**Jesus’ Supporting Witnesses**

***30****“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.****31****If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.****32****There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true.****33****You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.****34****Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.****35****He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.****36****But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.****37****And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,****38****and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.****39****You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me… (John 5:30-39)*

 Jesus’ supporting witnesses establish the absolute truth of His Person and ministry.

Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we speak today about the trustworthiness of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Today the world tries to make (practicing) Christians out to be backwards, isolated, and ignorant people, compared to their non-Christian world-understandings. For example, if a believer suddenly expresses his or her faith in Christ above all other human knowledge, then that expression becomes a problem to the unbelievers and weak or non-practicing Christians. Today, therefore, I want to encourage you all to stand firm on your faith in the person and ministry of Christ, because He has the strongest supporting witnesses, period. I say again, Jesus’ supporting witnesses establish the absolute truth of His Person and ministry. Let’s talk about these testimonies…

Against all human protestations, Jesus stands as the Absolutely True one, because His supporting witnesses are supernatural. The Lord notes four primary and specific witnesses about Him – but he considers the first of them a temporary and even relatively unimportant source. Thus, we first have the testimony of John the Baptist, whom the Jewish religious heads liked, but did not truly understand. It was he who said, “Look! It’s the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Then, and even more powerful, we have the testimony of the body of miracles that Jesus did and was doing by the Holy Spirit – there was no arguing against those. The dead were raised to life; the lame from birth were walking. The blind began to see – and the hungry masses were fed by 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Third, God the Father Himself bore witness to Jesus’ person, saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” And fourth, the Scriptures themselves, beginning from the Jews’ greatest hero Moses, bore witness to the Messiah. Moses recorded the following words from God in Deuteronomy chapter 18:

*“****15****“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—****16****just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’****17****And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.****18****I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.****19****And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.” (Deut. 18:15-19, ESV)*

Today there are many that are trusting in their own logic, in non-Christian people, or in various antichristian teachings as the truth. However, the supporting “testimonies” for these things have no Godly or true power in them. All of them will change over time and be proven as false doctrines.

Today, if the witnesses of Christ, namely the Prophets of Scripture, the Apostles and authors in general are not enough for you to be convinced of Jesus’ veracity, then what will you say about all those times that the Lord saved you out of danger, out of sickness, and out of great evil? What can you say about all those impossible situations out of which you only escaped by the grace of God? If we cannot, on the one hand, see these as proofs of the Truth of Jesus’ and the primary and absolute importance of his work (through us), then we, in effect, remain trusting in our comfortable material life, in our personal philosophies, as “supporting witnesses” to a life that resembles that of the Jewish leadership that opposed Jesus in His day.

Why don’t we put aside those temporary and illusory “witnesses” for good, and cling to the Savior, who has the most reliable and absolute testimonies backing Him up – the Prophets, God’s miracles, His voice from heaven, and His written Word. May this message be an encouragement to us to not give way to today’s novelties, be they antichristian philosophies or lifestyles.

Against all human protestations, Jesus stands as the Absolutely True one, because His supporting witnesses are supernatural and establish the absolute truth of His Person and ministry.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.