

3 **Witness The Light John 1:6-9**

04/29/15

INTRODUCTION

Last time we covered verse 4 and 5 which introduced the themes “**light**” “**life**” and “**darkness.**” This week we are going to introduce and develop the term; “**Witness.**” Listen to how the word “**witness**” is weaved into **verses 6-9.**

READING THE TEXT

John 1:6-9

*6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a **witness**, to bear **witness** about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear **witness** about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

PREACHING THE TEXT

Let's work through this text a few clauses at a time.

John 1:6-9

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

A MAN "SENT" BY GOD

John the Baptist did not send himself. John The Baptist was "sent" by God. Have you ever seen someone jump on center stage and you just knew that God did not sanction and send this guy? If someone jumps on the stage without God sending them, they might build a following, but they will not build the kingdom of God. And people will end up getting hurt.

The person who is "sent" by God will remember that their purpose is to highlight the one who sent him. And that is what John The Baptist did. So what was John the baptist sent to accomplish?

verse 7 says;

⁷ *He came as a **witness**, to bear **witness** about the light, that all might believe through him.*

WITNESS

Witnesses are key in establishing facts. Reporters interview key witnesses for breaking stories. Without witnesses the story should not run.

Witnesses are also key in establishing the guilt or innocence of a person in a court of law.

If you sign a legal document you must have a notary as a witnesses to prove your signature was not forged.

Witnesses are the means of proving something true. God insisted on having witnesses to establish the truth that The Son of God came in the flesh to save us from sin.

EIGHT WITNESSES

Throughout this book John tells us about **eight witnesses** that establish the truth that Jesus Christ *created the world, came in the flesh, died for our sins and rose from the dead*. Some people claim that believing

Jesus for salvation is based on blind faith. With so many witnesses there is nothing blind about putting your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. Here are the 8 witnesses:

- **The first witnesses** is the Father Himself.

John 8:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”

- **The Second Witness** is The Son.

Jesus bears witness to Himself.

John 8:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

- **The Third Witness** is the works that Jesus did in the Father's name.

John 10:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

- **The Fourth Witness** is the witness of Scripture.

This is one of the most powerful testimonies of the truth that Jesus Christ was and is the Messiah. He fulfilled many specific prophecies that were recorded in the Old Testament. For example;

Isaiah 53:

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities;

***upon him was the chastisement that brought us
peace,***

and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

We have copies of Isaiah that are dated 300 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

- **The Fifth Witness** was John The Baptist who came as a prophet and announced The Messiah.
- **The Sixth Witness** is comprised of those who personally encountered Jesus Christ in the flesh while He walked on earth.

For example, a Samaritan woman met Jesus at the well. And she testified to others;

John 4:29 (ESV)

²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

- **The Seventh Witness** is that of Jesus’ disciples including John.

John 15:27 (ESV)

²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

In fact the primary duty of His Apostles was to serve as a witness of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is the qualification of an Apostle.

- **The Eighth Witness** is the witness of The Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 (ESV)

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

OUR WITNESS

We mentioned 8 witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ. But there is one more witness. The witness of every believer. Every single one of us is a witness to the truth of how Jesus Christ became real to us through the work of The Holy Spirit.

Our transformed life is a witness to the truth that Jesus is real. If He were not real, how did He change your lives and heal your heart and make you certain of your salvation? There are a few things to consider about our witness.

The Content of Our Witness

First part of our witness is **the content**. The content is that which we believe about Jesus Christ. He created the universe by His Word. He came in the flesh. He died for our sin and rose on the third day. He ascended and will return again.

The content of your witness also has to do with the way that you came to believe Jesus Christ for salvation.

What was your life like before you came to know Him?
How did God convince you He was real and that you
needed to receive His Son? And how is your life different
because of what Jesus is presently doing in your life?

Our faith is not blind faith. It is informed faith with a
solid foundation of Jesus Christ and His resurrection with
witnesses. That is our content.

Second is the humility of our witness.

