

Trinity Sunday
Pentecost 1
May 30, 2010

Dear People who believe in God our Savior.

The Apostle John presents the one, true God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit interacting, in action on our behalf throughout everything he wrote. These verses from 1 John are an example. May these words of John through John cause us, joyfully and with great gratitude, to worship God on this Holy Trinity Sunday.

For our eternal life:

The Father, by The Holy Spirit, Testifies to the Son.

“Testifies” – Last Sunday, from a passage out of the Gospel of St. John, we hear about the Holy Spirit’s testimony. Much of the passage I just read to you again from John’s first letter is focused on that same testimony of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit testifies to the fact that Jesus, born of Mary, came into our world as the Christ, the Son of God, by water and blood for our eternal life through faith in Jesus.

It is the Spirit who testifies. Since the Spirit is God, the testimony is called also God’s testimony. Even here we see how closely and harmoniously the Father and the Spirit work together. For it also says that it is the testimony God has given about His Son. In that statement God refers to the Father, for He testifies about His Son, Jesus Christ.

It is testimony from the Father and the Holy Spirit because they are Witnesses.

Because Scripture is God’s testimony we ought to trust it with no doubt whatever. We accept human testimony under some pretty important and critical circumstances, such as in a court of law, where it can be even be a matter of life or death for a defendant.

Yet, in the case of the Holy Bible, we can be much more sure, for the Witness testifying is God. God does not lie, mislead, misspeak, forget, make mistakes, get confused. God even knows all things, sees all things, understands all things. His testimony always will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

You and I ought to stake our eternity and our present on God’s testimony.

This testimony is about the Son of God. John put it this way. “It is the testimony of God, which he has given about His Son.”

An Old Testament believing Israelite would call himself or herself a child of God, a son or daughter of God. John encourages every person who believes Jesus is the Son of God,

the Christ, to think of him or herself also a child of God, because John refers to such a person as one born of God. Any person born of God is God's child.

Being born a child, a son, or a daughter of God is not at all the same as being the Son of God.

Those religious leaders who so opposed Jesus certainly knew the difference. They called themselves sons of God, but when Jesus called Himself the Son of God, they knew Jesus was making Himself equal to God. On more than one occasion they were ready to kill Jesus on the spot for what they called blasphemy. The trouble is all the evidence was in favor of Jesus.

To believe Jesus is the Son of God means exactly the same thing as believing that Jesus is God, the Son. Jesus is in no way whatever less God than the Father or the Spirit. If anything is true of God, such as being eternal, holy, almighty, everywhere present, all knowing, true, that is true of Jesus, of the Father, and of the Spirit equally. They three are the one true God.

Included in the Spirit's testimony is the fact that anyone who has Jesus, by believing in Him as Christ the Son of God, has eternal life.

Notice, it says 'has,' not 'will have.' A believer is Jesus has eternal life by faith. He or she will also have it in heaven with Jesus. We, as believers in this Jesus, already have the eternal life Jesus won for us by His life and death. This is the life about which Jesus assures us, when He raised Himself from the dead. Eternal life is a gift to us. John here says, "God has given us eternal life." It is a gift from God for it is He who gives it. This eternal life is in the Son of God. Our Savior earned this life for us. He purchased it and made it by His awesome life of perfect obedience and by His totally innocent suffering and death as the world's substitute.

Only because Jesus is God, the Son, could the one life of Jesus, lived and given on the cross, pay the whole cost of all the world's forgiveness including yours and mine. God's death on the cross gained the victory over death for all of us.

"The Spirit is the Truth," John here tells us. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Again we see the unity between, in this case The Spirit and Jesus. Each is the truth. So we have truth of God. We **know** that we have eternal life. We are absolutely certain of this.

When we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Spirit's testimony comes into our heart, the center of our life. Faith in Jesus influences our whole life.

With Jesus, through God's testimony, we have overcome the world. It is critical that a person overcome to world. By 'the world' John means the lost, for he adds in verse 19, "The whole world is under the control of the evil one." The world is enslaved. The world does not love God or His children. The world, like the serpent, makes God our to be

a liar because it does not believe God's testimony about His Son. "He who does not have the Son of God does not have life." Therefore, this world is doomed to death. Everyone who believes in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God has overcome the world and has eternal life.

We are in the world. Let us not be of it, though. We are born of God, God's children by faith in Jesus Christ. He came by water at His Baptism where God the Father affirmed who Jesus is. "This is My Son, whom I love, with Him I am well pleased." And the Spirit as the Dove came down and remained on Him. But God the Son also came by blood when He died for us on the cross. That's where He purchased us, redeemed us, from sin, death, Satan and hell; for forgiveness, life, His Father and heaven, His whole public ministry, from His Baptism to His death, was done as God in the flesh. The Spirit has testified to this. Jesus' Baptism testifies to this, as does Jesus' death. These three witnesses agree. This assures us that we have a Savior and His name is Jesus, sent by the Father, testified to by the Spirit. The Triune God has saved us. Amen!