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| **Every One His Witness**  *Promise: with God’s Word and Prayer believers become witnesses* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Acts 1:12-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11b-19 (Sixth Sunday of Easter), 5/5/24)  *Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.* – 1 Jn 5:10a  **Lead In –** The word ‘testimony’ appears six times in the first four verses of our Second Reading. The reading starts out, “If we receive the testimony of men...” And my mind, for some reason this week, went to the image of those who testify in a court of law. They are called witnesses. Their testimonies are heard and received by the jury. But are they believed? … It depends. Are they credible witnesses? Have they fudged the truth before? How does their testimony stand up under cross examination? Is it corroborated by other witnesses? Is it supported by the evidence? … In the Reading this morning we are being summoned to hear the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son…   1. **What God the Father Testifies Concerning His Son**    1. Incarnate Son came by water and blood…    2. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth testifies…    3. Eternal life comes through believing in God’s Son… 2. **The Gospel We Share Is God’s Good News!**    1. It is not the testimony of men, but that of God…    2. The Good News in a nutshell… Jn 3:16; 1Co 15:3-4; vv. 11-12    3. Baptized believers have the testimony in themselves… 3. **On Bearing the Testimony In and Through Us**    1. μαρτυρίαν (mar-too-ree’-ah) is a rich word…    2. In baptism, given birth and washed in His blood…    3. The witness is not just with our lips, but with our lives…   **Final Word –** Two important elements are touched on in the final three verses of the Second Reading. They are God’s Written Word and Prayer in Jesus’ Name. The last verse in John’s Gospel reads, “these [things] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” Friends, there is no substitute for being well read and meditating on the Holy Spirit inspired Scriptures. It develops confidence. And we are better versed in God’s testimony. And then there is no substitute for a rich prayer life. These two elements! God’s Word and Prayer. They will help every one of us to be His witness…  **1Jn 5:6-8** This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.  **Mk 1:10-11** And when [Jesus] came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”  **Jn 1:29** The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! | **1 John 5:9-15 ESV**  *Testimony Concerning the Son of God*  9If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.  *That You May Know*  13I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 14And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.  **Jn 1:33-34** I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”  **Jn 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.  **Jn 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.  **Jn 3:5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.  **Ac 22:16** And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.  **Re 7:14b** They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.  **1Jn 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. |