If your witness is godly, then it will point to Jesus and
not to yourself. If you are a witness of the light, then you
are going to be making a big deal out of the light and not
making a big deal out of yourself.

STORY: VALLEYBROOK

When a church of people lose their humility they
begin to lift up themselves rather than Jesus. In the paper
last week there was the story of ValleyBrook Church. They
started like gangbusters and have all kinds of innovative

ministries to people in need. Many people came to Christ and they built a real movement in Eau Claire.

However, they hired a pastor who had a fragile ego and was not open to any feedback or correction. He began to tell his followers that they were the only church in this area that got it right. No other churches were reaching people the way they could. That is one of the first signs that your church is turning cult like; when all other churches are bad.

The second sign of a cult is when a leader claims to be the only voice of God on earth or in your area. And that is one of the claims this pastor at Valley Brook made.

One of the signs of a cult is that people are shunned and rejected if they dare question authority. And that is exactly what was happening.

When people witness **about themselves** instead of Jesus, then pride comes in and so does a great fall. We must remain humble and teachable no matter who we are

and how well we are doing. We are not the light! Our witness points to the true light. **Jesus said;**...

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Third is to **remember the goal** of our witness. Our goal is **not to turn out morally good people**. Sometimes when we see people living in a destructive manner we tell them to straighten up. You're killing yourself. Can't you see that! And we want them to change their behavior. We that is good to change destructive behavior. But if all we create is morally good people, they will all go to hell unless they have Jesus Christ.

John reminds us again that John The Baptist is NOT The Messiah.

⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

THE WITNESS TO THAT LIGHT

The primary focus of John in writing this book was to establish that Jesus Christ had witnesses. John the Baptist is the first witness.

LAST OF THE PROPHETS

The writer was aware of John's greatness—the last of the prophets, standing between the old and the new, a blazing, courageous spokesman calling men to repentance and righteousness. He refers to John's being a baptizer only in passing, but emphasizes repeatedly that John the Baptist's primary ministry was to be a witness to the light and introduce Him and herald Him.

John The Baptist is like a trumpet that heralds; “here comes the king!” And that is how we can think of our mission. “let me witness to you about Jesus Christ of Nazareth...” **He is**

John 1:29

the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

FOLLOWING MEN INSTEAD OF GOD

John the apostle is aware of the danger that people might follow John The Baptist instead of following Jesus. So he had to make sure that everyone knew John The Baptist was NOT The Messiah. He was the one called to introduce the Messiah to the world.

There was a ***John the Baptist Religion*** at the time this Gospel was written. They were more focused on John The Baptist than on Jesus. The church in Ephesus had to contend with this. For when Paul asked the disciples there if they had received the Holy Spirit, their response was they had never heard of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:3

“And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’”

After they heard the whole Gospel from Paul, they were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
And the gifted preacher, Apollos,

Acts 18:25

“spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

John makes it clear that John the Baptist was beneath and under The Lord Jesus Christ.

ECCLESIASTICAL SUPER STARS

John is a witness to the Light, but is not the Light. In our time of super churches with superstars that have booking agents..., it is very easy to confuse the witness with the light.

ARE WE ON THE PLAYING FIELD?

So a very good challenge from John is this; “do we approach life as if we are witnesses to the life changing power of Jesus Christ?”

If we are in the stands and not on the playing field of being a true witness, then we will be a living contradiction. We would be an **evangelical** church that is **not a witnessing church**. What a contradiction we would be. We

call ourselves evangelical but what if we were not approaching our life as an opportunity to be a witness in conduct, in holiness and in our testimony that it is Jesus Christ that raised me to life.

We will save verse 9 for next week.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Have you gotten into the habit of promoting yourself to your world, or do you promote Jesus?
2. Have your efforts been to produce good people instead of asking God to raise the dead to life in Christ?
3. Do you recall that your witness has to do with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. What is the biggest challenge The Holy Spirit is laying on your heart today? How will you respond?