

1 John 5:9

by John Gill

The testimony of God is greater than human testimony and is a reliable source of truth because it is infallible and cannot be deceived.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 17:6, Matthew 2:1

Topics: "Divine Testimony", "Trust in God's Word"

Description

John Gill emphasizes the superiority of God's testimony over human witness, illustrating that while credible human testimonies are accepted in courts and can validate truths, the testimony of God regarding His Son is infallible and must be acknowledged. He references the testimonies of the wise men, shepherds, and John the Baptist as examples of human witnesses to Christ's identity and mission. Gill argues that the witness of God, which includes the Spirit, water, and blood, is far more significant and reliable, as it is rooted in divine truth. He highlights that God's testimony, particularly at Jesus' baptism and transfiguration, is a profound affirmation of Christ's divinity and mission. Ultimately, believers are called to trust in this divine witness above all else.

Transcript

Ver. 9. If we receive the witness of men,... The witness of a sufficient number of credible men, of men of good character and report, is always admitted in any case, and in any court of judicature; it was allowed of in the law of Moses; everything was proved and established hereby; upon this men were justified or condemned, cognizance was taken of men's sins, and punishment inflicted, yea, death itself, De 17:6; and even in this case concerning the Son of God, his coming into the world, and the dignity of his person, the testimony of men is credited; as that of the wise men, who declared that the King of the Jews was born, and his star had been seen in the east, which Herod himself gave credit to, and upon it summoned the chief priests, and inquired of them where he should be born; and also of the shepherds, who testified to the appearance of angels, who told them that there was then born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord, and who also related that they themselves saw the infant at Bethlehem; and especially of John the Baptist, whose testimony was true, and could not be objected to by the Jews themselves, who sent to him, before whom he bore a plain and faithful witness. Now if an human testimony may be, and is received,

the testimony of God is greater; more valuable, surer, and to be more firmly depended on, since it must be infallible; for God can neither deceive, nor be deceived:

for this is the witness of God, which he hath testified of his Son; even the witness of the Spirit, the water, and the blood, is the testimony, not of men, but of God; the Gospel, attended with the Spirit of God, is the testimony of God; and so the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, which bear witness of Christ, are not of men, but of God; and especially the witness of the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, must be the testimony of God, since, though three persons, they are one God; particularly the witness which God the Father testified of his Son Jesus Christ at his baptism and transfiguration, must be allowed to be the testimony of God, and far greater than any human testimony, and therefore to be received.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-john-59/>

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