

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message One

The Testimony of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; 1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Col. 1:15; Acts 1:8; Col. 3:10-11; John 12:24; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; John 6:57; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:20-21; Rev. 1:2, 11, 20; 22:16, 20; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Luke 24:48; Phil. 3:10

I. God's desire and goal in His creation of man was to have a corporate expression, a testimony of Himself—Gen. 1:26:

- A. According to this goal, man was made in the image of God in order to be His expression and His testimony—v. 26, footnotes 1, 2 and 3.
- B. The ultimate consummation, destiny and climax of God's creation was that God would be expressed through and represented by man by receiving His life—nothing could be higher than this—*Hymns*, #1293.

II. However, the man God created for His testimony fell as Satan tempted him to contact the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, causing man to have an illegal union with him—Gen. 3:1-7:

- A. The result of man's fall was that Satan was mingled with man's soul, which was polluted, corrupted and occupied; his body was changed in nature to become the flesh with the evil element of Satan; and his spirit was deadened, insulated and lost its function towards God—Rom. 7:17-18; Eph. 2:1, 5a; cf. Matt. 16:22-23.
- B. Rather than express God as His testimony, the first man Adam was constituted a sinner expressing the life and nature of Satan—Rom. 5:19.

III. The living person of Jesus is the image, expression, and testimony of God—Col. 1:15; 3:10-11:

- A. Jesus came as the second man to take the position and function of Adam and become God's testimony bearing His image—1 Cor. 15:45, 47b, 49.
- B. A testimony is a witness—Jesus as the true and faithful Witness of God (Rev. 1:5a; 3:14b) expressed God to men bearing the testimony concerning what God is, what God did, and what God would do—John 5:19; 6:38; 7:16, 18; Acts 1:8.
- C. Jesus as the embodiment of God testified concerning God, expressed God, and manifested God's attributes in His human virtues—Rev. 1:2; 22:16, 20a; 1 Tim. 3:16; cf. John 5:19; 6:38; 7:16, 18; Col. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16.
- D. "The testimony of Jesus" is an all-inclusive expression which includes—Rev. 1:2, 9; 20:4:
 - 1. The testimony of the Son coming with the Father by the Spirit to live on this earth for thirty-three and a half years, to die on the cross to clear up the universe, to release the divine life, and to resurrect from the dead to become a life-giving Spirit—John 1:14; 6:57; 12:24, 14:26; 15:26; 19:34; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 2. The life-giving Spirit coming as the Son with the Father compounded with divinity, humanity, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, including all the divine attributes and all the human virtues—such a compound testimony is the testimony of Jesus—Phil. 1:19; cf. Exo. 30:23-30.

IV. The church today is the testimony of Jesus, His corporate expression—Rev. 1:2, 9-12, 20:

- A. Jesus testified already, but His testimony did not stop—it is continued by us as the continuation of Jesus' testimony—when we testify for Jesus, this means that we testify for God—Luke 24:48.

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- B. As believers in Christ, we all are reproductions, “photographs,” of Jesus; therefore, God has a corporate expression—the church—which is the testimony of Jesus, who is the expression of God—John 12:24; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16.
- C. The first God-man, the wonderful all-inclusive Christ, now lives in us as the life-giving Spirit; He is our life, we experience and enjoy Him, we are constituted with Him, and we live Him for His expression—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; John 6:57; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4, 10-11; Phil. 1:20-21a:
 - 1. Our living should be a testimony concerning Jesus' person as the God-man and concerning Jesus' life with two lives living together: the divine and the human—v. 21.
 - 2. This corporate God-man living, the living of the many God-men as reproductions of the first God-man, is the genuine church life, which is the testimony of Jesus—Rev. 1:2, 11, 20.

FOCUS: *The desire of God's heart for a corporate expression was not fulfilled by the first man Adam who failed in expressing God but by the second man, Jesus Christ, who expressed God fully and now has reproduced Himself through His death and resurrection to produce the church as the enlarged expression of God, which is the testimony of Jesus.*