

## **1 John 5:6-21**

### **The Case for Christ**

Are you familiar with the story of Lee Strobel

A) Author of bestselling – The Case for Christ

B) Lee Strobel was an Atheist and award winning Journalist for the Chicago Tribune when his life was turned upside down

C) His wife becomes a Christian and in an effort to try and discourage her decision to follow Christ

1) Strobel set out on a quest to disprove Christianity

D) The problem was he couldn't disprove it –

1) the more research he did the more convinced he became that Christianity was true

“To be honest, I didn't want to believe that Christianity could radically transform someone's character and values. It was much easier to raise doubts and manufacture outrageous objections than to consider the possibility that God actually could trigger a revolutionary turn-around in such a depraved and degenerate life.”

— Lee Strobel, The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity

“To continue in atheism, I would need to believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason. I simply didn't have that much faith.” — Lee Strobel

#### **The Resurrection was the Key**

I didn't become a Christian because God promised I'd have an even happier life than I had as an atheist.

Rather I became a Christian because the evidence was so compelling Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead.- Lee Strobel

#### **Today we are going to see that the apostle John ends his epistle by presenting his own Case for Christ**

A) John serves as a Defense attorney and calls 5 witnesses to the stand to Prove this testimony is true

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has

the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

**B) This is the Case: That you may know – that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. – That you will continue to believe. - Pray**

Who here has served on a Jury before?

A) You young people – this is something that you have to look forward to.

You will receive a Jury Summons one day

B) Now when most people receive a jury summons – they are not excited about it –

1) Big interruption to our lives.

C) But it is a part of our Civic duty

D) Most people Look for ways to get out it.

E) I read some crazy examples of people who tried to get out of Jury duty and it didn't work.

A potential juror in California told the court he had psychic abilities and already knew the defendant was guilty. The judge, rather than excusing him, called his bluff and asked him to prove it. When he couldn't, he was told to sit down and continue with jury selection.

In New York, a woman attempted to avoid jury duty by pretending she couldn't understand English. The problem? She forgot that she had been posting fluently in English on social media just days earlier. The judge caught on and was not amused.

Here are a couple that did work:

In 2011, a woman in Los Angeles arrived at the courthouse with a book titled “How to Get Yourself Out of Jury Duty” clearly visible. A court officer noticed and alerted the judge, who found it so ridiculous that he excused her

A Pennsylvania man once showed up for jury selection dressed as a full-on clown—complete with face paint, a red nose, and oversized shoes. He argued that his “profession” as a clown made him too unpredictable to serve. The judge was not entertained and sent him home.

A man in California pretended to have a seizure in the courtroom to get out of jury duty. Unfortunately for him, there was a doctor in the room who immediately saw that it was fake. He was dismissed, but not before being given a stern warning.

Well today we all get to be a part of the Jury in the Apostle John's case

A)The Apostle John is bringing us into the Courtroom –

B)John is going to call to the witness stand – 5 Witnesses for the Case For Christ

C)The Five witnesses are presented to us in V. 6-10

6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. 10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

#### **C)Five witnesses for the Case for Christ**

- **The witness of men**
- **The witness of Christ**
- **The witness of God**
- **The witness of the Spirit**
- **The witness from within**

#### **Witness #1 The Witness of men V.9**

A)In Matthew 16 Jesus takes his disciples away to the area of Caesarea Philippi in Northern Israel

B)There he asked them this question: Who do men say that I am? – What is the word on the street about me?

C)Some say that you are John the Baptist raised from the dead.

This is what I would call the Utterly ridiculous

A)John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus – Sent to prepare the way of the Messiah -

B)Jesus began his public ministry – comes to the Jordan River where John is baptizing –

C)When Jesus shows up John declares – Behold.... World – And I should not be baptizing you.... me!

But later on John would get himself in trouble with King Herod for being vocal about his marriage to his niece Herodias

A)Herod had John the Baptist – Beheaded.

