



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

7 - 13 Jun, 2020

You Shall Not Bear False Witness, part 2

**‘The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God’ Romans 8:16**

Christ calls each one of us to be His witnesses

- † ***‘and you shall be witnesses to Me’*** Christ in Acts 1:8
- † ***‘As the Father has sent Me, I also send you’*** (Jn 20:21)
- † **After spending three years witnessing the miracles of Christ, living the Word of God, Christ appoints His apostles as His witnesses**
- † **Today, after having a personal experience with Christ, after knowing Him in person too, Christ is asking us to be His witnesses**
- † **Knowing of Christ does not make one eligible to be His witness. On the contrary, one becomes a false witness; Jesus Christ was seen as a lunatic and a liar by the Pharisees and other false witnesses**
- † **A true and faithful witness says nothing less than the truth and nothing more either**
- † **The concept of ‘witness’ was important to John, the apostle, that he used it 56 times in his Gospel, letters and the book of Revelation**

Being Christ’s witness completes us

- † ***‘There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ’*** Blaise Pascal
- † **Christ calls us to be united to the Trinity family where each Person of the Trinity bears witness to the other** (Acts 1:6-8)

The Holy Trinity witnessing

1. The Father testifies of Christ

- † **At the baptism of Christ, the Father said *‘This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased’*** Mt 3:17b
- † **At the transfiguration of Christ, *‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’*** Mk 9:7b

- † *'the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me' Jn 8:18b*
- 2. Christ, the Witness of the Father
- † *'Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner' Jn 5:19*
- 3. The Father and the Son bear witness of each other
- † *'for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me' Jn 5:36*
- 4. The Holy Spirit and us together witnessing of Christ
- † *'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth' Acts 1:8*

The goal of a witness

- † The goal is love
- † That perfect love grabs every opportunity to bring others to faith

How can we be true witnesses to Christ? (Mk 6:17-29)

#1 Be bold and do not compromise

- † *'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord' (2 Tm 1:7-8a)*
- John the Baptist's faithfulness and true love made him bold in correcting king Herod, although he knew it might be dangerous
- King Herod was a hearer and a doer of the preaching that John the Baptist spread, but not all the way which made him a false witness

#2 Be watchful (Lk 12:35-40)

- † Christ is calling us to be attentive, leaving no room for laziness or taking a break from the Lord
- † Be constantly ready for the coming of the Lord by prayer, fasting, repenting, reading the Bible and actively participating in the parish as Saint Dominic did

#3 Discern the circumstances (Ex 7: 8-13)

- † Moses and Aaron obeyed the Lord and threw Aaron's rod on the floor. Their goal was to help the Pharaoh have faith and be saved

- † The magicians' act did in like manner as Moses and Aaron with a major difference in aiming to discredit the miracle of Moses and to persuade others that he is only a magician like them

#4 Do not go with the flow

- † *'Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets' Lk 6:26*
- † Remember you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (*Mt 5:13-14*)

Christ's promise for His witnesses

- † *'Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God' Lk 12:8*
- † *'This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself' 2 Tm 2:11-13*

Bibliography

1. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies'
Proverbs 14:25

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † The Holy Trinity gives witness to each other

My reaction

- † Am I bearing witness by being watchful?
- † Am I witnessing to Christ and bringing others to Him?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale

3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world, to remove the grudge and racism from the hearts of all the people of all nations

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Orthodox Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك ليأت ملكوتك لتكن مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبرنا الجوهري أعطنا اليوم واترك لنا ما علينا كما نترك نحن لمن لنا عليه ولا تدخلنا في تجربة لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان أؤمن بالله واحد أب ضابط الكل، خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق، مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر، الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء، وتأنس، وصُلب عنا على عهد بيبلاطس البنطي، وتألم وقبر، وقام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب، وأيضا يأتي بمجد ليندين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المُنبت من الأب، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن، مسجود له ومُجدد، الناطق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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