



BAPTIST CHURCH

The Book Of John

“John’s Testimony”

John 21:24-25

Introduction

Today we finish our walk through the Book of John.

The purpose of John’s Gospel is found in **John 20:30-31** “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 **But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**” CSB

Scripture

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. CSB

Quotes Of The Day

“But how could you live and have no story to tell?”

— Fyodor Dostoevsky

“How we live our life is the testimony of what we believe about God.” — Adapted from Henry Blackaby

The song titled “**The Love of God**” was written by Frederick M. Lehman and published in 1917.

Frederick Lehman’s family moved to Iowa where he lived most of his childhood. He came to Christ at age 11. This is the story of when he committed his life to Jesus. “One glad morning about eleven o’clock while walking up the country lane, skirted by a wild crab-apple grove on the right and an osage fence, with an old white-elm gate in a gap at the left, suddenly Heaven let a cornucopia of glory descend on me, an eleven-year old lad. The wild crab-apple grove assumed a heavenly glow and the osage fence an unearthly luster. That old white-elm gate with its sun-warped boards gleamed and glowed like silver bars to shut out the world and shut me in. Jesus came into my heart. The weight of conviction was gone and replaced with worship and the sounds of joy and praise fell from my lips.

Frederick Lehman grew up and answered the call to ministry. He pastored several churches and also became a prolific song writer. He wrote and published hundreds of songs, and compiled five song books.

His most recognized song is “The Love of God.”

The first and second verses were written by Frederick Lehman.

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
the guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Chorus: O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure: the saints’ and angels’ song!

2 When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
when men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God’s love so pure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
redeeming grace to Adam’s race— the saints’ and angels’ song.

The third verse was from the words of a demented man scratched out on the wall of his narrow room in the asylum where he died.

3 Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev'ry man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Citation: Adapted from Hymnary.org Frederick M. Lehman, The Love of God, 1917.

John 21:25 “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. CSB

The world could not contain the books filled with the stories, the accounts, or experiences of the people who have been influenced by Jesus.

Everyone has a story— the questions we must ask ourselves:

1. What is my Jesus story?

2. How is Jesus revealing Himself in my story?

One day last week the Holy Spirit was working in my life to remind me of a lunch appointment appointment. I had gotten so busy, the appointment had slipped my mind. — I was dropping off my trailer at a trailer repair shop. While waiting for the repair technician, this happened.

A young lady walked into the office and began a conversation with the dispatcher. The young lady That day was the one month anniversary with her new boyfriend, they were going to celebrate and Winston's Grille that evening.— When I heard Winston's Grille I was reminded of the lunch appointment I had that day at Winston's Grille.

God is always working in our lives, do we recognize when He is revealing Himself in our life?

3. Am I willing to share my story with others?

Everyone loves a good story.

Some people like to read good stories whether it is in a book, a magazine, an article online.

Some people like to watch good stories such as a movie, a documentary, a series on television or endless scrolling on social media platforms.

We also like to tell stories. Our life is a myriad of stories.

One of the great joys in life is to gather with family, friends, colleagues, schoolmates and other acquaintances and share stories.

I like Funny stories that make me laugh— Shoney's Inn

I like Inspirational stories that inspire me to be the best version of me.

I like Underdog stories where the least likely person becomes the hero of the story— It makes me believe that God could utilize me to accomplish His will and help advance His Kingdom in some way.

I like Faith stories where God shows up and makes a way when there is no way.

We all have stories to tell.

The greatest story we can share with others is our personal testimony — the story of how we have experienced the presence and power of God at work in our lives.

John's Gospel is his personal testimony of what he heard, what he saw and what he experienced with Jesus.

John's testimony reveals:

A. Jesus is God

John 1:1-14 The the Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us.

John 1:15-18 John testified that Jesus “the Son” is Himself God.

John’s testimony reveals:

B. The Testimony of John the Baptist

In **John 1:19-28** we get a glimpse into John the Baptist’s story.

The word translated “**testimony**” in v.19 is the Greek word “**marturia**”—factual evidence, to go on the record as a witness.