B)When Jesus showed up on the scene – Herod started the rumor that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead.

C)This is why this is utterly ridiculous – If Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead

1)Who was Jesus when John baptized him – who was Jesus when they were both alive at the same time?

D)So the most common opinion on the list was one that was utterly irrational and made no sense.

#2 Jesus was Elijah come back from the dead.

A)Elijah was a miracle worker – Jesus did miracles

B)This one actually came from Scripture

C)The Scriptures declared that before the great day of the coming of the Lord – that Elijah would come

D)So this opinion was formed based on a limited view of Scripture –

1)BUT that ignored the rest of scripture.

E)The Scriptures in reference to Elijah showing up before the coming of Messiah – 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

#3 Some say Jeremiah the prophet

A)Now this one was not based on scripture at all.

B)Nowhere in Scripture is there an idea that Jeremiah would come back again.

C)But Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet and it was said of Jesus that

1)He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.

D)So this opinion had nothing to do with the Bible. – Just an idea or an opinion that somehow got some traction

What is interesting is these same kind of opinions about Jesus are out there in our day and age.

A)There are people who have formed opinions about Jesus that is utterly ridiculous – make no sense

B)Example: The President of the American Atheist society has said - “There is not one shred of secular evidence that there ever was a Jesus Christ.”

**C)But there is overwhelming historical evidence from both secular and believing historians to the fact that Jesus indeed did exist**

The Roman historian and senator Tacitus referred to Jesus, his execution by Pontius Pilate, and the existence of early Christians in Rome in his final work. - *Annals* (written c. AD 116), book 15, chapter 44.

Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the most dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of that history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left? It is from his birth that most of the human race dates its calendars, it is by his name that millions curse and in his name that millions pray. Jaroslav Pelikan - Yale University Historian

D)So to suggest that Jesus never even existed is Utterly ridiculous –

E)The Historical record is clear – Jesus lived – died – and his followers claim he rose again

1)All the evidence of the empty tomb points to the fact he Rose

**Then there are those today who like to create a Jesus of their own liking**

A)Pick and Choose – Bible verses about Jesus

B)This is what Thomas Jefferson did – He had a problem with the Biblical Jesus –

C)So he took out of his Bible all the scriptures that spoke of Christ Deity his miracles, his atoning work on the Cross

D)Jefferson formulated a Jesus who had an illegitimate birth – a man who was a great mind, who was great teacher / a wonderful human being

People who knew Jefferson said – he created a Jesus who looked and acted a lot like himself

A)Nature of Idolatry: Create gods who look, think, and act a lot like us

B)So there were these crazy ideas about Jesus in his day –

1)and there are crazy ideas about Jesus in our day as well.

Jesus there Matthew 16 asked his disciples – Who do you say that I am

A)Peter stepped forward and Said - You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 16:16-17

B)Jesus went on to say – Upon the Rock of this statement I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it

**C)These men – The Apostles and Paul all went on to boldly testify that Jesus was the Christ – the only way to God.**

D)They would die for that conviction

Here are some of the testimony of these men – Their witness

**Paul**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

*He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom

no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:15-16

### **Peter**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4

### **Jude**

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present *you* faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

<sup>25</sup> To God our Savior, who alone is wise, *be* glory and majesty. Jude 24-25

### **John**

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. Revelation 1:5

<sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

So John starts by bringing to the Witness stand those who knew Jesus – walked with Jesus

A) Gave their lives for Jesus

B) The Testimony of these men is powerful

C) But John says in V.9 the testimony of God is greater

**Now we can take 3 of these remaining 4 witnesses and combine them into one. Christ, God and the Holy Spirit.**

A) They often appeared in Scripture together

<sup>6</sup> This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. <sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

B) What is John talking about here water and the blood?

C) I wish that John spelled it out a little clearer but he doesn't

D) So we have to look to the rest of the Bible for our clues and answers –

1) It has been said that the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself

Water: What does that refer to?

