

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

P. O. B o x 2 5 4 3

C l e b u r n e, T e x a s 7 6 0 3 3

Email: woody@dtgministries.org; Website: <http://www.dtgministries.org>

28 September 2014

John 5 - Part V, Two Witnesses

John 5:30: *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.* Did Jesus judge others? Yes, but he spoke of groups. Several times he made remarks about the Jews, Pharisees, etc. The most serious was when he referred to the leaders as serpents, vipers, liars and blind hypocrites, all of whose works were to be seen of men (Matthew 23). However, he was given authority to execute judgment (verse 27).

Jesus is our example. We are to judge others (Matthew 7:1-5) only as led by the Holy Spirit. How is this to be accomplished by us? **John 5:45-47:** *45. Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuses you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?* Moses wrote: *15. The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. ...18. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him* (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). Jesus spoke the words given him by the Father. The Jews knew the law (John 1:21) and yet, would not compare the works of Jesus to what all the prophets had written. Christians today, trust the Scriptures, or at least those who interpret them. What will they do when Jesus comes to them in the Spirit? When we judge another, it is not us doing it, but it will be the Spirit via the scriptures speaking to their conscience, as we share our experiences and knowledge of the written word.

John 5:31: *If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true* (NIV). Often Jesus spoke of himself in the third person, as the Son of God or the Son of man. What ever Jesus said concerning himself, he was led to do by his Father. During his ministry many of those affected by the words Jesus and the miracles of healing did plenty to exalt him. Neither do we need to testify about ourselves. But, how we live our lives and the testimony of Jesus that we share will cause others to testify about us.

John 5:32-38: *32. There is another that bears witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesses of me is true. 33. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. 36. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. 37. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen ^(g3708) his shape ^(g1491). 38. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*

There are three kinds of witnesses here: 1) John the Baptist; 2) the works Jesus did, which the Father gave to him; 3) and the voice of the Father. The first two witnesses are easy to see in Scripture. The third one may lead people to think Jesus is speaking about seeing the Father's physical form, when what he means is the Jews had not clearly discerned ^(g3708) the presence ^(g1491) of the Father, inwardly. The Greek word *eidos* ^(g1491) properly means *to perceive*

an object with the eyes, literally, or in the mind. The believer is guided by not only what he beholds, but by what he knows to be true though he cannot see it. For example, the Christian Church of our generation has never seen Jesus, but we believe he exists based on Jewish writings we call the Bible. The Jewish leaders were not discerning the spirit of God, but others were (Matthew 3:17; 16:16-17; Mark 9:7; John 12:28).

Deuteronomy 17:6: *At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.* The Jews kept the letter of the law; so, in order to convince Pilate and the people that Jesus was worthy of death, they had two false witnesses testify against Jesus (Matthew 26:60). This same law applies inwardly, to the believer with spiritual eyes and ears.

In the Bible, one can see three kinds of death: physical death, spiritual death, and death to self. Spiritual death is a result of rejecting the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31); death to self requires at least two witnesses, which is the understanding of and about the Son of God. The symbol is seen in the two gold cherubim on the ark (Exodus 25:18), two stacks of show bread (Leviticus 24:5-6), and the two olive trees and two candlesticks (Revelation 11:3-4; Zechariah 4: 3-4, 14), called the two anointed ones, or sons of oil (KJV margin). In the generation that gives the final message, other religious groups will come against the truth with their false gospel: *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them* (Revelation 9:6). The “old man,” which is corrupt (Ephesians 4:22; Romans 6:6), cannot be put to death with a false gospel.

John 5:39-47: *39. You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; 40. yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41. I do not receive glory from men. 42. But I know that you have not the love of God within you. 43. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44. How can you believe, who receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45. Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; it is Moses who accuses you, on whom you set your hope. 46. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me. 47. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"*

Here are two witnesses - the scriptures and Jesus. The religious leaders of Jesus' day had plenty of evidence from the written word, the words and works of Jesus and they still refused to accept that he was the expected Messiah. Today's situation is somewhat different, but similar in principle: *If another comes in his own name, him you will receive:* At first, every Christian associates with the group with which they more closely believe, thereby receiving men's opinions of what the Bible teaches. But when the correct understanding of the Father and Son are received, then as the disciples, we begin to receive their understanding of our life experiences as we see them in the written word and explained by the words spoken to our hearts by the spirit of Jesus Christ (John 2:13-22). **2Timothy 2:7:** *Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Amen.*