

## *The Verdict Is In*

### *1 John 5:6-12*

In the verses that we will look at this evening, it can almost be compared to looking at the transcript of a court case that has already been held. You have a judge, Jesus, for all judgment has been given to Him, John 5:22 *"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."*

You have two witnesses: The Holy Spirit and God the Father. You have evidence: the blood of Jesus and His Word. You have a record: personal testimony. You also have a jury: which is the reader. What is so remarkable about this case is that it is not some guilty party on trial who has committed some awful crime; it is the Judge Himself who is on trial. God has placed man in the position to listen to the witness, hear the unquestionable proofs, read the record of the court, and come to his own conclusion and what he should do about it. Pilate asked the question at the trial of Jesus, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate was not the first man, nor will he be the last, who must ask himself this same question and answer it, with the answer determining his eternal outcome. In a day where "due process" is questioned and should be cause for concern for us all, this is Biblical due process for any and all who will look at the written record objectively, honestly and make a decision based on the facts.

### **I. THE EVIDENCE**      Vss. 6-8

(a) **This is the Truth:** First we hear John's own testimony of faith concerning what salvation is as he is led by God's Holy Spirit. This is not the baptismal waters saving someone, but the water of the Word. Our Church of Christ friends would lead you to believe that this passage is teaching "baptismal regeneration".                      Vs. 6

Ephesians 5:25-26 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

Psalms 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed [thereto] according to thy word.*

John 4:7-15

1. What was the water that Jesus gave the woman? HIS WORDS!  
How do we know? She left the water pot behind!

a. The water symbolizes a washing (Titus 3:5), a baptism (Acts 1:5), and a unity (1 Corinthians 12:13) that is brought about by the Holy Ghost the moment that we are born again.

- Cleansing and regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- Power (Acts 1:5)
- Unity of believers within One Body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- These are just a few

2. The second conclusion of John's faith is that he has been washed in the blood and that blood secures AND assures his salvation before the Father based on the final work of the Son at Calvary.

a. But who's blood? It is God's blood!

*Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

1) Notice what I just read from Paul's words; purchased. We are bought with a great price (1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23) and Peter seals the deal when he tells us that we have not been redeemed by things of earthly value that is temporary but by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19).

3. That purchase, according to John, is then witnessed and vouched for by the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of Truth. Vs. 6b

a. If you go back and view John's Gospel narrative, you will see that Jesus caught the attention of this Apostle by a Name that He called the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth.

John 4:23-24, 14:17, 15:26, 16:12-15

b. But notice how John describes the WITNESS (*‘to testify, report’*) of the Spirit of Truth; the Spirit IS Truth. In all of his aged Apostle’s years, experiences and travels, John cannot recall a time where the Holy Ghost led him in any other direction other than the truth.

(b) **This is the Trinity**: This truthful witness by the Trinity as a whole also gives us assurance in our salvation. John’s simple testimony is this... Vss. 7-8

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are One in Heaven
- The Father, Son and Spirit agree as One in Earth

1. John has no issue at all with the unified Godhead but there has always been a ‘controversy’ over the word ‘Trinity’ because it isn’t used in the scriptures at all even though the concept is there. As far as church history goes, Tertullian was the earliest church ‘father’ to use the term from the Latin ‘trinitas’ in 215 AD. He was the first of the early church fathers to begin to transcribe the written scriptures from Greek into Latin. Now here is the catch; Tertullian was raised in a pagan household and influenced by pagan parents and there are several pagan gods that formed ‘trinities’ so many religious experts and denominations avoid the word AND teaching based on the assumption that Tertullian wanted his “God” to be equal with or better than the pagan gods. But as we have just read, 100 years BEFORE Tertullian used the term and adopted it from the Latin, John testified to the reality that the Father, Son and Spirit are One; a unified Trinity.

a. *These three* (Gr. treis, tria; trio) *are* (agree; Gr. eisi) *One* (Gr. Heis: One and only)

*It is not easy to find a name that will suitably express so great an excellence, unless it is better to speak in this way: the Trinity, one God, of whom are all things, through whom are all things, in whom are all things. Thus the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and each of these by Himself, is God, and at the same time they are all one God; and each of them by Himself is a complete substance, and yet they are all one substance. The Father is not the Son nor the Holy Spirit; the Son is not the Father nor the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is not the Father nor the Son: but the Father*

*is only Father, the Son is only Son, and the Holy Spirit is only Holy Spirit. To all Three belong the same eternity, the same unchangeableness, the same majesty, the same power. In the Father is unity, in the Son equality, in the Holy Spirit the harmony of unity and equality. And these three attributes are all one because of the Father, all equal because of the Son, and all harmonious because of the Holy Spirit.*

*Augustine, "On Christian Doctrine"*

(Note: What did we learn was one of the major clues in identifying a cult? They deny the Trinity, therefore they deny the Deity of both Jesus Christ and The Holy Ghost.)

## II. GOD'S TESTIMONY

Vss. 9-10

(a) **Daily Credibility**: On an everyday basis, we receive the witness of men. Vs. 9a

1. We read newspapers and believe what we read. We watch the news and believe what we see. We listen to the radio and believe what we hear. So why should the testimony of Almighty God be of less value to us who are redeemed?

(b) **Eternal Credibility**: God is an incredible and creditable witness, especially when it concerns His Son; God cannot lie. Vs. 9b

Hebrews 6:18 *That by two immutable things, **in which [it was] impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

Titus 1:2 *In hope of eternal life, **which God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began;*

1. What was his testimony concerning his Son? On the Mount of Transfiguration, the Father said,

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.*

(c) **Internal Credibility**: God places The Witness Himself within each person at the moment of their salvation. No matter how much of a lie their previous life may have been (Paul, Nicodemus) the Truth now lives in them. Vs. 10a

### 1 John 3:24

(d) **External Incredibility**: To not believe God is to call him a liar and as far as John was concerned after examining all evidence, how could someone NOT believe OR believe in his God? Unbelief places a person OUTSIDE of salvation and OUTSIDE of any true relationship. Vs. 10b

### John 3:17-18

1. Now let's sum up the Christian faith. When we hear the Word of God and believe on the Lord Jesus, God saves us for Christ's sake. Then He keeps us by his mighty power, supplies our every need, and reserves a home for us in heaven - a home that will never fade away. He promises to return and to take us to live with Him where He lives. To say that God is a liar is the same as saying that all that we believe is a bunch of bologna!

### **III. THE RECORD** Vs. 11-12

(a) **Continued Present** (gift): "*God HATH (past tense) given to us eternal life*", in His Son. I have said this many times and have challenged many people over the years with this truth; "Why would God save me and then assign ME the task of keeping myself saved? IF I could not save myself by my own works or righteousness, then how do I retain salvation by those same inadequate works?" Vs. 11-12

- Aren't all of my righteousness as filthy rags? (Isaiah 64:16)

1. The answer is this: I cannot keep myself saved. Paul outlined to the Roman Christians the process of everlasting life by what Christ

showed us at Calvary when He died for us even while we were still  
IN our sins.

Romans 5:8-10 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

2. Eternal life is not a continual process, but is ours instantly at the moment of salvation! We are saved, as Paul said, ‘through Him.’ It was Christ that reconciled us to God through His death. Here it is in a nutshell. If I have Jesus, then I have life. If I don’t have Jesus then I don’t have life. Either you have Him or you don’t and it can’t get much simpler than that. As much as this may chafe the human ego, salvation’s process is not about us because it’s all about Jesus.

Colossians 1:12-14 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:*