A) Remember at the Baptism of Jesus –

B) We read in Scripture that there was a testimony of the Holy Spirit and God the Father at his baptism

<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

<sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17

C) What about the Blood – this is probably a reference to what happened at the Cross

Two days prior the Cross – we read in John 12 that Jesus was wrestling in his flesh with the Cross – what would happen there

A) <sup>27</sup> “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, “I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.” John 12:27-28

B) Father testifying of the Son – and then we read that at the Crucifixion – middle of the day –

1) Sun is out - Suddenly it becomes dark

C) Once again the father testifying in the Miraculous this is my son

V.9 John calls God to the witness stand - for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. <sup>10</sup> He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Now what about v.7 – what does this mean?

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

A)V.7 is a true statement – but this verse is actually not found in the accident manuscripts –

B)Some of the modern translations omit it – Most believe that it was added to our modern Bibles by a zealous scribe

1)Who was using it to try and explain what John is saying here in the text about the Father the Son and the Spirt all agreeing

C)It is true and there are many other scriptures that testify to the truth of this verse –

1)but it is not in the original text

But taking it out doesn't take away from the fact that the Jesus, the Holy Spirit and God the Father all testify to the truth

A)Jesus is the Son of God – the one and only Savior of the world

**B)There is one more witness that John Mentions in v.10 – The witness within**

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself;

C)If you have given your life to Jesus – there is the witness within yourself – your heart –

1)Presence of the Holy Spirit – confirming you belong to God

Galatians 4:6 Spirit in us crying out Abba Father.

D)With that witness from within also comes the witness of a Changed life

1)God is doing a work of Transformation in you

E)People who know you and have seen the change – undeniable – there is something different about you.

The witnesses have Spoken – the Case has been presented

A)Now from our vantage point – over 2,000 yrs later we could add to John's Case the Testimony of History

B)Consider these words from Scottish Historian and Philosopher Thomas Carlyle

“Myths have little if any impact on history. The history of the world is but the biography of great men.” Scottish Historian and Philosopher Thomas Carlyle

There is no nation or regime which owes its foundation or heritage to a mythological person or god. But what has been the impact of Jesus Christ? The average Roman citizen didn't feel his impact until many years after his death. Jesus marshalled no army. He wrote no books and changed no laws. The Jewish leaders and Roman Caesars had hoped to wipe out his memory, and it appeared they would succeed. Today, all we see of ancient Rome is ruins. Caesar's mighty legions and the pomp of Roman imperial power have faded into oblivion. Yet how is Jesus remembered today? What is his enduring influence?

- More books have been written about Jesus than about any other person in history.
- Nations have used his words as the bedrock of their governments.
- According to (Will) Durant (a historian), “The triumph of Christ was the beginning of democracy.”
- His Sermon on the Mount established a new paradigm in ethics and morals.
- More Schools, hospitals, and humanitarian works have been founded in his name.
- Over 100 great universities — including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, and Oxford – were begun by his followers.
- The elevated role of women in Western culture traces its roots back to Jesus.  
(*Women in Jesus' day were considered inferior and virtual nonpersons until his teaching was followed.*)
- Slavery was abolished in Britain and America due to Jesus' teaching that each human life is valuable.

Amazingly, Jesus made all of this impact as a result of just a three-year period of public ministry.

“We have to ask, “Why is there no other first-century Jew who has millions of followers today? Why isn't there a John the Baptist movement? Why, of all first-century figures, including the Roman emperors, is Jesus still worshiped today, while the others have

crumbled into the dust of history?" — Lee Strobel, The Case for Christ

**So the Case is airtight how are we to respond?**

**A)V.10 We believe – starting point**

B)V.13 We know that we have eternal life

C)V.13 That you would continue to walk in that truth

**Here is how it should affect your life – 3 ways**

**#1 A Confidence in Prayer** – Repeat of what we looked at in Chapter 3 V19-24 Assurance

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

We noted that our Confidence in prayer comes from our abiding in Christ – We begin to have his heart

A)Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart

B)Not a Carte Blanche – Genie in a bottle idea – but more of our desires are being shaped by his desires

C)Now in V. 16-17 John moves from the idea of petitions in prayer to intercession

16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

What does this mean? – To be Honest I'm not sure-

A)This is a passage I wish we had more explanation on from John

B)There could come a time when we are not to pray for someone.

