

Part Two
What is A Witness?

- I. Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man _____ entered into the world, and _____ by _____; and so _____ passed upon all men, for that _____ have _____.”
Isaiah 59:2 But your _____ have _____ between you and your _____, and your _____ have hidden his face from you, that he will not hear.
Romans 5:8 But God _____ his love toward us, in that, while we were yet _____, Christ _____ for _____.
- A. God purposed to save fallen man in order to display in the ages to come the exceeding riches of His grace (Ephesians 2:7).
 - B. But how then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:14)
 - C. God did not leave Himself without a witness. There is no excuse for not knowing God.
 - 1. Creation (Psalm 19; Romans 1:20; Acts 14:15-17)
 - 2. Conscience (Romans 2:14-15)
 - 3. Christ (John 1:18; Matthew 11:27)
 - 4. Canon of Scripture (John 5:32-39), that is, the 66 Books of the Bible.
 - 5. Christians (2 Corinthians 3:2-3; Matthew 5:16)
- II. A witness is one who has a personal knowledge of something (or someone) and can therefore accurately communicate his knowledge to another.
- A. Consider the criminal case where a witness is called upon to tell what he knows (See Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6-7, 19:15).
 - 1. Proverbs 6:16,19 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him... A _____ witness that speaketh lies...
 - 2. Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear _____ against thy neighbor.
 - B. Consider the legal agreement as in Ruth 4:9-11. The witness could say, “I saw this legal transaction take place.”
- III. A witness is one who confirms a fact which may be in doubt. In Exodus 22:10-13 a dead carcass is a witness of a man's innocence in the accidental loss of a neighbor's animal entrusted to his care.
- IV. A witness is one thing which reminds or points to another thing or a truth. A witness draws attention to something else.

- A. Genesis 31:43-55. What was to be the witness that neither Jacob nor Laban would do the other harm? _____
- B. Deuteronomy 31:19-21. What would be the witness against the nation Israel for turning to other gods? _____
- C. Joshua 22:26-34. This item by its non-use was to be a witness of the unity of the 2½ tribes with the nation. What was it? _____
- D. Joshua 24:26-27. ...Behold, this _____ shall be a _____ unto us; for it hath _____ all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a _____ unto you, lest ye deny your God.
- E. Acts 14:17. ...He left not himself without _____, in that he did _____, and gave us _____ from heaven, and _____ seasons....

Note: These inanimate objects bore witness even though they did not say a word. A witness is something which draws attention to a truth, to a fact or to God Himself.

V. A witness affirms what is not in doubt.

Isaiah 43:10-12 **Ye are my _____, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may _____ and _____ me, and _____ that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour... ye are my _____, saith the LORD, that _____.**

- A. **KNOW.** The word “know” means “to be acquainted with.” A witness is one who has a personal knowledge of something. Here we discover that God's witness must know Him.
 1. Hosea 4:1,6 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no _____, nor mercy, nor _____ in the land... My people are destroyed for lack of _____.
 2. John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might _____ thee...
 3. Philippians 3:10 That I may _____ Him...
- B. **BELIEVE.** This word conveys the meaning of “trust, hold firm, rely upon.” God's witness must depend and rely upon Him.
- C. **UNDERSTAND.** This word means to “understand, discern, know with the mind.” It involves a deepening knowledge and understanding of Who God is. Compare 2 Pet. 3:18.

VI. “The Hebrew word for witness comes from the verb ‘to say again and again.’ In Isaiah 43:10 the noun means a ‘testimony, proof, witness, one who strengthens or confirms the saying of another.’” [George Parsons].

- A. A witness strengthens the testimony of God by saying the same thing God says.
 1. Isaiah 43:11 “I, even I, am _____; and beside me there is _____.”

2. Isaiah 43:15 “I am the _____ your _____, the _____ of Israel, your _____.”
3. Isaiah 44:6 “Thus saith the _____, the _____ of Israel, and his _____ the _____ of hosts: I am the _____ and I am the _____; and beside me there is _____.”
4. Isaiah 44:8 “... ye are even my _____. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is _____ (beside me); I know not any.”

God says that He is the only God and only Saviour. Do you by words and works, by life and lips declare your agreement with Him, thus adding your voice to confirm God's testimony?

- B. Israel was to be God's witness by practice and by precept drawing attention to the living God. **“A witness is a person who lives in such a way that those about him are forced to think about God.”** [Pastor Carlton Helgerson]

1. **Deuteronomy 4:1-9** Now therefore _____, O Israel, unto the _____ ... which I _____ you... **2** Ye shall not _____ unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye _____ ought from it... **5** Behold, I have taught you _____ and judgments... **6** K_____ therefore and _____ them; for this is your _____ and your _____ in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these _____, and say, Surely this _____ is a _____ and _____ people. **7** For what nation is there so _____, who hath God so _____ unto them, as the LORD our God is... **8** And what nation is there so _____, that hath _____ and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? **9** Only _____ to thyself, and _____ thy soul _____, lest thou _____ the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.
2. Israel failed to be God's witness, to rightly represent Him, to draw attention to Him. Israel became a nation out of focus. They presented a distorted, cloudy, fuzzy picture of Who God is.

- C. But God never leaves Himself without a witness! Knowing that Israel would fail, God already had in mind to create the Church to be His witness in the world.
- Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be _____ unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- VII. A witness is, therefore, one who has a personal knowledge of God, one who strengthens and confirms God’s testimony of Himself, who draws attention to the Lord, one who by his life causes others to have to think about God.

*Questions for thought: Do you have a personal knowledge of the Living God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Can you confirm God’s testimony that He is the only God and only Saviour? Does your life draw attention to God, causing others to have to think about Him? What kind of view and knowledge of God do others have from seeing and knowing you? Do you distort the knowledge of God? Is your life **IN** or **OUT OF** focus?*

You are My witnesses. You have the privilege and responsibility of representing Me, the Living God. When people look at you and come close to you, they will be forced to think about Me. They will acknowledge that I am the LORD. You are My witnesses, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. I am the only God and only Saviour. **You are My witnesses that I am God!**”

*Oh, to be like Thee, Oh to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy Sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.*

—Thomas O. Chisholm

*May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only HIM!*

—Kate B. Wilkinson

For a more detailed study on these things, see our paper entitled, WHAT IS A WITNESS?