

The Witness of God (vv. 9-12)

VERSE 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater (εἰ τὴν μαρτυρίαν τῶν ἀνθρώπων λαμβάνομεν, ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ θεοῦ μείζων ἐστίν· [part ei if + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. marturia witness, testimony + d.a.w/noun gen.m.p. anthropos + pres.act.ind.1p. lambano receive, accept + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. marturia + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + comp.adj.nom.f.s. meizon greater + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi]; **for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son** [ὅτι αὕτη ἐστίν ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ θεοῦ ὅτι μεμαρτύρηκεν περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ [conj hoti + adj.nom.f.s. aute this + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. marturia + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + conj hoti + pf.act.ind.3s. martureo bear witness + prep peri concerning + d.a.w.noun gen.m.s. huios son + pro.gen.m.s. autos his]).

VERSE 10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself (ὁ πιστεύων εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ ἔχει τὴν μαρτυρίαν ἐν ἑαυτῷ, [d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. pisteuo + prep eis + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. huios + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + pres.act.ind.3s. echo have + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. marturia + prep en + reflex.pro.loc.m.s. heautou himself]); **the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar** [ὁ μὴ πιστεύων τῷ θεῷ ψεύστην πεποίηκεν αὐτόν, [d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. pisteuo + neg me + d.a.w/noun dat.m.s. theos + noun acc.m.s. pseustes a liar], **because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son** [ὅτι οὐ πεπίστευκεν εἰς τὴν μαρτυρίαν ἣν μεμαρτύρηκεν ὁ θεὸς περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ [conj hoti because + neg ou + pf.act.ind.3s. pisteuo + prep eis + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. marturia + rel.pro.acc.f.s. hos that + pf.act.ind.3s. martureo “has given” + prep peri concerning + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. huios + pro.gen.m.s. autos]).

VERSE 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this

life is in His Son (καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ μαρτυρία, ὅτι ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἔδωκεν ἡμῖν ὁ θεός, καὶ αὕτη ἡ ζωὴ ἐν τῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ ἐστίν [*conj kai + demonstr.pro.nom.f.s. aute + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. marturia + conj hoti + noun acc.f.s. zoe life + adj.acc.f.s. aionios eternal + aor.act.ind.3s. didomi give + pro.dat.p. ego "us" + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + conj kai + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. zoe life + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.m.s. huios + pro.gen.m.s. autos his + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi*]).

VERSE 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God

does not have the life (ὁ ἔχων τὸν υἱὸν ἔχει τὴν ζωὴν· ὁ μὴ ἔχων τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ τὴν ζωὴν οὐκ ἔχει [*d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. echo have + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. huios + pres.act.ind.3s. echo have + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. zoe life + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. echo + neg me + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. huios + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + neg ouk + pres.act.ind.3s. echo*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 9-12

1. In verse 9a John offers the observation that we regularly receive the witness of men regarding events.
2. "If we receive the witness of men" and we do (1st class condition) sets the stage for the witness of God (v. 9c).
3. The witness of God is superior to the witness of men since its source is divine perfection (omniscience and veracity).
4. The witness of God regarding the way of salvation came to us via men through whom the Holy Spirit bore witness (Jn. 5:36).
5. John's point is that if we are accustomed to receiving the witness of humans (on a wide range of subjects), we ought not to reject the witness of God.
6. God Himself is a more reliable witness, and usually what He bears witness to is of far greater value and is without error.
7. Foremost among the things He has borne witness to is His Son.
8. Those believers living at the 1st Advent were eyewitness and saw the attestation to the Son of God (1 Jn. 1:1; Jn. 19:35; 21:24; 2 Pet. 1:16).
9. They, in turn, were witnesses to the second generation of Christians (Jn. 15:27; 1 Jn. 1:2, 3; Heb. 2:3).
10. Further, they were commissioned to write four separate accounts of the life of Christ.

11. John's gospel contains seven selected signs to convince men of the truth pertaining to Jesus (Jn. 20:30, 31).
12. The greatest witness God has given is the one regarding His Son (v. 9c).
13. God the Holy Spirit continues to bear witness with our human spirit that we are sons of God and have the truth (Rom. 8:16).
14. When a person believes in the Son of God this person has in him the witness/testimony via the IHS (v. 10a).
15. On the other hand, the person who rejects the Gospel is guilty of calling God a liar (v. 10b).
16. The Spirit of God cannot lie as He is absolute veracity.
17. This veracity is also seen in the WOG.
18. To call God a liar is blasphemy and the individual is guilty of the unpardonable sin—rejection of Christ as the Savior.
19. The basis for making God out to be liar is found in v. 10c—namely, that the individual has rejected “the witness that God has given concerning His Son.”
20. The witness regarding the Son of God is tied to the fact that the one who accepts this witness has eternal life (v. 11).
21. And eternal life is connected inseparably to God's Son (v. 11).
22. In v. 12 we have the bottom line.
23. “He who has the Son has life, and the one who does not have the Son does not have life.”
24. It is just that simple and absolute!
25. Observation: when a person calls someone a liar, who isn't a liar, that person is a liar.
26. Note Jn. 3:33 “He who has received His testimony has set his seal (aor.act.ind. *sphagizo* secure with a seal; syn. ‘to acknowledge’; like our affidavit) to *this*, that God is true.”
27. Compare 1 Jn. 1:10 dealing with a different subject.
28. E.L. is tied to accepting who and what Christ is
29. God, who is incapable of lying, has given us a promise (1 Jn. 2:25 “This is the promise which He made/promised to us—eternal life.”).
30. When any person rejects a true doctrine that person is calling all who believe it liars.
31. The fact is that the person rejecting a doctrinal truth is the one who is a liar.