

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

December 30, 2018

The Word of Their Testimony

The courtroom is silent as the witness takes the stand. He is sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth! What will the witness say? Will he be a useless witness, one who is afraid to speak what he has seen and heard? Will he be a faithful witness? Or will his testimony change to please the expectations of those around? This is important because someone's life hangs in the balance, and it will be determined based upon word of this man's testimony!

The apostle John was exiled to *"the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."* Revelation 1:9. For over sixty years he had been a faithful witness concerning Jesus Christ. He wrote, *"For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;"* 1 John 1:2. The word of John's testimony was the gospel of Christ that he preached. It was *"the truth"* that Jesus said, *"shall make you free."* John 8:32. If John stood faithful as a witness, then even more people would be delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan. If he gave false testimony, then *"truth would be fallen in the streets"* and *"justice would stand afar off,"* Isaiah 59:14 therefore the people would look for judgment and salvation, but find none. Isaiah 59:11.

The saints of God are his witnesses in this present world. God said, "*Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? **ye are even my witnesses.** Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.*" Isaiah 44:8. Jesus spoke to those gathered the day of his ascension, saying, "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*" Acts 1:8. Jesus empowered and sent these "*witnesses*" to give the word of their testimony before all nations, peoples and tongues.

The "*word of their testimony*" is the gospel of Christ they preached everywhere they went. It is how they overcame the dragon, Satan. Revelation 12:11. This "*testimony of Jesus Christ*" Revelation 12:17 was in fact the great "*weapon of their warfare*" II Corinthians 10:4 that God gave to the church. Everywhere this "*testimony*" was given, the chains of sin and oppression were broken because when "*the truth*" is lifted up, justice and equity enter. Isaiah 59:14.

God's witnesses always hold "*the testimony of Jesus Christ.*" Revelation 19:10. It can be no other way. Many call themselves "God's witnesses," but they do not and cannot bring you the testimony of "*the Lord from Heaven*" I Corinthians 15:47, Jesus Christ, who was "*made in the likeness of men*" Philippians 2:6 in order to shed blood that could destroy Satan and wash every sin from your heart and nature. Revelation 1:5. If the "heart, soul, and body" of their "*testimony*" is not "*Jesus (the) Christ, and him*

crucified,” I Corinthians 2:2 they ARE NOT God’s witnesses!

God himself was the first to give “*testimony*” of Jesus Christ. In fact, John says, the person who does not believe the truth, makes God to be a liar “*because he believeth not the record (testimony) that God gave of his Son.*” I John 5:10. God told us Christ is “*the seed of the woman who would bruise the head of the Serpent.*” Genesis 3:15. He would be born of a virgin, and his name would be called “*Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*” Isaiah 7:14, 9:6. Christ would be “*wounded for our transgressions,*” Isaiah 53:5 and he would “*make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness.*” Daniel 9:24 When this “*seed of the woman*” was conceived in a virgin, God even sent an angel to say “*thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall **save his people from their sins.***” Matthew 1:21. This is the testimony God gave!

There are two promises of a great working of God shortly before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Both are so “*the testimony of Jesus Christ*” will be heard in all the earth. The first is found in the words of Jesus concerning the end. He said, “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*” Matthew 24:14. I believe this has hardly even begun in our generation. The modern church has been highly successful in convincing multitudes around the world that Jesus came to give you earthly wealth, or, to take you to heaven in your sinfulness. Both of these messages are “*false witnesses*” of Christ. The “*false prophet*” has given his testimony. Revelation

13:11. Soon it will be time for God to give his witness; and he will give it in all the world!

God gave another promise. He said, *“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”* Revelation 11:3-4. This promise is very similar to what Jesus told those gathered the day of his ascension. He said, *“...ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”* Acts 1:8. I do not believe these *“two witnesses”* are literally two men. Let me explain.

The Revelation John saw gives us pictures or *“imagery”* to express greater truth. Jesus is portrayed as *“a lamb ...having seven horns and seven eyes.”* Revelation 5:6. Satan is portrayed as a *“red dragon”* Revelation 12:3, and the *“false prophet”* is portrayed as a beast that *“had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. .”* Revelation 13:11. There are seven great kingdoms that either have, or shall, rule upon earth, which are portrayed as heads on a scarlet colored beast? Revelation 17:10. Even the church, *“the bride, the Lamb's wife”* is portrayed as a city built of precious stones. Revelation 21:9.

The *“two witnesses”* is also imagery portraying those who carry the gospel of Christ. God has always required *“two or three witnesses”* for any testimony to be established as truth. II Corinthians 13:1. God's *“two witnesses”* are those who in any generation give the *“testimony of Jesus Christ”* in truth. On the day of Pentecost, the one hundred and twenty were his *“two witnesses,”* as was also the church at Antioch. Paul and Barnabas were

certainly God's "two witnesses," but when they left a city it was often filled with many of God's "two witnesses." I believe the promise to "give power unto my two witnesses" is a promise of a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon those who carry "the testimony of Jesus Christ." This great outpouring of God's Spirit will come so that "the testimony of Jesus Christ" will be given in all the earth. This testimony will be accompanied by a great harvest of souls. Satan will not be able to do anything unto these faithful witnesses until "they shall have **finished** their testimony!" Revelation 11:7.