

The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #19

God's Witness Gives Us Assurance

I John 5:6-12

I. The Three Witnesses VS 6-8

A. The water –

- Jesus baptism
- "This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased"
- Perfect human being

B. The Blood –

- Cross, atonement
- "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin"

C. The Spirit

- The inner working of God in us that confirms that it is through Christ's death that we have life

D. This is the truth, anything else is a lie

E. All three agree and are necessary

F. The issues that these three address

- Baptism OK, The Spirit OK
- But the cross – the blood of Jesus, no way
- 1st century Gnosticism – flesh and spirit
- Intellectualism today
 1. I'm OK
 2. I don't need the cross
 3. Die to live? No way!

II. This Is What God Has Said

A. This is a greater testimony than what man says

B. If we accept human testimony why wouldn't we accept God's testimony?

C. Belief in Jesus confirms this testimony

D. Life is through the Son that this testimony affirms

E. If you have the Son you have His life in you

F. Assurance is the evidence we believe

G. If not, then we make God a liar

III. Lots Of Thoughts

A. Why is the cross such a struggle for so many

- I Corinthians 1:18-25

1. Stumbling block

2. Foolishness

B. What many Christians say:

- I don't want my old life to end I just want a relationship with God – my way – the cross insults me.
- We're OK with Jesus being a perfect example of humanity and OK with the Spirit's power and gifts but not with the cross.
- When we deny the cross and the need for forgiveness and a new life we deny what God says about Jesus
 1. Hebrews 1:1-2a
 2. I John 5:10

C. Truth is logical and rational. Faith receives the evidence. To not believe what God reveals is illogical and ignorant.

D. The reality of Christ's presence is essential to assurance. Do you have the Son?

E. Here's how it happened for us:

1. The blood of Jesus opens our hearts to respond to God's love that knows no limits.
2. Baptism is our acknowledgement of the reality of our own death → resurrection with Christ (new life).
3. The fullness of the Spirit follows with power to produce newness of life.

F. Having the Son as Savior and Lord is the same as having life – eternal life.