

Famous Last Words

(1 Jn.5:6-21)

We live in midst of danger

Earthquakes, hurricanes, violence...

Greatest danger: spiritual

We need certainty that all is well

God gives certainty in His Word –

- Proof by OT prophecies

Peter Stoner

Chances of any man living to present time and fulfilling eight prophecies: 1 in 10^{17}

Illustrated: 10^{17} silver dollars lying on face of Texas, two feet deep.

Mark one; stir whole mass thoroughly.

Blindfold a man; let him travel as far as he wishes, pick up one –

Chance of getting right one – 1 in 10^{17}

Forty-eight prophecies: 1 in 10^{157}

We live in midst of danger

Earthquakes, hurricanes...

Greatest danger: spiritual

We need certainty that all is well

God gives certainty in His Word –

- Proves by OT prophecies
- Preserves as historic facts. Ac.2:36...
- Prophets / eyewitnesses (1:1-4) willing to die for testimony

“Would be nice to return
to the beginning” (AD 30s...)

“No denominations; no false teaching...”

False teaching began in Genesis 3

Pharisees... Sadducees... Judaizers... gnostics

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I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

6-8: testimony of Jesus: WATER

Mt.3:13-16, His official introduction...

Jn.1:31-32, His baptism explains His humanity and work of redemption

6-8: testimony of Jesus: **BLOOD**

Jn.19:34 . . . 35 – truth claim

- ▶ He did not come by water only
 - Cerinthus – no blood; ‘water only’
- ▶ Jn.19:36-37
 - 1 John references passages in NT (Jn.) and OT to ¹prove truth; ²refute error.

*The One who was baptized is
the One who was pierced...*

Some still deny ‘slaughter-house religion’

6-8: testimony of Jesus: SPIRIT

Spirit, water, blood agree as one (unite in establishing this truth) –

◇ Mt.3:16

◇ Jn.1:32-34

- Apostles preached through Holy Spirit sent from heaven, 1 Pt.1:12
- Spirit's signs confirmed Word, Hb.2:1-4
- Led to Scriptures (giving us same testimony they had, 2 Th.2:15)

Which text? (7-8)

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.

No Gk. MS earlier than 14th Century has it.

Not one early Gk. / Lat. writer quotes it.

“Only 4 or 5 very late mss. contain these words in
Greek” (NKJV marginal note).

Spanish heretic, Priscillian, AD 385.

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one.

Erasmus omits it (Gk. NT, 1516).

Vulgate had included it; Catholics chided
Erasmus for the omission.

Erasmus' offer...

Erasmus included it in 1522 edition

What is at stake? Rv.22:18-19

A comparison . . .

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and lacrosse, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God – Gal.5.

9-10: testimony of men
holds up in human courts

Father's testimony is infinitely greater

Witness of God – (Jn.8:18)

- 9: His voice (spoke words; three times):
 1. Mt.3, Jesus' baptism – Father's voice
 2. Mt.17, mountain – Father's voice
 3. Jn.12:27-28 – Father's voice

The One Who was baptized is
the One Who was crucified.

9-10: testimony of men
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Witness of God – (Jn.8:18)

- 9: His voice (spoke words; three times)
- 10a: believer has witness in himself, v.13.
 - Ro.8:16, The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

9-10: testimony of men holds up in human courts

Father's testimony is infinitely greater

Witness of God – (Jn.8:18)

- **9:** His voice (spoke words; three times)
- **10a:** believer has witness in himself, v.13;

Ro.8:16

Holy Spirit	My spirit
Hear	√
Believe	√
Repent	√
Confess	√
Baptized	√

9-10: testimony of men
holds up in human courts

Father's testimony is infinitely greater

Witness of God – (Jn.8:18)

- **9**: His voice (spoke words; three times)
- **10a**: believer has witness in himself ??
 - 'To have and to hold'
- Rv.6:9, When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they **held**. ¹relation; ²permanence

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Witness of God – (Jn.8:18)

- **9:** His voice (spoke words; three times)
- **10a:** believer has witness in himself, v.13
- **10b:** unbeliever rejects testimony...
 - Daniel 5:1-6, 9
 - Job . . . Isa.6

I. The Three Proofs, 6-10

II. The Greatest Present,
11-13

11: eternal life in His Son

Not mere existence

Not in Moses, Buddha, Krishna...

Not in alcohol, cocaine, new age...

Not in denominations...

11: eternal life in His Son

Not mere existence

12: touchstone

To have the Son is to have the Father

- 2:23, has Son / Father in fellowship
- Lk.11:5, has a friend
- 1 Tim.6:2, has a master...

11: eternal life in His Son

Not mere existence

12: touchstone

To have the Son is to have the Father

13: despite warnings, John is confident
readers are keeping the faith

- Certainty: know you have eternal life
- How? “I have written” Cf. Jn.20:31
- Eternal life ...

13: **eternal life** (1/2)

Comes from Jesus, Jn.1:4.

Believer hears His voice and passes from death to life, Jn.5:24.

The life is abundant, Jn.10:10.

Ultimate use of term: heavenly relationship with God forever, Mt.25:46.

Truth is narrow.

Mt.7:13-14; Jn.14:6

13: **eternal life** (2/2)

We have eternal life now in hope and promise.

1 Jn.2:25, promise

Tit.1:2, hope

Ro.8:24 –

Hope that is seen is not hope

Israel: Josh.1:3...13

13: *continue to believe...*

Written to Christians (3:23): keep on believing

‘NAME’ stands for Person Himself

To believe in all that His name stands for.
Here, the revelation about Jesus: His claims
for His person and work (deity, Sonship,
incarnation, lordship, Christ, Savior...)

13: *continue to believe...*

To believe in all that His name stands for.
Here, the revelation about Jesus: His claims for His person and work (deity, Sonship, incarnation, lordship, Christ, Savior...)

- Atheist: *would* believe if matter of sight...??
- Denominations: change meaning of belief
 - Not faith alone, 10 (pres. tense).
 - Life is in the Son, 11. Ga.3:26-27.
- Christians: lose faith? maintenance? grow?
Lk.17:5; 1 Th.1:3; 2 Th.1:3