**Day 26 - Assurance of Eternal Life**

5:9-13

In the last lesson, John laid out the witness of God; and His testimony that He has given us His Son. Now there were those who went out from the believers, because they really weren’t of them (born of God), and were deceiving some into believing lies about Jesus Christ. They were now in danger of having their faith shipwrecked by believing in the witness of men over the **witness of God given to them through** the inspired words of the apostles, like John. Now we have those inspired words in God’s Word. So this is the context for what John says next!

READ verses 9-10.

1. There is the witness of men and the witness of God. Which is greater?

2. Which is greater?

3. What is God’s witness concerning His Son?

4. When we believe men who do not testify rightly about the Son of God, we make whom a liar?

5. When we do believe in the Son of God, we have the witness in ourselves, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Write out Romans 8:16.

Note: Key word is “witness”. It can be translated “record” or “testify/testimony”. God gave witness of, record of, testified to His Son, Jesus Christ. BUT He has also given witness to His children (true believers) that we know that we have eternal life.

6. Write out verse 13… the MAIN reason John wrote this letter!

Note: Some of John’s “little children”, were beginning to be deceived by the Gnostics, accepting the witness of men (who were not inspired by the Holy Spirit, because they were not children of God) over the witness of God (through men speaking forth God’s Word). Some of those being deceived would never receive the testimony of God for salvation if the false teaching was not refuted, by giving the REAL truth.

7. Rejection of God’s testimony over time can lead to a place where a person is permanently hardened against God and the truth. What is Jesus warning in Mark 3:28-29.

READ verses 11-13.

8. What was the testimony some John was writing to, did not believe or perhaps had believed, but were now wavering in their faith due to the teaching of false teachers?

9. This is God’s essential message to man; that eternal life is a gift from God; it is not something that we earn.

John 10:27-29

Eph. 2:8-9

10. Write out the important contrast John gives in verse 12.

Note: In stating the message so plainly, John hopes to persuade us to believe. Even if we already believe, he wants to assure us that we may “continue to believe”. The need to hear the simple gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ does not end once one embraces the gospel. We benefit by it, are assured by it, and are helped to continue in it as we hear it and embrace it over and over again.

11. God wants His children to know that they belong to Him. John was inspired by the Spirit to write his Gospel to assure us what? He wrote this epistle so that we may be assured of what?

John 20:31

1John 5:13

John’s confidence is impressive. He wants us to know that we have eternal life. We can only know this if our salvation rests in Jesus and not in our own performance.

**Application:**

Do you know without a shadow of a doubt that you’re going to heaven? How do you know? And if you have that assurance, could you explain how you know biblically? What would you say if someone asked you to explain the hope that you have within you.

What present evidence in your life shows you and others that you really are a child of God?