

Proof That We Have Eternal Life

I John 5:6-13

Last week we looked at John's words to the church to encourage them to believe in Jesus and what he has done for us. We saw Jesus asking Simon Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" It was a question posed to us today? Who do we say Jesus is in our lives, by how we live, act or speak? We saw that a large group of disciples followed Jesus around, but when He made reference to him being the Son of God, all but the twelve disciples left Jesus.

Today there are many Christians who end up leaving their faith, especially when it requires that we make Jesus and His words the priority in our own lives. But I like Peter's words to Jesus. He says, "Lord, to whom would we go?" In other words, who else has the answer to life?

The Twelve disciples knew what it means to truly believe in Jesus. We saw that in the Greek, that the word "believe" is defined as having a trust or commitment that results in implication and application. It shows its dependence upon God. How many in the church today truly "believe" in Jesus to the point of seeing it lived out in their life? How many of us believe in Jesus to the point that we allow his commands to influence and rule over our relationships with other people?

John continued and told us that with the following of God's commands comes freedom, and with the sin of the human nature comes heaviness. Serving God is easier than serving sin. Sin leaves us in bondage while God brings us to freedom. David showed us last week that he couldn't get to God's commands fast enough because he found delight, enjoyment and pleasure in doing what God had called him to do.

Think of your own life. When we find ourselves in sin we do carry a heaviness until we confess our sin to God and ask for his forgiveness. But just as we find the weight of sin lifted from us, so we must be careful not to put heaviness upon others. Jesus told of the religious rulers of the day who, "crushed people with impossible religious demands and never helped to lift the burden."

May we be a church that brings people into freedom and not just bring judgement and heaviness.

John told us that we are victorious in Christ. That if we rely on him as our strength and live our lives to serve his purposes, then we can also share in the victory that Jesus has already won. No matter what we may face today or tomorrow, the challenges or the circumstances, we will still be victorious.

This morning I want to continue to look at **I John 5:6-13**. John tells us:

⁶ And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and

blood. And the Spirit also gives us the testimony that this is true. ⁷ So we have these three witnesses—the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree. ⁸ Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ All who believe in the Son of God know that this is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. ¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life. ¹³ I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

I want to first point out that the paragraph's, the numbering of verses, and chapters, have been put there by the Bible translator's for our ease of reference. Unfortunately, it may cause us to read certain portions of scripture as if they were not linked to previous verses, or that the subject has ended with the end of a paragraph. This morning however, as we look at I John 5:6-13 we need to acknowledge that the whole point that John is trying to make here is found in verse 13.

John tells us that he is writing to the church in order that they might assurance or confidence in the fact that we have eternal life.

Have any of us here ever wondered if we are ever going to experience eternal life, or if we are going to make it to heaven. I remember just the other night I had a dream of dying and going into heaven. I remember the joy and the overwhelming relief that I sensed as I stood there before God and knew that everything was okay. But that was just a dream, imagine what it will be like when it is a reality.

John is telling us this morning that we don't have wait until our death or Jesus' second coming to have the assurance or the promise of eternal life. He tells us we can have it NOW. He tells us that there are **three proofs or evidences that eternal life is ours.**

In verse 6 John begins by telling us about the evidence of Jesus' water baptism and crucifixion.

1. The Evidence of Jesus

a. His Water Baptism

We need to understand that all through the Old Testament the coming of the Messiah and his redemptive work was predicted and described. In **Isaiah 40:3-5** we read of a prediction made over 650 year prior to the coming of John the Baptist:

³Listen! I hear the voice of someone shouting, "Make a highway for the LORD through the wilderness. Make a straight, smooth road through the desert for our God. ⁴Fill the valleys and level the hills. Straighten out the

curves and smooth off the rough spots. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!"

The prophet Isaiah was predicting the coming of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. John was sent to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. He preached about repentance and turning to God. John was calling people to make a statement that they were no longer going to follow their own desires but that they would follow righteousness and would separate themselves from the world in order to serve God. IN John 1:23 we read that John the Baptist claims that he is the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3.

In **Matthew 3:13-15** we read of Jesus coming to John to be baptized. It reads:

¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John didn't want to baptize him. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus said, "It must be done, because we must do everything that is right." So then John baptized him.

Jesus not only wanted to follow what was right, but how fitting it is that Jesus would be by the very one who would acknowledge that Jesus was the Messiah. John the Baptist knew who Jesus was. He said in **John 1:29-31**:

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'soon a man is coming who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before I did.' ³¹I didn't know he was the one, but I have been baptizing with water in order to point him out to Israel."

When Jesus is Baptized further evidence is given in order for John the Baptist to make his claim that Jesus is the Messiah. We know that when Jesus came up out of the water that the heavens opened, a descending dove comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven speaks. John when talking about what he saw at Jesus' baptism tells us in **John 1:32-34**:

³²Then John said, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. ³³I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit descending and resting upon someone, he is the one you are looking for. He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Son of God."

What was so special about Jesus' baptism? Well, it distinguished to the world that Jesus was not merely another man, but that he was indeed someone special, one who had a specific purpose for his life, and truly the Son of God.

