

**- Order of Service -**

**Call to Worship**

**Welcoming Prayer**

**Readings Isaiah 11:1 & 35:1-2**

**Special Music**

- 90, O come, all ye faithful
- I wonder as I wander
- Congregational confession
- The first Noel
- 98, Angels from the realms of glory

**Announcements and Prayer requests**

**Greeting**

**Message in the Word -**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #17**

***Which Jesus do you worship? Just who is Jesus Christ?***

***1 John 5:5-12***

***Sending prayer***

***Communion/Pot Luck today***

***Cantata next Sunday, 3 & 6pm***

***Caroling Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> after service (bring sack lunch - we'll eat before we sing!)***

***Church service Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30pm***

**You may notice we don't pass an offering plate**

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -**

**Grace Bible Fellowship**

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**GRACE**  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
love. truth. grace.

*“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”*

**WHICH JESUS  
DO YOU  
WORSHIP?**



**- Teaching -**

**Eric Peterman**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #17**

***Which Jesus do you worship? Just who is Jesus Christ?***

***1 John 5:5-12***

***- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 -***

## John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #17

### Which Jesus do you worship? Just who is Jesus Christ?

#### 1 John 5:5-12

Which Jesus brings eternal life, and forgiveness of sins? Verses 1, 5 and 12 beg the question, "**Do you have the right Jesus, the only one, who brings the new birth and eternal life?**" Why does John belabor this point? Why does he urge his readers to make sure they place their faith in so specific a Christ? Because even in his time, and continuing today, there were already alternate Christ's, divergent teachers, different portraits of the person and nature of Jesus Christ. The old adage, "Let the buyer beware!" is a lively warning from the apostles. Make sure you have the genuine article!

**Verses 1, 5 & 12** reveal that the last living apostle saw himself as the guardian and steward of the most precious identity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because identity theft is not just a 21<sup>st</sup> century concern. It's a 1<sup>st</sup> century problem too: There were then, as now, rip-off artists, earnest sounding con-men who, inspired by demons, presented a Jesus who was not the one of the Scriptures, but one more suited to the tastes and desires of people. In the garden the Serpent craftily dropped the question, "Did God **really say?**" Now after the Son has been born of Mary, ministered, died, rose and ascended into heaven, the Serpent asks, "Did God **really send?**"

My friends, on this question and the truth of the answer hangs the balance of humanity and especially your eternal destiny and joy: **Did God really send?**

Thankfully, John does not leave us ignorant or fretting. In verses 6-11 he gives us specifications, a right portrait, a litmus test of the right stuff, so that we can **know with certainty**, v13.

V6-7, Here John gives us specifications of the true Messiah, and reveals the details of a false, contra-Jesus, a portrait from the mind of false artist and Christological heretic, *Cerinthus*, a late 1<sup>st</sup> century Egyptian Jewish teacher whose false teachings are recorded for us by **Irenaeus, the disciple of Polycarp, the disciple of our apostle and author, St. John**. Cerinthus propagated the Ebionite heresies perverting the true nature of Jesus Christ as God the Son, coming in the flesh of man in the incarnation.

Among other false teachings, Cerinthus held that only the book of Matthew was a valid gospel account, and that Jesus was a holy man, the real offspring of Joseph and Mary (denial of the deity of Christ). He taught that the spirit of the Christ only came on the man Jesus at his baptism by John the Baptist! He claimed that the Christ spirit...

...departed Jesus prior to the crucifixion, thus denying both the incarnation of the Son, and the reality and efficacy of the blood of the God/man Person of Jesus on the cross.

So in v5-6 together, we see John's counter: The Jesus is the *eternal Son* in the flesh, and as One Person he was baptized in the *water* of John the Baptist initiating his public ministry (not his "Christness" or Christ spirit). See Mark 1:1-12. He lived, ministered, and then died voluntarily on the cross, and shed his *blood* as that One Person, as the one atoning, sufficient sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. (The 4 gospels are the historical record of these facts).



In v6-8 together we see John bringing up the testimony of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. He is speaking here of the Spirit's testimony in prophets of the Old Testament Scriptures, and continuing on to the Spirit's testimony in John the Baptist, the last and greatest prophet of that dispensation (Luke 7:28), and the Spirit's descent on Jesus at his baptism. Three witnesses bear testimony as to the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ (Deut 19:15).

v9, Human sworn witnesses are acceptable testimony, but what if we put God on the docket and make him raise his hand and swear by Himself if these things be true?! (See Hebrews 6:13-18)

v10, The one who believes the Bible's claims about Jesus has in his/her own heart the living testimony of the Holy Spirit who points to and exalts the Living Christ! One rejects the Son because they do not have the Holy Spirit of the truth, and naturally accepts lies about the Son!

V11-12, Here is God's sworn testimony (via the prophets, including John the Baptist), His Spirit descending in that moment, and in the very acts and claims of Jesus as recorded in the 4 gospels, Acts of the Apostles, etc.

1. God has graciously granted us eternal life, and that life is found in the Son of God, Jesus Christ!
2. The one who has *that Son of God, Jesus Christ, and no other*, has in their possession, inseparable from that Christ, His very Life Eternal!
3. Any other Jesus, (or no Jesus as in the case of atheists), leaves one with no eternal life. It's a dead-end road!

**Do you have Jesus, and does He have you?**