



1 John 5.⁹⁻¹³

⁹If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath *witnessed* of his Son. ¹⁰He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the *witness* that God gave of his Son. ¹¹And this is the *witness*, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

A “testimony,” or “witness,” or “record”—all translations of Greek, *martyria*, used, along with its verb, 8 times in this reading—are important words in establishing the seriousness and credibility of one’s words and intents and the nature of one’s character. One who bears testimony makes known the importance of what they say and the certainty of their words. If that testimony proves to be false, others know that the testifier is of bad character and not to be trusted.

So, it is significant that John speaks repeatedly of the testimony/witness or record that God speaks. He is of impeccable character. His words can be trusted. So, when God bears testimony that the good life in the here and now and an enduring life in the hereafter is open to all through faith in Christ and striving to live the life that he encourages, we can with certainty believe that testimony. We need not live in doubt or suspense. We can live in an active and expectant hope of an existence that is enduring.

How very encouraging and strengthening to hear God testify in His own name and through His own authority of His eternal intentions to have us with Him always.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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