

OUR TESTIMONY

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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John 1:14-18

1. The Word, Jesus Christ, became a man in order that He might “explain” God, and through His atoning death, burial and resurrection, reconcile sinful mankind to God through repentance and faith.
2. As we study the life of Christ in chronological order I am going to deal with related issues as we encounter them.
3. Last week we looked at how John expanded on his three main points in John 1:1-18 which are:
 - a. Jesus Christ was and is God.
 - b. Jesus Christ became flesh.
 - c. Jesus Christ came to explain God.
4. We saw that John appealed to:
 - a. The witness of Creation.
 - b. The witness of John the Baptist.
 - c. The witness of the Incarnation.
 - d. The witness of the Apostles.
5. Verses 14-16 could be called a brief version of the Apostle John’s testimony.
 - a. He heard John the Baptist’s authoritative testimony.
 - b. He walked and talked with Jesus, and, “and beheld His glory.”
 - c. He received Jesus’ fullness and was a recipient of God’s grace.
6. Someone might dispute with John about his view of Creation, or the validity of John the Baptist’s message, or the reality of the Incarnation, but his testimony was his testimony—it was his account of his personal knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ.
7. What constitutes our testimony?
 - a. What was our life like before we met Christ?
 - b. How did we become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - c. What difference did becoming a follower of Jesus Christ make in our lives?

NOTE: Becoming a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ turns our lives right side up.
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17
8. We should take the time to reflect on our testimony.
9. If we have never done so it would be good to write it down.
10. We need to be ready to share it with others; especially with those who are not Christians.

NOTE: Jesus Christ has given us the authority and power to be His witnesses. Acts 1:6-8
So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
11. So why is our testimony so important?

I. Our testimony is a record of God's activity in our life.

- A. Our testimony reveals when, where, and how we came to know the Lord.
- B. It is a record of how He has worked in and through our lives up to this point.
- C. Additionally our testimony reveals what He is now doing in and through our lives.
- D. Paul shared a form of his testimony in Philippians 3:1-14.

1. His life as a religious Jew. Philippians 3:1-6

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

2. The difference Jesus Christ made in his life. Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3. The ongoing work of Jesus Christ in his life. Philippians 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

II. Reflecting on our testimony will:

- A. Remind us of God's love, mercy, and grace towards us.
- B. Remind us of the commitment we made to Jesus Christ when:
 - 1. We repented towards God—when we turned from sin to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. We placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as God's Anointed Savior.
 - 3. We also embraced Jesus Christ as Lord by giving Him control of our lives.

NOTE: Many separate salvation and lordship, but the Bible does not. You can't have one without the other.

- C. Help us to understand how our attitudes and actions either strengthen or weaken our testimony.

III. Sharing our testimony is one of the ways we witness for Christ.

A. Here is what Christ has done and is doing in my life. 1 Peter 3:13-16

Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,** 15 **but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;** 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

B. What Christ has done for me He will do for you. 2 Peter 3:8-9

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

NOTE: God is not controlled by time, but you and I are.

APPLICATION

1. The Devil attacks Christians and tries to make them doubt their salvation.

2. When he does we need to confront him with our testimony.

3. Those who have truly repented towards God and have genuinely, through faith, embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are kept by the power of God. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 **to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,** 5 **who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

4. I am thankful for my testimony and the assurance it provides me.

5. I am also thankful that God can use my testimony in the lives of other people; both fellow believers and the lost.