



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16, 2021

Testimony of Life

by Mr. Daniel H. Wilcox

1 John 5:9-13

5:9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

5:10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

5:11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Recently, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) revived the 1950's game show, *To Tell the Truth* that featured panelists distinguishing which of three scenarios is true. While truth functions as the basis of each testimony, only one scenario is actually true. Truth telling always anchors an accurate testimony emanating from the integrity of one's character. Consequently, testimony affirms character.

The writer of 1 John comforts believers in Christ Jesus by proclaiming the blessing of a wholesome testimony. It declares that we obtain eternal life through a belief in God resulting from an earnest trust in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. This life in God and with God serves as an ever-present reality and eternal hope. Life with Christ anchors our worship; praise to God enriches our witness, testimony about God, and empowers our work, devotion to God's will and way. The very character of God instills in us obedient living to divine commandments and promises us the gift of the Holy Ghost. This promised divine presence gives us an agency of truth-telling that is our privilege of a goodly testimony.

Let us now live worthy of the testimony of eternal life resident in us through ardent faith in Christ Jesus with whom the Almighty and Holy Ghost receives all honor and glory, forever.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you felt assured of your spiritual testimony? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY:

Lord God, we seek Your presence; here we find peace and calm. Our lives depend on You. Build in us, O Lord, a strong character, our lives a testimony to glorify You. In our family, let us lead and serve as You desire. In the church, may we praise and worship fully part of the living Body. In our work, let us produce in faithfulness and honesty. In our community may we be salt and light sharing the Gospel of Christ. This is the struggle you call us to, a true spiritual victory revealed in our testimony before the world. Christ lives in us, sinners redeemed. Holy Ghost lets us thrive. Build our character, O Lord, as your forgiven children and You, our beloved Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT: During the Easter season, write a five-minute spiritual testimony; and, share it with one person this week. Journal your experience and reflect on your journey through Eastertide and toward Pentecost. In this Eastertide Season, do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

I Love to Tell the Story
AMEC Hymnal, #217

1. I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.*

2. I love to tell the story;
More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies
Of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story,
It did so much for me;
And that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.

3. I love to tell the story;
'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it,
More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God's own holy Word.
4. I love to tell the story,
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
That I have loved so long.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.