



LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTION

1 JOHN 5:5-12

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This 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. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 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. ~ 1John 5:5-12 ESV

The Question: _____

Counterfeit Claim:

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Apostolic Assertion:

"Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept that He was and is God." ~ C.S. Lewis

The Basis: _____

Internal Authentication:

External Affirmation:

The Receptions: _____

"Then he said to them, 'But who do you say I am?'"

~ Jesus (Luke 9:20)

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 5:5-12 a few times. Circle or note the times John references Jesus.
2. John says Jesus came "by the water and by the blood." Both are equally important to understand the purpose of Jesus. Water represents Jesus' ministry of baptism (washing and new birth) and blood represents sacrificial death. Why are both needed to understand Jesus' saving work? What happens if you exclude or overemphasize one or the other?
3. One's belief about who Jesus is has eternal life consequences. How do these words help you understand what "believing in" Jesus means: Entrusting, Affirming, Accepting, Embracing, Receiving. What words would you add?
4. Who does John say has eternal life? If someone, or even yourself, wanted to know if they had eternal life, what would you say?
5. What will you do in your life this week in response to this passage?

Spiritual Exercise: In prayer, consider the fullness of Jesus' saving work bringing both forgiveness of sins ("by blood") and new life ("by water"). Are you struggling to believe Jesus has covered and forgiven specific sins in your life? Are you struggling to believe that Jesus has set you apart for new life with Him? Confess your struggle to God and know that Jesus HAS COME both to forgive and to impart new life. Rest in Him.