I want to point out something however that is very interesting to me. John the Baptist made some pretty strong remarks about who Jesus Christ was. He spoke with confidence and even acknowledged that Jesus had confirmed that he was the Messiah. But we do find that John the Baptist gets thrown into prison. The Bible tells us in **Matthew 11:2-6**:

²John the Baptist, who was now in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³“Are you really the Messiah we’ve been waiting for, or should we keep looking for someone else?” ⁴Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him about what you have heard and seen—⁵the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. ⁶And tell him: ‘God blesses those who are not offended by me.’”

I am sure that John thought that if Jesus was the Messiah then why was he sitting in prison. Have you ever been in a situation where you wondered why you were in the situation you were in especially when we serve the God of the Bible? I like Jesus’ response. He told John that he had a task to accomplish. Just because things don’t turn out the way we want them to doesn’t mean that God doesn’t care about us. We are not to allow the results of circumstances to steal away our faith in God. Jesus sent John the Baptist’s disciples back to tell him that there was still proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

But one of the greatest proofs of Jesus being the Messiah was his crucifixion.

b. His Crucifixion

Just as Jesus was proven to be the Son of God through his baptism, so he also was proven as the true Messiah at his death. All through the Old Testament detailed facts about Jesus’ death were predicted. All through Isaiah and even in the Book of Psalms do we find predictions made hundreds of years before they ever took place. In **Psalm 22:14-17** we read:

¹⁴My life is poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within me. ¹⁵My strength has dried up like sun-baked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead. ¹⁶My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. ¹⁷I can count every bone in my body. My enemies stare at me and gloat.

The entire chapter of Isaiah 53 gives us a detailed description of how and why Jesus died on the cross. The death of Jesus either proved that he was a martyr that died for no reason at all, or that he was truly the Son of God who was spoken about by the prophets in the Old Testament. The events of the death of Jesus and his baptism were either mere coincidence, or they were real and part of divine plan.

How does Jesus' Baptism and Death prove that we have eternal life? If Jesus is the Son of God, or the Messiah, then he is fully capable of offering eternal life. Eternal life is a possibility and is real for those who depend upon Him.

But the Apostle John doesn't simply rely on these two evidences but goes further on in I John 5:6 and tells us that the Holy Spirit also gives us evidence of eternal life.

2. The Evidence of the Holy Spirit

Each of us has a human spirit that holds our intelligence, our impulses, our inclinations, our ideas of morality, or even acknowledges that there is more beyond what we can see and touch. The Spirit of God, although we cannot see it, has a way of impressing upon us, or influencing us to seek God and the truth. The Bible tells us in **John 16:13-15**:

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; this is what I mean when I say that the Spirit will reveal to you whatever he receives from me.

In other words the Holy Spirit has a way of confirming the baptism and death of Jesus Christ. It bears witness with us. That's how, when we came to know Jesus as our personal Savior we just knew that it was the right thing to do. That's how you and I have faith today, simply because we have the Holy Spirit in us. In **John 14:17** Jesus said:

¹⁷He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be IN you.

The Holy Spirit lives IN us today. He gives us the ability to understand the truth and the ability to discern what does not come from God. It is interesting that the Apostle John, while writing I John 5:6-13 was dealing with false teaching about how Jesus was not a real man, how he really didn't die, or how he wasn't the Son of God. But John is telling us that we can know the truth simply by relying on the Holy Spirit.

Although in verse seven of our text this morning we read that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, water, and the blood, can we also acknowledge that there is a more important witness this morning.

3. The Evidence of God.

Two times do we find in Scripture God making reference to Jesus as His Son. In Matthew 3:17 at Jesus' Baptism He says:

¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him."

A second place is found in **Matthew 17:5** at the Mountain where Jesus was transfigured. It reads:

⁵But even as he said it, a bright cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him. Listen to him."

Both portions of Scripture say pretty much the same thing except in Matthew we read God's commands to listen to him. These are God's words to this world today. Pay attention to what he has to say. God endorsed and confirmed Jesus as his Son.

That's the point that John is trying to make in I John 5:9-10. If we were to question anyone, would it be God, or would it be mankind? It seems outright ridiculous to think that man would be more credible than God. But people still today rely more on human intellect than to seek God and his ways. How ignorant we can be come.

As far as credibility is concerned this morning the work of Jesus has been confirmed by the Old Testament Prophets, who spoke of what Jesus was going to do. It has been confirmed through the Holy Spirit who has a way of making Jesus' work make sense and be embraced as truth. And finally, it has been confirmed by God himself, who placed authority on his Son work and words.

There is no doubt that what Jesus did is real and true. Otherwise his work would have simply been the result of hundreds of coincidences, one after the other. Eternal life is given to us only because of what Jesus has done. Eternal life is not available through anyone else.

4. The Condition for Eternal Life

Finally, John gives us the condition on whether or not we have eternal life. He spent the last couple of verses explaining why we can have eternal life, but now wants to tell us how we can have eternal. He says in verse 12:

¹²So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life.

The key word in this verse is "has." In the Greek this word is defined as one who follows, who holds to, who finds necessity, or who realizes their need. In other words those who follow God, who hold to his teaching, who find it necessary to have him in their life, and