (11) “And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” (12) “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” 1 John 5:5-12

John declares that God has placed Himself permanently on record as bearing witness to His Son Jesus Christ that there is salvation and eternal life in no other. (1 John 5:9) God’s testimony is true and He cannot lie.

What is the testimony of God concerning His Son? Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:19 that it was Jesus Christ, the God-man, reconciling the world to Himself. This is the uniqueness of Jesus that the world stumbles over. You **must know** that in His love for us God Himself took on flesh, lived a perfect life, died the death sinners deserve, and then rose in victory over sin and death. In Jesus, we are brought face to face with the true and living God. (1 John 1:1-3) The gospel of Jesus Christ is NOT one of a number of options for men and women to consider. Christ is the one and only way for sinners to be reconciled with God and rescued from the coming wrath. John says this is an indisputable fact!¹

John concludes this section in his Epistle giving the only two possible responses to the witness of God and the eternal results of these two responses. What will *you* do with the testimony of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ? It will determine your eternal destiny.

A. 1 JOHN 5:10 - TWO RESPONSES TO THE WITNESS OF GOD!

“The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son.”

1 John 5:10

The objective witness of God Himself that He has given concerning His Son, demands a human response. John gives only two possible responses to God’s witness: either to believe God’s testimony or to reject it. Remember, those are the only two responses. And what people do with God’s testimony will determine their eternal destiny. Jesus Himself said that, *“he who is not with Me is against Me.”* (Matthew 12:30) There is no middle ground.²

The first possible response to God’s witness is *“The one who believes in the Son of God...”* (1 John 5:10a) This portrays one exercising an active personal faith centered in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That word, *“believe”* occurs three times in this verse alone. It’s the acceptance of the truthfulness of God’s witness together with a personal trust and commitment to the One of Whom the witness is given. John assures all believers that our faith in the incarnate, crucified and risen Son of God is confirmed by the inward testimony of the Spirit. Romans 8:16 also reminds us *“the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”*³

The second response, the only other possible response to the testimony of God is to reject His testimony regarding His Son, Jesus Christ. John says this, *“the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar,”* John is very clear here when he says this one, *“does not believe God”*. He emphasizes the One Whose testimony is rejected. This one doesn’t just fail to receive the Son of God, but this person refuses to accept God the Father’s testimony concerning His Son as John says, *“because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son.”* To deny that Jesus is Who God said He is, is to refuse to believe in the testimony of God.

When people refuse to *“believe God”*, to believe the truth about His testimony concerning His Son, John says, *“the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar.”* To not believe God is an attack on His very character because it is attacking the truthfulness of God. God never lies. MacArthur calls this the *“severest of all blasphemies since God is perfect truth and*

PART THREE - 1 JOHN 5:6-12 - DO YOU BELIEVE OR REJECT THE TESTIMONY OF GOD?

cannot lie.”⁴ (Numbers 28:19, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18) This is an affront to God. And the results of this has eternal ramifications.

B. 1 JOHN 5:11 – GOD’S “TESTIMONY IS THIS, THAT GOD...”

“And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” 1 John 5:11

John points to a further matter in either accepting or rejecting God’s testimony concerning His Son. What’s involved? It’s the matter of “eternal life”.

When God sent His Son into the world, He sent Jesus to secure for “lost” sinners “eternal life”. John says in this verse, “*And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life*”. It is a gift given by God. Now eternal life is more than just living forever. It is a gift to every believer at the moment of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. It is the perfect, unending fellowship of shared life, where we are saved to belong! It’s a shared life with fellow believers and a shared life of communion with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son both now and forever. This comes only by believing God Himself took on flesh in His Son Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, died the death sinners deserve, and then arose in victory over sin and death. In Jesus, we are brought face to face with the true, living God. What an amazing privilege, that Jesus Christ has brought all believers into fellowship with the living God! Christ died so our fellowship could be restored between God and man. It is humbling that this was so important to God!

Jesus said this before He went to the cross to atone for sin, “*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent.*” (John 17:3) But this eternal life promised by God comes only to those who believe God’s witness and place their faith in Jesus Christ, His Son. The gospel is exclusive there. There is only one way as Jesus said in John 14:6, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*” And Peter reminds us, “*for there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*”

John makes it clear, “*and this life is in His Son.*” Faith in Jesus Christ is critical. Eternal life can only be obtained in relationship with Jesus. Jesus Christ is life, true life. It is the only “*life*” that restores us to fellowship with God. To have Jesus Christ, the Son, is to have “*life*”, salvation and unending communion with God.

C. 1 JOHN 5:12 – THE ETERNAL RESULT OF YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON!

“He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” 1 John 5:12

In this verse, John once again, makes unmistakably clear the eternal results of the two possible responses to the testimony of God regarding His Son Jesus Christ.

“*He who has the Son has the life;*” John says again. Only those who believe God’s witness regarding Jesus Christ, His Son has true and everlasting life. You will remember, John said in 1 John 5:5, he said only “*he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*” To have the Son is to have “*life*”. The incredible promise to all who believe God’s witness is that, “*as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*” (John 1:12)

But then, John puts forth a sober warning to any who would reject the testimony of God Himself. “*He who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*” (1 John 5:12b) Christ is the very embodiment of “*the life*” which the unbeliever needs. But this life is beyond the grasp of the one who does not have the Son of God. To refuse to accept God’s testimony concerning His Son Jesus is the most serious of all matters. God’s incarnate, crucified and risen Son is the way, the truth, the life, “*and no one comes to the Father except by Him.*” (John 14:6) ⁵

So how about you? Will you believe or reject the clear testimony of God regarding His Son Jesus Christ?

This is not just a doctrine to believe but rather a Person to receive. Jesus Christ Himself alone, is the believer’s salvation.⁶

¹ Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg.1-2.

² MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 197.

³ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 244.

⁴ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 198.

⁵ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 247.

⁶ Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg.79.