

⑬ Gospel of John

INTRODUCTION | Bearing Witness of Truth

All of us, need to be strengthened and lifted up by the words, support and praise of those around us. But, the words and testimonies of other can be doubted. Words can be mere pretense or outright lie. Yet, in the midst of this there stands the true word and testimony of God. This week we will look to focus on 3 things. First, because the word Christ is true all should hear and receive his testimony. Second, because Jesus' word is truth do not be tossed about in doubt by the words of others. Third, Jesus' testimony gives you life, joy and power and because of this you can receive and live a life of honor glorifying God.

SCRIPTURE | John 5:31-47

31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true. 33 "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. 34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. 35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. 36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, 38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. 39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. 41 "I do not accept glory from human beings, 42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44 How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God 45 "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. 46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

QUESTIONS |

1: (v31-33, 36, 39) In Israelite society truth was established on the testimony of many witnesses. What testimony did Jesus bring to establish the truth of his testimony and himself (ref Deut 19:15)

2: Through the ministry of John the Baptist, Jesus and Scripture what do we learn of the truth which Jesus testifies to? How do we come to grips with the testimony of Jesus? (ref C.S Lewis).

3: (v37-40) Jesus is truth and as such is the ultimate revelation of God. If we do not accept truth as revealed by Jesus, whose truth will we then receive? As a result, what will receiving that truth make us?

4: (v44) Jesus draws a distinction is receiving honor from men vs receiving honor from God. What is the difference?

5: What is the blessing of receiving and believing the testimony of Christ?

Reading (Reference) |

Deuteronomy 19:15

15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.

Prayers |

Lord we praise you and glorify you for the salvation that has been accomplished in Christ. Because the truth and reality of salvation found in Christ we know his word is true and we need not be tossed from side to die by the words and testimonies of this world. We can in shin walk in hope, peace and security.

Lord, but as we struggle with competing testimonies in this world, the lies and false testimonies of other things outside of Christ we pray our hearts and minds would changed and rejuvenated to rest in Christ's word alone. Christ paid the penalty and was our propitiation and we test in His testimony which declares that even beyond the depths of our sin, Christ is able to save. This is the hope of the gospel.

UPCOMING EVENTS | MARCH

Leader Training (16th)
Grace City Gospel Choir (16th),
Lunch time meeting (17th akasaka, 18th Kasumigaseki, 19th Otemachi)
Obento Project (21st),

Crossroads Bible Study (22nd)
Leader training (23rd)
Lunchtime meeting (24th Jimbocho, 25th Marunouchi, 26th Otemachi)
London Missions team (3/38/4/6)
Palm Sunday (29th)
Crossroad bible study (29th).