

1 John 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Analysis

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. John presents two responses to God's testimony. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (ho pisteuōn eis ton huion tou theou echei tēn martyrian en heautō)—the believer possesses internal witness. This likely refers to the Spirit's testimony (Romans 8:16), subjective assurance accompanying objective faith. The present tense indicates ongoing possession—believers continuously have this internal witness confirming truth.

"He that believeth not God hath made him a liar" (ho mē pisteuōn tō theō pseustēn pepoiēken auton). The perfect tense indicates completed action with continuing result—the unbeliever has made and continues making God a liar. This is staggering accusation—rejecting God's testimony about Christ effectively charges God with falsehood. We cannot neutrally disbelieve; we either accept God as truthful or implicitly call Him liar. There's no middle ground.

"Because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son" (hoti ou pepisteuken eis tēn martyrian hēn memartyrēken ho theos peri tou huiou autou). The cause of making God a liar is refusing to believe His testimony about Christ. God has clearly testified that Jesus is His Son, the Savior; rejecting this testimony rejects God Himself. This underscores unbelief's seriousness—it's not mere

intellectual disagreement but moral rebellion calling God a liar. Conversely, faith honors God by accepting His testimony as true.

Historical Context

The accusation of making God a liar would have shocked first-century Jews who revered God's truthfulness. The Shema confessed God as one and true (Deuteronomy 6:4). To suggest anyone could make God a liar seemed blasphemous. Yet John insists this is precisely what unbelief does—it contradicts God's clear testimony about Christ, effectively denying His truthfulness.

This principle applies to all biblical revelation. When people reject scriptural teaching, they're not merely disagreeing with human authors but with God who inspired Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16). The Reformation emphasis on Scripture's authority rested on this foundation—rejecting biblical teaching rejects God. Conversely, believing God's testimony honors Him and provides assurance through the Spirit's internal witness.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What internal witness (Spirit's testimony) do you experience confirming the truth of God's testimony about Christ?
2. How does understanding that unbelief effectively calls God a liar change your view of those who reject the gospel?
3. In what areas might you be inconsistently believing some of God's testimony while doubting other parts, and how should this verse challenge that?

Interlinear Text

ο	πεπίστευκεν	εἰς	τὸν	υἱοῦ	τοῦ	Θεὸς	ἔχει	τὴν
G3588	He that believeth	on	G3588	Son	G3588	God	hath	G3588
	G4100	G1519		G5207		G2316	G2192	
μαρτυρίαν	ἐν	ἐαυτῷ	ο	μὴ	πεπίστευκεν	τῷ	Θεὸς	
the record	in	himself	G3588	not	He that believeth	G3588	God	
G3141	G1722	G1438		G3361	G4100		G2316	
ψεύστην	πεποίηκεν	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι	οὐ	πεπίστευκεν	εἰς		
a liar	hath made	him	because	not	He that believeth	on		
G5583	G4160	G846	G3754	G3756	G4100	G1519		
τὴν	μαρτυρίαν	ἥν	μεμαρτύρηκεν	ο	Θεὸς	περὶ	τοῦ	
G3588	the record	that	gave	G3588	God	of	G3588	
	G3141	G3739	G3140		G2316	G4012		
υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ							
Son	him							
G5207	G846							

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:16 (Witness): The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Galatians 4:6 (References God): And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

John 3:33 (Witness): He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

John 5:38 (Faith): And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Hebrews 3:12 (References God): Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Psalms 25:14 (Parallel theme): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

1 John 5:1 (Faith): Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 1:10 (Parallel theme): If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Numbers 23:19 (References God): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Revelation 2:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

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