



12- Know: That You Have Eternal Life 1 John 5:6-13

1 John 5:6-13 *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He 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 record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These 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.*

Matthew Henry went to London, met a young lady of the nobility, who was also wealthy, and they fell in love. She went to ask her father if she could marry him and he said, 'He's got no background, you don't know where he's come from.' She said, 'Yes, I know, but I know where he's going and I want to go with him.'

What is the greatest knowledge that is possible to possess? Would it be if you could somehow know how to cure heart disease or maybe cancer? Or perhaps if there were some way to know how to end wars and violence, could this be the ultimate knowledge? Or is it something else.

The next natural question seems to be what would you do if you had that knowledge? Would you store it up in case you or someone you love needed it? Would you attempt to sale it and make lot of money with it? Would you give it away?

Now back to the greatest thing that we can know? I submit to you that the greatest thing that we can know, intelligential, spiritually, in our hearts and minds, or any

other way, is that we know we have eternal life in Christ Jesus. May I state also that the thing we need to do with this knowledge is to not keep it to ourselves but share it with others? Some have hijacked the gospel and made it about wealth and health and lining their pockets with money. There are a couple of verses that shout out to us. **Mark 8:36** *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

The second verse is in the context of Jesus admonishment of the 70 disciples who returned rejoicing that even the devils were subject to them through Jesus. Jesus reminded them that regardless of any of that, which we might parallel to success in ministry or in life, there was something more important. **Luke 10:20** *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.* So therefore, I submit that the greatest knowledge possible is that we are saved in Christ.



I- The Witnesses:

The first verse we consider looks back to the previous verse for content. **1 John 5:5** *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?* So the witness we will consider now are relating to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1- Triune Witnesses on Earth:

1 John 5:6 *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*

1 John 5:8 *And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.*

There are three witnesses given here that bear witness in earth. They are the Spirit, water and blood. There are many thoughts that we can flesh out concerning this. Gaebelin says *"How beautiful is this passage and what divine perfection it reveals! Only John in his Gospel gives the account of the opened side of our adorable Saviour and that water and blood came forth out of the pierced side."*

Others see it's meaning differently. Wuest's *Word Studies* gives a good summary.

Vincent says, "Water refers to Christ's baptism at the beginning of His Messianic work, through which He declared His purpose to fulfil all righteousness (Matt. 3:15). Blood refers to His bloody death upon the Cross for the sin of the world." Robertson says, "These two incidents in the Incarnation are singled but because at the baptism Jesus was formally set apart to His

Messianic work by the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Him and by the Father's audible witness, and because at the Cross His work reached its culmination ('It is finished,' Jesus said)."

This certainly bears witness of the incarnation of Christ. The water birth from the mother's womb, the bloodshed and the Spirit bearing witness to Mary and others about the virgin birth. Wuest's translation of the verse says, *This is the One who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the sphere of the water only, but in the sphere of the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the One who is constantly bearing witness, because the Spirit is the truth.*

2- Triune Witness of Heaven:

Next we see the trifold witness of Heaven itself.

1 John 5:7 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

The Father, the Word (remember Jesus is the Word made flesh), and the Holy Spirit. The three parts of the inseparable Godhead bear witness. We see this with the witness of the Father at the baptism of Jesus as well as the Holy Spirit descending on Him there. We see it multiple times and in multiple ways throughout the Old and New Testament. The witness of heaven cry out that Jesus is the one sent from God to redeem mankind.

II- The Greater Witness of Life:

Which witness is greater, the witness of men or of God is answered next. Now it is quite simple in terms of understanding what



allows someone to go to heaven. Faith in Christ and Him alone is the witness of heaven itself.

1 John 5:9 *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He 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 record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

If we have Christ then we live, if we do not we cannot see eternal life but will have eternal death. What could be clearer? This is God's witness neither mine, nor yours, but God's.

Notice one more thing in this section. **1 John 5:10**...*he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*

Now another simple fact is either faith in Christ is the only way to heaven or it is a lie. If it is the only way then all other ways that lay claim to eternal life are lies. It cannot be both ways. This verse is stating an absolute truth or an absolute lie. There is no doubt in my mind and heart it is an absolute truth.

Now notice what Jesus told us in **John 5:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not*

come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Paul said it this way as well in **Romans 8:16** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

So the witness we have is simply passing along the witness of God into our hearts and lives.

III- Believe and Know:

Now back to the first question. What is the greatest knowledge? There can be no greater than knowing that we have eternal life in Christ.

1 John 5:13 *These 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.*

As we have this assurance and knowledge of life in Christ may I suggest that it is a greater crime against our fellowman if we keep it a secret than it would be to hold the knowledge of the cancer or heart cure and not reveal it. Why, because if we could cure cancer or heart disease it would still leave the greatest need that mankind has unhealed. The greatest knowledge that we have is that man can be eternally healed from the curse of sin, that through faith in Christ we have eternal life.

Is it not great to know we have eternal life in Him? Praise the Lord!

Psalms 107:2 *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.*