

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5:6-13

Lesson 20

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 5:1-5. In what ways does knowing that *he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God... is he that overcometh the world* help you daily to stand for Christ in the world?
 - a. In what way has I John 5:4, 5 ministered to you about *overcoming the world*?
 - b. What is the source or means whereby we *overcome the world*?
2. Observe the words *witness* and *eternal life* (living with God forever) on your first reading through this week's passage (I John 5:6-13). *Our eternal life is dependent on our believing and receiving God's witness concerning Jesus Christ*. Write this italicized statement here personalizing it.
 - a. Recall that John's key purpose for writing this letter was that we would have assurance of eternal life. Verify this by completing this phrase from I John 5:13:
...I have written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; _____
_____.
3. See the passage we're studying this week from the perspective of God's witness of who Jesus Christ is and the necessity of our acceptance of His witness. Note and mark the paragraph divisions and write the key thought of each using the word most repeated in the paragraph:
 - a. I John 5:6-8
 - b. I John 5:9-12
 - c. I John 5:13
4. What you believe about Jesus Christ is crucial to your salvation. Do you believe God's witness concerning Jesus Christ? Do you know you have eternal life? These verses contain truth that is essential to our understanding of what we believe and why we believe it. Begin the lesson today with a prayer asking the Lord to prepare your heart and open your eyes and ears to the truth. Write your prayer here.

*Incline your ear, and come unto Me:
hear and your soul shall live.*

Isaiah 55:3a

SECOND DAY: Read I John 5:6, 7

1. Write I John 5:6 phrase by phrase.

- a. Observe and underline the words *water* and *blood* in this verse.
- b. There are several interpretations of the meaning of this verse. One is found in John 19:(33) 34, 35 (36, 37). How might this relate to I John 5:6a?
- c. Another interpretation, which is the most preferred, is that the *water* is a reference to *Christ's baptism* and the *blood* to *His death on the cross*. What do you draw from the following scriptures to support this interpretation?

1) Matthew 3: 13-17

(a.) John 3:(3, 4) 5

2) John 12:(27) 28 (29) 30-33

3) Matthew 27:45; 50-53, 54

4) What was the last act of His earthly ministry? Hebrews 9:12

Challenge: How does John's emphasis on *water* and *blood* counter the heretical view of the false teachers, particularly the view held by Cerinthus, a Gnostic, who taught that Jesus was a man and that "Christ" descended on Him at the baptism and departed before the cross?

2. Who bears witness to Christ's coming by *water* and *blood*? (I John 5:6b)

- a. *Because the Spirit is truth*, He is a credible *witness*. Why was the Holy Spirit given according to the following verses?

1) John 16:12-14

2) John 15:26

3) I John 2:27

4) Romans 8:16

3. In verse 7 there are three that bear *record* (witness) in heaven of who Jesus is. (Most modern versions exclude this verse, but diligent research by respected Bible scholars has shown it to be in the earliest Old Latin translation written one hundred years before the manuscripts that exclude it. There are many other verses that prove the Trinity of God.) Whether this verse is included or excluded does not alter the truth revealed in it. What does it say?

- a. John states in verse 7b *and these three are one*. The word Trinity is not in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word "Trinitas" which means "threeness". God is One. Christians are monotheists. See Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6; James 2:19. *The living and true God exists in three Persons*. Who are the three Persons?

Optional: The plurality within the Godhead is seen in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Consider the following verses and confirm this truth by writing what they say:

1. Genesis 1:26
2. Genesis 11:7
3. Isaiah 6:8
4. We often proclaim our theology (what we believe about God) in the hymns we sing. Notice these words from the song *Holy, Holy, Holy: "God in three Persons, blessed Trinity."* Verify this truth from the following verses:
 - a. Matthew 3:16,17
 - b. John 14:16,(17)
 - c. II Corinthians 13:14

Challenge: Add other hymns that proclaim the Trinity.

5. What we believe about Jesus is critical to our eternal destiny. We must believe the truth revealed in God's Word about Him, in verse 8 John reiterates his claim in verse 6. What is John emphasizing in verse 8 which is not found in verse 6?
6. How would you use I John 5:6-8 to confirm that Jesus is the Son of God?

*We believe the doctrine of the Trinity,
not because we understand it,
but because the Bible teaches it
and because the Spirit Himself witnesses
within our heart that it is so.
Daniel Webster*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:9,10

1. Pastor Chuck says: *Man's witness is accepted in a court of law. A man can be convicted or exonerated on the testimony of witnesses. If the witness of man is accepted as true, how much more ought we to accept the witness of God.* Confirm this statement by verse 9.
 - a. Why is God's testimony of greater trustworthiness?

- b. We have discovered in I John 5:6-8 *the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son*. How do the following verses confirm God's witness concerning His Son?
- 1) Mark 1:10, 11
 - 2) Mark 9:7
- c. What is God's testimony in Hebrews 1:1-4 about His Son, Jesus Christ?

2. Write verse 10 line by line using the following introduction to each:

He that believeth _____

He that believeth not _____

because he believeth not _____

a. What *witness* is John referring to in verse 10? see Galatians 4:6

- 1) According to I John 5:10 where does the believer have this witness?
- 2) The believer has an internal witness of the Spirit to the truth concerning Jesus, God's Son. In what way do you experience this witness of Who Jesus Christ is in your heart?

3. John confronts us with a life and death choice in I John 5:10. What is that choice?

Personal: Believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God takes more than an intellectual acceptance of the truthfulness of the message. It requires a personal trust, commitment, and active faith in the One to Whom God has given witness. Believing and receiving God's witness concerning Christ is essential to salvation. Do you believe on the Son of God?

a. John writes in verse 10b that *he that believeth not God hath make Him a liar*. How does the one who does not believe God *make Him a liar*? I John 5: 10c

- 1) Rejection of the Son is a rejection of God, the Father, and an unequivocal statement that God is a liar. What do the following verses say about God:
 - (a.) Titus 1:2
 - (b.) Hebrews 6:18

4. What difference has believing God's witness about Christ made in your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 5: 1 1, 1 2

1. In verse 11 John tells us what *the record* is that he was referring to in verse 10. Print *this record* here.
 - a. **STOP!** Meditate on what this verse is saying. What does this promise of eternal life mean to you?

2. In verse 12 John presents a sober message. What is this message?
 - a. Record the consequences of not believing on the Son from John 3:36.
 - 1) How does this stir your heart for those who do not believe on God's Son?

3. In light of I John 5:11, 12 how do you *know* that you have *eternal life*?
 - a. Eternal life begins the moment you accept Christ. How are you experiencing this *life in His Son* now?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:13

1. Why did John write this letter to the believers in the churches in Asia Minor and to us?

2. Record the similarity between the summary statement of purpose of this letter in this verse and the purpose of John's gospel as revealed in John 20:31.

Challenge: One of the main purposes of I John is to edify the believers and provide a framework for their assurance of salvation. John sets forth a variety of tests in this epistle. What are some of them?

3. A literal translation of I John 5:13 is: *These things I have written to you in order that you may know that you have eternal life - you who believe in the Name of the Son of God.* Why does John place such an emphasis on those who believe in the *Name of the Son of God*?

4. What does John want his readers to *know* from verse 13?

Challenge: John uses the Greek word "Oida" (to know) to assure them with an absolute, positive knowledge. The assurance which John refers to is woven throughout the entire epistle. List some verses from I John which confirm our assurance of salvation and eternal life.

5. How does I John 5:13 absolutely assure you that you have eternal life?

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 5:6-13

1. Review I John 5:6-13. What is the main theme of these verses? (Note First Day, Question 2) Answer in your own words.

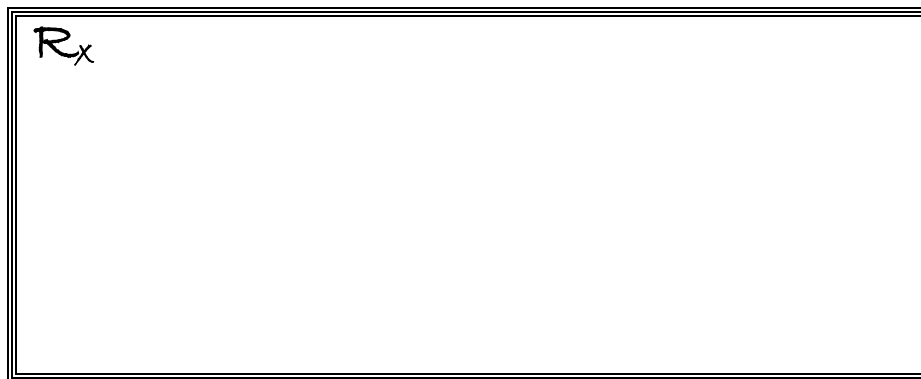
2. Observe the word *witness* in this passage once again. Why are these *witnesses* important?

3. What have you learned about the Son of God from I John 5:6-13?

a. Why is this essential to your *knowing* you have eternal life?

4. In light of I John 5:10 consider and comment on the following quotation: *Unbelief is not due to insufficient evidence but unwillingness to accept the evidence.*

a. What remedy would you prescribe for someone diagnosed with *unbelief*?



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5. Share an insight, encouragement, or blessing you have received from studying these verses this week.

*Crown Him the Lord of Heaven! One with the Father known, -
One with the Spirit through Him given from yonder glorious throne.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.*

Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring