

# Two Witnesses

John 8:10-19



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** John 8:10-19 <sup>KJV</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? **(11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (13) The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. (14) Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. (15) Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. (16) And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. (17) It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. (18) I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. (19) Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.**

**Prayer** Your love, O Lord, reaches to the Heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God, and your judgments are like a great ocean tide<sup>1</sup>. Give us the strength to praise You today, dear Savior. You alone made a way for us to come into Your presence. You alone redeemed us, cared for us, bought us with Your precious Blood. You alone loved us

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 36:5-7, 9

when we were unlovable, and You alone have elevated us to be called sons of the Most High. Bless us, dear Lord, as we come together to worship You today. Forgive us our failings, our unbelief, our sinful estate. Create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us<sup>2</sup>. Open the eyes of our heart, dear Lord. Open the eyes of the blind, and raise up those who are bowed down under the weight of sin<sup>3</sup>. If there be any here today that do not know You as Savior, open their minds to the Gospel truth. If there be any here today in the snare of the devil, break those bonds we pray. Guide us by Thy Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

## **1. Our Speedometer Is Broken**

Last week we looked at the account of the *woman taken in adultery*. This woman, taken in the *very act* of adultery, was brought before Jesus by several Scribes and Pharisees. The reason they brought this woman to Jesus was *not* to lead her to God, *nor* to do the work of God. They were, in fact, using the Law in an *unlawful manner*. Last week we also talked about sin, and what sin is. This is a very *timely* sermon, dearly Beloved, for in our day and age people *can no longer define what sin is*. This is a *terrible problem* in any society. God has said:

**Isaiah 5:20-23** <sup>KJV</sup> **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21)**

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 51:10

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 146:8

**Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! (22) Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: (23) Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!**

When a nation and a people can no longer distinguish between *good and evil*, that people are quickly on their way to destruction. Any nation that is *no longer a nation today* started on a pathway of destruction when it's people ceased to recognize the difference between good and evil. We *must* have a way to determine good from evil. We *must* have a rule that we live by, a standard, else we are no more than

**Matthew 15:14** <sup>KJV</sup> **"... blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."**

Has America become a nation that can no longer recognize good from evil? Does it matter? (**Isaiah 5:20-23; Matthew 15:14**)

**Illustrate: The Crane Truck** Several years ago I drove a crane truck for a sign company. One day when I was driving that truck the speedometer stopped working. How do you know how fast you're going when your speedometer stops working? The owner of the company suggested that I follow other vehicles, and match my speed to their speed. Do what everyone else is doing! If

you've driven on the highway for more than ten minutes you know that this doesn't work! People are always going faster than the speed limit, and if I'm going to stay within the speed I can't use *another human* to follow. I need that speedometer! I need something calibrated to tell me, based on the rotation of my tires, how fast I'm going.

There has to be a standard for good and evil, else I have no standard. What standard in humanity can I use? Our speedometer is broken! We are all sinners, as the Scripture says:

**Romans 3:23** <sup>KJV</sup> For **all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

Our speedometer is broken ... we are all sold into sin.

Last week we laughed about the fact that the Scribes and Pharisees - all men who *knew the Law of Moses inside and out* -- brought this woman to Jesus and said:

**John 8:4** <sup>KJV</sup> "... **this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.**"

They demanded that Jesus use the Law to apply punishment to her. Yet, according to the Law of God, the man *was also to be tried and punished*. The Pharisees were using the *portions of the Law* that they found satisfactory, but were ignoring the portions of the Law which didn't suit their purpose. They *couldn't see their error* because their speedometer was broken. They had

no true standard by which they could measure good and evil. Their consciences hurt them, and for this reason they walked away from Jesus and from this adulterous woman. **No man condemned her**, and Jesus Himself said:

**FOCAL** John 8:11 <sup>KJV</sup> "... **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

God gave humanity the Law to *aid* our conscience ... yet you cannot naturally live by the Law. People say, "I will go to Heaven because I am good enough to go to Heaven". How can you be good enough, though? If you are apart from Christ, your speedometer is broken.

Why did God give us the Law? Did He give us the Law? Can I live by the Law? (**Romans 3:23; John 8:4, 11; Romans 7:1-5**)

The Law was given to show us how *badly* our speedometer is broken. Going back to my employer of years ago, when he had trouble getting the crane truck's speedometer fixed, my boss offered a number of solutions. He said,

**"Stay with the flow of traffic. Gage your speed by others who are around you on the highway. Watch your tachometer<sup>4</sup>, and keep your tachometer within a certain range. Count how fast the dashed white lines on the road pass under the truck"**

4 a device that measures the number of revolutions an engine makes per second

To him, these seemed like good methods to determine my legal speed. Yet these are all *subjective* measurements, based on my perception of speed. These measurements are based on what I think and not on what the speedometer shows to be true. My judgment is flawed: without the speedometer I can guarantee you that you will break the law.

This is the simplest and most true explanation as to why these Scribes Pharisees **caught this woman in the very act of adultery, but did not catch the man in the same act**. The Law of Moses does *nothing* to correct one's ability to perceive righteousness. As a matter of fact, those who live *according to the Law* and not *according to the Power of Christ, the Spirit of God* merely *speed up their condemnation*. God wrote the Roman Church:

**Romans 7:1-5<sup>KJV</sup> "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that **the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth**? (2) For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. (3) So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. (4) Wherefore, my brethren, **ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another,****

**even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. (5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.**

The Law **brings forth fruit unto death**, but those who are **wed to Christ** by faith, believers in Him, **bring forth fruit unto God**. No man *can* condemn you or I, because - apart from Christ - *all of our speedometers are broken*.

It is only when you are in Christ that your speedometer is repaired. You know righteousness and unrighteousness, and know good from evil *because of Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)*.

## **2. Those Who Are In Christ "Go And Sin No More"**

Look at the words of our Savior:

**FOCAL** John 8:11-12<sup>KJV</sup> "Neither do I condemn thee: **go, and sin no more**. (12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**"

Those who belong to Christ do as He says. Look at the dialog between Jesus and the woman taken in adultery:

Jesus... said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, **Lord**. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

Did you notice that this woman called Jesus **Lord**, or God? She recognized Jesus as the King of all Creation, Savior of the world. Because she was saved Jesus *forgave* her, but Jesus also told her to **go and sin no more**.

What does Jesus tell the believer to do? (John 8:11-12)

**Illustrate: A Practicing Liar Saved** We are often told in many of the churches in America today that it is perfectly fine for believers in Christ to return *to their old lifestyle* - yet Beloved, this makes no Scriptural sense. Jesus plainly said **he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life**. Read that with me, and emphasize the force of these words:

... he that followeth me **shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life**

Let me illustrate this way. Let's say you are the pastor of a local Church, and a person comes to you and says:

"I've been saved by believing on Jesus. But I have one problem. Though I'm saved, I have one vice - I love to

lie! I'd rather climb a tree to tell a lie than stand on the ground and tell the truth. I tell you, pastor, I love to lie, and just can't help myself. I was a born liar, I was made a liar by God, and I am genetically disposed to lie. Yet I am saved, and I want to become a member of this Church".

Let me ask you this question: Would you allow this person to join the Church? Certainly you would want this person to *attend* Church, and as a child of God I issue a clear clarion call to all who want to come and hear the preaching of Christ's Gospel. Certainly He came to save the lost, and to call sinners to repentance, for He Himself said:

Luke 5:32 <sup>KJV</sup> **"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

All people are welcome to the *services* of the Church - but only those who have truly accepted Christ as Savior are welcomed into *the Body of the Church*. Those who have not *repented* and turned from the darkness must not be granted membership in His Church, for the unrepentant still wallow in sin. There is no way that you could *logically* nor *scripturally* accept someone into the Church who loves to lie, and cannot help but lie. When this person tells you "I'm saved", are they telling you a lie or not? How can you tell? If this person professes to know Jesus as Savior, is his profession not suspect as a lie? If someone tells you, "I lie, and can't help myself", when are they telling me the truth? Nay, nay dearly Beloved. No matter what name you call me, no matter how angry it makes you, no matter how intolerant you

may shout out I am, if I love Jesus and I love you I could not condone that lying lifestyle. Something *greater* than Church membership is at stake. Something *greater* than your feelings are at issue! If you as the pastor were to accept someone who unrepentantly lies into the flock, then you will one day have to answer why this *liar is burning in the Lake of Fire forever!* The Bible says that Heaven is a place of light,

**Revelation 21:27<sup>KJV</sup> And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Only those who **walk in the light** can enter into Heaven. Only those who have called Jesus "**Lord**" are forgiven. Once more, Beloved, Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 8:12<sup>KJV</sup> **"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."**

Those who are in Christ **walk** or **live their lives** within the Light of God. God is in them, and they who belong to Him *do not wallow in the mud of sin*. Now listen up: believers *can* and *do* sin, but no one comes to Christ, is saved, then returns to a lifestyle where sin is considered attractive or even tolerable. Those who belong to Christ live in the Light. **Evangelist Ray Comfort** said:

"A non-Christian friend of mine found he had six months to live. His friends told him to spend the last six months doing a "brothel crawl". He wasn't interested. He found that he had something within his heart considerably stronger than his sex drive - it was the will to live. "*Oh, I don't want to die!*"

**Eternity was in his heart. It's deep whisper was, "Oh that one would give me a drink of water from the wells of salvation".** Before the beginning of time, God saw not only the cry of his heart, but the cry within every human heart. The Mighty Three, the Triune God, broke through the hosts of hell to draw water from the well of Bethlehem. God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself. Now the offer to sinful humanity is: "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14)". **The True Convert holds the cup of salvation in his trembling hands. He has seen the cost of his redemption. He sees that he was not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the Precious Blood of Christ. Like David, he cannot drink of that cup in a spirit of self-indulgence.** ... His reasonable service is to present himself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, and pour out his life as a drink offering to the Lord."<sup>5</sup>

Jesus expected those who were saved to **die to the Law, but to live to righteousness**. Jesus expected - nay, He demands - that those whom He has saved **have the light of life**. **Dr. Charles Stanley** wrote<sup>6</sup>:

5 *Revival's Golden Key*, Ray Comfort, pages 165-166

6 *In Touch Magazine*, October 2005, page 7 "Living a Legacy, Handing Down A Spiritual Inheritance"

"... the Scriptures clearly reveal that [God] has a **two-fold purpose for His children: first, that we be involved in His work, and secondly, that we bring Him honor and glory.** (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:20). We carry out God's intentions by involvement in those things that bring praise to Him. Jesus said, "**Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven**". Contrary to what many people believe, the number of years one lives is less important than how that lifetime is invested."

Those who are in Christ have THE LIGHT - they have Jesus inside of them. Since Jesus is inside of us we are to *walk in the Light*, avoiding sin and doing good. Those who are in Christ are *like the crippled man that Jesus healed on the Sabbath*. We are commanded:

**John 5:14** <sup>KJV</sup> "... Behold, **thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**"

Does the Christian wallow in sin? What are the two things the believer does? (**John 8:12; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Revelation 21:27**)

**Illustrate: The Little Boy and Prayer** The believer in Christ does two things: He both *avoids sin and does good*. **C.H. Spurgeon** related tells the story that a Godly man was praying with his little boy at bedtime. The daddy prayed, "Lord, I pray that you meet the needs of

someone tomorrow. Please feed a poor person who starves, in Jesus' name I pray." At the end of the prayer as the daddy tucked that child into bed the little girl said, "Daddy, I wish I had your money". Startled the daddy asked, "Why is that, honey?" She replied, "If I had your money, I could answer your prayer - for I could surely feed a poor person tomorrow!"

**FOCAL** **John 8:12** <sup>KJV</sup> "**I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**"

The Christian is not called to *condone sin* either by word or practice. The Christian is called to **not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life**. The **eagle** hunts in the light, not in the darkness. It is only the snake that creeps out at night who, by darkness, robs nests of the innocent young. The **fisherman** casts his nets in the daylight, not in the dark. There is little profit in dragging a net in the dark, but much profit in the daylight. Only a few foolish **swimmers** dare enter the ocean in darkness. Without light the shoreline is not seen, nor do you see the dangers - sharks, stingrays, sea serpents, or jellyfish - that could quickly take you to a watery grave. The Christian walks in the Light as Jesus walks in the Light. The Christian does good and avoids sin, whereas the unsaved wallow in darkness like a pig wallows in mud.

### **3. There Are Two Witnesses To This Truth**

**FOCAL** **John 8:13-19** <sup>KJV</sup> "... The Pharisees therefore

said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. (14) Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. (15) Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. (16) And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. (17) It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. (18) I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. (19) Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

What these Pharisees said to Jesus that day is the same thing that we have all frequently heard. People say to us, "Who are you to judge me? I have every right to live the way I want to live - you're no better than I am". That was *exactly* what these people were saying to Jesus. They were saying, "Jesus, that's *Your* opinion, not God's Word! You developed this doctrine from your own opinions. Your opinion has no basis in the Scripture".

Jesus' answer to these people was "Yes, I do bring a judgment to you, but this judgment *does not come from the flesh*. My judgment is *not* based on mortality, but *on immortality*. My judgment is true because it *comes from eternity*, it *comes from the Father*. "

Jesus now says something that is *fantastic*! He quotes the portion of the Law that deals with *determination of guilt*.

You see, under the Mosaic Code when someone was brought up on charges before the High Priest, the Law specified:

Deuteronomy 17:6-7 <sup>KJV</sup> " **At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.** (7) **The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you."**

There had to be *two people* who would stand up and say before all of Israel, "I saw this person commit this sin, and these words are true!". If two witnesses - and there had to be at *least* two witnesses - stood up and said they saw someone guilty of a capital offense, then that person was judged *guilty*. The guilty party was then taken outside the city and stoned to death. **The hands of the witnesses were the first** to cast the stones, and then the rest of the people followed. Listen to this, Beloved:

**Jesus Christ** said "I am not the Only Witness. There are Two Witnesses to what I say today. I and My Father are the Two Witnesses!" Jesus Christ made Himself equal with God when He said this. Jesus Christ said, "Both I and the Father agree on this - We are the Witnesses. Just as the guilty in Israel had to have two witnesses, I and My Father are the Two Witnesses. We both witness that judgment is sure and judgment is coming. Unless you repent and believe in Me, you shall all likewise perish.

And if you believe in Me, then you will know the Father just as I and the Father know you. You will walk in Light, not in darkness. You will tell others that I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (**John 14:6**). You will tell others that no one comes to the Father but by Me. You will tell others that those who belong to Me walk in the Light, for I live in them.

**2 Corinthians 6:16 <sup>KJV</sup> "... I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."**

May God touch your hearts with these words.

When Jesus said that both He and the Father were the Two Witnesses, what was our Lord saying?

