

1 John 5:9-15

- Rogationtide: 470 Bishop of Mammertus of Vienne in France ordered fasting and the praying of litanies on the Mon, Tues, and Wed, before Ascension Day to pray for good weather that would lead to an abundant harvest. Lutherans maintained this practice until the introduction of the three year lectionary with Rogate (Ask) Sunday. Still appears in some rural areas, the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches which have expanded it beyond agriculture into all industry and for productivity in all human labor.
- Ascension Day: Occurs forty days after Easter and ushers in the season of Ascensiontide. It is an enthronement festival that marks the completion of the Easter season when the signs of the resurrection and spring are in full bloom.
 - Paschal Candle- may be extinguished after the Gospel to indicate that the resurrection appearances of Jesus have come to an end
 - In congregations that do not observe Ascensiontide, the candle remains lit until the end of the day of Pentecost.
- Seventh Sunday of Easter
 - Focuses on the work of Christ as the eternal High Priest and Intercessor- we hear Jesus pray for us.
- Culminates in Pentecost, 50 days after Easter

⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1. John moves to explain why we should believe the testimony of the water, blood, and Spirit. To do this, he makes an argument from lesser to greater. What common human activity is he pointing to in order to prove his point?
2. To have the testimony in yourself is to incorporate your belief in the Son of God into your day to day life. How might this look?
3. To deny that Jesus is the Son of God is to call God a liar. How does the life of one who calls God a liar illustrate the lack of faith?
4. John returns to the original reason for writing this letter; to deal with the secessionists that have emerged in the church. What is the ultimate assessment of the reality in which the secessionists live and confess?

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

5. In this conclusion we can see the heart of John and the love he has for God's people. What is his hope for those who receive the letter?
6. What is the result of having faith? What is the hope that it brings?