From John the Baptist’s testimony we learn:

An effective “**testimony**” should answer three questions:

1. Who am I? — I am not the Messiah

John 1:19b-20 “. . . **Who are you?**” ²⁰ He didn’t deny it but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” CSB

Jesus said this about John the Baptist—

Matthew 11:11 “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” CSB

John the Baptist was recognized by Jesus as the greatest person to ever live.

The greatest person to ever live— John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Messiah and said in **John 1:27** I am not worthy to unstrap His sandals.

John the Baptist was a man of true humility who honored Jesus with his life.

An effective “**testimony**” should answer three questions: **Who am I?**

2. What do I tell others about myself?

John 1:22b-23 “. . . What can you tell us about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.”

What is my purpose?

What is the purpose of Chick fil a or in other words Why does Chick fil a exist?— **To make money!**

What am I here for?

Every person alive should be passionately seeking to answer the question “What am I here for?”

We have been created to bring glory to God with our life!

As we venture through life, we must understand our purpose is to honor and bring glory to God.

I Corinthians 10:31 says, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” CSB

Challenge to discover your Life Verse

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

My purpose is to glorify God by living in such a way that people see Jesus in me!

An effective “**testimony**” should answer three questions: **Who are you? What do I tell others about myself?**

3. Why do I do the things I do?

John 1:25-27 “So they asked him, “**Why then do you baptize if you aren’t the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?**” ²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John answered them. “Someone stands among you, but you don’t know Him. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to untie.” CSB

When people ask us why we do the things we do and why we believe the things we believe— we should be able to answer them.

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, **ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.**” CSB

Why do you believe the things you believe?

Everybody has a story and every follower of Christ has a testimony— stories in our life that reveal the presence and power of God at work in our life.

Six qualities of an effective testimony:

An effective testimony:

1. Is Personal— Personal stories are part of our testimony.

2. Is True—Factual Events

3. Is Powerful— Testimonies are powerful because they make us think, make us cry, make us laugh and they make us relevant.

Stories have a unique way of teaching principles and conveying truth in a memorable way.

4. Has Purpose— When we share our testimony we engage and connect with others. We reveal the presence and power of God at work in our life.

People are drawn to Jesus because they can see the work of God in our life.

5. Is Inspirational— Our testimony comes from the experiences in our life.

The collection of stories that make up our life inspire others because our stories reveal how we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

6. Is Challenging— What about our testimony would challenge others to Follow Christ, to pray more, to serve more, and to share their story with others?

Our testimony is important because at the right moment with the right people, when the Spirit of God is at work, our testimony has the potential to lead to Gospel Conversations.

**** Hello My name is Pat Kilby and here is part of my story:**

This story is part of my experience.

This story is true.

Second Chances— Basic Training Lackland Air Force Base San Antonio Texas

This experience taught me several important lessons:

Discipline— Know the rules, Stay focused, don't get distracted.

Accountability— We must give an account for our actions

Humility— Jesus loves me, I am special, I am fearfully and wonderfully made— Even when I mess up and make mistakes.

Adversity is a Great Teacher—

James 1:2-4 “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your

faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

No one Loves me like Jesus—

Deuteronomy 31:6 Moses said this as he was transferring leadership to Joshua “Be strong and courageous; don’t be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the one who will go with you; He will not leave you or abandon you.” CSB

My friends didn’t come to my defense, they didn’t seem to care, it wasn’t them getting washed back two weeks.

The Power of Prayer

Psalm 130:1-2 “Out of the depths I call to you, LORD! 2 Lord, listen to my voice; let your ears be attentive to my cry for help.” CSB

Grace and Second Chances

Grace is the unmerited and undeserved favor of God upon us.

Psalm 103:8-9 “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love. 9 He will not always accuse us or be angry forever.” CSB

Isaiah 30:18 “. . . the LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All who wait patiently for him are happy.” CSB

If we have received grace and forgiveness we are also called to give grace and forgiveness.

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. 15 But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

** Hello My name is Pat Kilby and this is my story:

