

# The Testimony of the Gospel 1 John 1 31-Jan-2010

## 1. The Subject of Testimony - Jesus Vs1, 2, 5

- **The Word of Life** - God's means of communication - Life changing Word, which produces love, new life and forgiveness John 1:1
- **The Eternal Life** - "That which was from the beginning" - without limit or bounds, the source of all that moves, breathes, grows. It is life to the full. Life over which death has no power, and therefore which has no end. John 1:1-4; 5:26; 10:10; 3:16.
- **The Light** - Vs5 (Kenneth Wuest) "God as to His nature is light, and darkness in Him does not exist, not even one particle." See also John 1:4-9.

When the prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus in Isaiah 9, he wrote "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

- o Shows the way Psalm 119:105
- o Reveals hidden dangers
- o Dispels sin and darkness/the darkness of sin John 8:12; 3:19-21

## 2. The Basis of Testimony Vs 1

The Basis of John's testimony is a personal experience of Jesus.

- Heard (Wuest) "that which we have heard with the present reality that it is ringing in our ears." Vs5 "This is the message we have heard from him,"
- Seen (Wuest) "that which we have discerningly seen with our eyes with the present result that it is in our mind's eye."
- Looked at (Wuest) "that which we gazed upon as a spectacle."
- Touched (Wuest) "and our hands handled with a view to investigation"

In other words the basis on John's testimony was a very deep and close relationship with Jesus which had greatly impacted his life and the lives of the other disciples, to the point where as a result of the change Jesus had brought about in their lives, they could not but tell others about Him. Acts 4:18-20 I sometimes wonder whether the reason so many of us find it hard to be effective in our verbal witness for Jesus, is that we don't have the depth and closeness of relationship with Jesus that we should have, because we don't spend enough time in his presence, in his word and in prayer? That's something for us all to think about!

## 3. The Method of Testimony Vs 1, 5

- Proclamation - Declaration, both verbal and written. Acts 8:4-5
- The New Testament never envisages a testimony which is silent only

## 4. The Purpose of Testimony Vs 3, 6-9

- Fellowship - with God Himself and with other believers. Vs3, 6-7; Fellowship is a distinguishing mark of all Christians. In the early church it involved oneness, close relationships, shared life and everything in common. Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35
- Walking in the Light - walking with Jesus Vs7
- Purification from all sin Vs 7-9
- Joy - Vs 4 (Amplified) "And we are now writing these things to you so that our joy [in seeing you included] may be full [& your joy may be complete]."

## 5. Some Important Ifs

- If we claim to have fellowship with Him - Vs6 "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth." (NIV) "and in the sphere of darkness are habitually ordering our behaviour. (Wuest)
- If we walk in the light - Vs7 "But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. (Amplified)
- If we claim to be without sin - Vs8 "If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts]. (Amplified)
- If we confess our sins Vs9 "If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action]." (Amplified)
- If we claim we have not sinned - Vs10 "If we say that we have not sinned and are now in a state where we do not sin, a liar we are making Him and His word is not in us." (Wuest) That is, His word has no place in our lives.

Scripture Quotations from the New International Version (NIV), Kenneth Wuest's Expanded Transaltion (Wuest) and the Amplified Bible.