C)The Prophet Jeremiah was told on 3 separate occasions not to pray for Israel

1)Because of their rebellion –

It would seem that the discipline against them was already in motion would not be changed.

A)Samuel was told to quit mourning for King Saul – his fate was sealed – move on with David

B)What is the Sin leading to death that we should not be praying for? – NOT SURE

C)Examples in Scripture of Sin that lead to death  
Acts 5 - Ananias and Saphira lied to the Holy Spirit –

D)Extreme – Beginning of early church - Purity

In Leviticus 10:1-2, Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, offered "strange fire" before the Lord,

A)which resulted in their immediate death,

B)Strange fire? – Trying to fulfill their priestly duties while drunk?

1)They lit their censers with fire that was not from the burnt offering

C)Whatever it was – God struck them dead on the spot

Herod – Acts 12 – Tried to take the glory of God – himself worshipped as a god

A)Those were all examples sins leading to death –

B)But the question in each of those examples is how would you know before hand to even pray

C)So I think the lesson in this is – if we see a brother or sister in Sin – We are to pray for them

1)Intercede fervently for them.

D)Don't call the Pastor – tattle tell on them –

1)Don't call 10 friends and say – we need to pray for....

That is how Christians GOSSIP

E)Pray for them until God tells you to stop praying

Here is something I have learned – Pray for them even before confronting them.

A)Younger in the Lord – Confront first pray 2<sup>nd</sup> – they were not ready to receive – correction

B)I've since learned – Pray for them – and often times – the Holy Spirit convicts them –

1)I don't even need to confront them

C)So The Assurance that we are saved – Affects our prayer life – Confidence in Prayer

## #2 Our walk with God – We walk in Victory and not practice sin – John repeats Ch.1, & Ch.3

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin;

Practice sin – lives habitually in sin – walks in it

But he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

Now the original Greek text is helpful in understanding V.18

A)The Original Greek text makes it clear that the word “he” refers to Jesus,

B)and the word “himself” is actually “him.”

C)So Jesus who is the original born of God keeps him. Keeps who? You and me (Jude 24).

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24

<sup>18</sup> We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God does not *habitually* sin; but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps *and* protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. 1 John 5:18 AMP Bible

I love this! Jesus keeps me, and the wicked one cannot do anything to me.

A)Demon possession in a Christian is impossible because we’re kept by Jesus—and greater is He in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. This is truth

B)But it isn’t despair. Things will not be right until Jesus Christ comes back to rule and reign.

C)Until then, it’s pointless to pin our hopes to anything but that fact.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

D)Our Hope is in Jesus and him Alone – Our Salvation is in Jesus and him alone

## The third way that this Assurance should affect us is that we keep ourselves from idols V.21

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Jesus is keeping us – true – but we just need to keep the main thing the main thing –

A)Jesus front and Center in our lives

B)The Writer of Hebrews compares the Christian life to running a race – not a sprint – Marathon

12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*,

Weights and sins {Sin is the black and white things that are clear in Scripture

A)Weights are the not black and white – things that hold you back – weigh you down

B)Iron man today in Carlsbad – no one is running with weights on

C)Weights are those things that can keep us from God’s best

1)Weights can become idols – when we refuse to let go of them

D)Weights can be a person – or a habit – continue you to hold on to –

1)Hinder you from going further in the Lord

Lay them aside: Choosing Jesus over everything else

The Writer of Hebrews continues and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Run – keeping your eyes on Jesus – Who endured

A)Hupomeno – Conquered

B)He endured – so that we can endure

C)Abide in him – Run – keeping eyes on him