

Do You Have A Good Testimony From The Truth?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **SR - 3 Jn. 1:12** Demetrius received a good testimony from the truth

- Do you have a good testimony from the truth?

➤ What is a testimony? – 2 of the words translated “testimony”

- *martureo* (mar-too-reh'-o) - **3 Jn. 1:12** testimony of the truth, regarding Demetrius

- verb, to be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration

- the word's testimony is its attestation from God as to what is true

- *marturia* (mar-too-ree'-ah) - **1 Jn. 5:9** testimony of men, and testimony of God

- noun, a testifying, what one testifies, as before a judge

- our testimony is an attestation of what we believe is true by the things we do and say

➤ The truth (word) is a testimony

- **SR - 3 Jn. 1:12** truth testifies to the things that are true, from God

- truth (word) is the ultimate testimony – right, wrong, sin, righteous

➤ - **2 Tim. 1:8** testimony of our Lord is the gospel, for which Christians suffer

- we participate in the testimony of the word as we agree with it, and prove it to be true in our lives

➤ - things associated with the word are thus testimonies

- **Ex. 25:21; 31:18** testimony, the word of God (Ten Commandments), testified of God's will

➤ - **Ex. 31:7** ark of testimony, the ark that contained the word (Ten Commandments)

➤ - **Acts 7:44** tabernacle of testimony, the tabernacle that contained the ark that contained the word

➤ - **Lev. 24:3** veil of testimony, the veil which is before the testimony (Ex, 27:21), that divided the tabernacle and hid the ark that contained the word

- the word of God (Bible) is His testimony about His will for us – right, wrong, sin, righteous

- everyone chooses whether to believe it, or believe a testimony of man – judged

- **Everyone has a testimony from the truth** – good or bad
 - **3 Jn. 1:9, 12** Demetrius had a “good” testimony from the truth, but **Diotrephes** had a “bad” testimony from the truth
 - **how?** - by seeing whether their deeds were wrought in God

- - **Jn. 3:16-21 judgment of the world** – testimony of the truth – whether deeds wrought in God
 - **vs. 16-17** Jesus came to save the world – whoever **believe in Him** shall not perish, but have everlasting life
 - **Jn. 1:1** Jesus, **Word** (truth, Jn. 17:17)
 - **vs. 18** judged (condemned) if not believe in Jesus, His name (authority, **Jn. 1:12-13**)
 - **vs. 19-21** judgment:
 - **love darkness or the Light** (Jesus, Word)
 - **men loved darkness** rather than light, because **deeds evil**
 - **men who do evil hate the Light** (Jesus), **don't come to the Light** (Jesus), for fear their deeds will be exposed
 - **people who practice the truth come to the Light**, so that his **deeds may be manifested** as having been **wrought in God** – how? the Lord (Word, truth)

- - **testimony from the truth: whether deeds are wrought in God or not**
 - either love darkness, or love the Light
 - people who love the Light (Jesus, Word), love the truth (**2 Th. 2:10**)

- - **illus.: Joel Osteen, “pastor” largest church in USA, are his deeds wrought in God** (video, no audio)
 - **on Larry King** promoting a book (June 20, 2005) “Your Best Life Now”
 - **Jews and Muslims** regarding salvation
 - **King:** What if you're **Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ** at all?
 - **Osteen:** You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know ...
 - **King:** If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?
 - **Osteen:** Well, I **don't know if I believe they're wrong**. I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God will judge a person's heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. **But I know they love God**. And **I don't know**. I've **seen their sincerity**. So **I don't know**. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.
 - **Jn. 3:16-21** not believe in Jesus, His name, already judged (condemned)
 - **1 Jn. 5:3** love God is to keep His commandments

- - **What is the testimony of the truth?**
 - Joel Osteen is a false teacher, teaching false doctrine – “bad” testimony

- - **illus.: Billy Graham on Robert Schuller's TV show "Hour of Power"** – are his deeds wrought in God
 - listen to audio
 - **future of Christianity**
 - **everyone** who **knows** Christ, or **loves** Christ, **whether they're conscious of it or not**, they're **members of the body of Christ**
 - **God calling people:** Muslim world, Buddhist world, Christian world, Christian world, non-believing world, **they are members of the body of Christ, may not know the name of Jesus, turn to only light they have** (religion they have) **saved**, will be in **heaven**
 - **1 Jn. 2:3** know the Lord if we keep His commandments, not by obeying false religions
 - **1 Jn. 5:3** to love God is to keep His commandments, not commandments of men
 - **Jn. 1:1-18** must turn to Jesus to be saved, the true Light, not false religion
 - **2 Th. 1:8-9** when Jesus comes, angels in flaming fire will deal out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, and will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power
 - **Acts 2:38, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13** only enter into the body of Christ by being baptized in the name of Jesus (authority) (**Acts 4:12; 14:6**)
- - **What is the testimony of the truth?**
 - Billy Graham is a false teacher, teaching false doctrines – "bad" testimony
- - **illus.: Abel**
 - **Heb. 11:4** Abel, by faith offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks
 - **How? - through the truth, God's word** – testimony
- **What testimony do you have from the truth?** – good or bad
 - **when tested with the word of God, the truth testifies of your life**
 - **3 Jn. 1:11** have to know the truth before you can have a good testimony from the truth, then have to live that way

➤ **As Christians we are living testimonies**

- **OT: things in connection with the word of God** (the testimony) **were testimonies** - ark, tabernacle, veil

- **2 Cor. 3:1-3** today, as Christians, **God's word is written on our hearts** rather than on stone
 - if the Ten Commandments, written on stone, was the testimony
 - what are Christians
 - **2 Cor. 2:2** the Christians were the apostles' letter – testimony

- - **our consciences are testimonies, as those who have conformed themselves to the truth** – word
 - **2 Cor. 1:12** confidence, testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, not conducted ourselves in the world

- - **the testimony is in ourselves, that we believe** – obey having believed in name of Jesus
 - **1 Jn. 5:9-12** he who believes has the testimony in himself, that God has given him eternal life

- - **1 Cor. 1:4-8** testimony of Christ is confirmed in us, through the gifts (not miraculous today) we receive to do God's work

- - **we are testimonies in word** – speech
 - **Rev. 12:11, 17** word of our testimony, as we share the message of the cross with others, keeping the commandments and holding the testimony of Jesus
 - **Rev. 20:4a** brethren beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word

- **we are living testimonials today by the things we say and do**
 - believing in Jesus and obeying Him
 - everything about us is a testimony of God – truth, word

Summary / Inv.

- **everyone has a testimony from the truth** – good or bad

- **as Christians, our testimony from the truth is good** – believe in Jesus, His name, obey

- **as Christians, God's word is written on our hearts, and we are a testimony to the world**
 - in all we say and do
 - the world's Bible

- **inv:** Do you have a good testimony from the truth?
 - What does God say about you, through His word?