

Welcome to LifeChurch!

Today is Missions Sunday!

Sunday, July 17, 2016

9:30 - Higher Grounds Cafe - *Meet and Greet*

10:00 - Bible Life Classes - Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

10:45 - Higher Grounds Cafe - *Meet and Greet*

11:00 - Worship Celebration,

Ministry: Patrick and Sandy Miller, Missionary to Bangladesh



The Testimony

IN THE PRESENCE OF WITNESSES

Terry R. Baughman

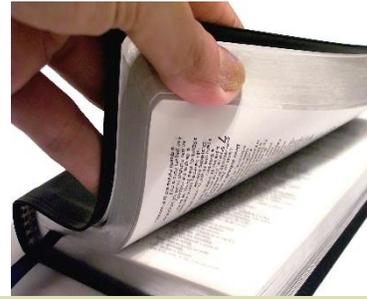
“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

A most vital aspect of our legal system requires the sworn statement of witnesses. The testimonies of these witnesses have the power to condemn or exonerate the accused. Prosecutors produce eyewitnesses, if possible, to establish the guilt of the defendant. If none can be found who saw the crime being committed they might produce other evidence of implication. Another tactic is to seek out individuals who might be able to discredit the testimony of those who speak for the defendant. On the other hand the defense seeks witnesses who can provide an alibi for the defendant or character witnesses who will speak for the trustworthiness of the accused. Much of the time the outcome of the hearing is dependent on the testimony of the witnesses.

The precedent for verification by witnesses comes from the Torah, our *Old Testament* in the Bible, *“By the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established”* (Deuteronomy 19:15). Guilt for crimes committed was predicated on the statement of witnesses. A death sentence could only be delivered if there were *“two or three witnesses”* (Deuteronomy 17:6). A single witness might be biased or have other motivations for producing inaccurate testimony. The *New Testament* references this principle on more than one occasion and it has been adopted by many legal systems of societies through the centuries.

It is interesting to note that even the two primary sections of our Bible are identified as *testaments*. Jesus declared a *new covenant* before His disciples in the Last Supper, *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (Matthew 26:28 KJV). The *New Testament* stands as a witness to the character and righteous acts of His divine purpose and promises. The *Old and New Testaments* are the two witnesses of God’s Word throughout recorded history.

“You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).



Coming Up at LifeChurch!

EXPLAINING TRUTH • Wednesday 7 pm

Prayer@Life • Saturday 7:30 pm

LifePraise Practice • Saturday 8pm

Arizona Ladies Conference • July 21-23

Worship Workshop • Jul 29-31

Next Sunday is Ladies Sunday!

Higher Grounds Cafe 9:30 AM - BibleLife Classes 10:00 AM

Worship Celebration @ ALA 11:00

Focused Ministry: Cindy Meadows

In past times church gatherings featured a segment of time for congregational testimonies. Volunteers could share their stories of faith, recent challenges they had overcome, or answers to specific prayers they had experienced. Some of these shared accounts were encouraging to others who found themselves in similar circumstances. Whether spoken before the congregation, written as a witness statement, or lived out in an exemplary life, the *testimony* is a powerful affirmation of faith.

In The Book of Revelation John identified the source of victory over the enemy when confronted by the false statements of the accuser, *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”* (Revelation 12:11). There is power in our witness and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

When we are persuaded of the validity of a cause we find greater resolve to stand firm. Paul spoke of the testimony of Timothy and his, *“good confession in the presence of many witnesses”* (1 Timothy 6:12). The Message interprets the passage, *“the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.”* Let us likewise live out our testimony effectively in the presence of many witnesses.

Family Life Challenge

Tough times are sure to come to your family and to your children in particular. They need not feel alone during these times of frustration. It is alright to offer an empathetic shoulder to lean on as long as excuses are not for your children’s own bad behavior, and their contribution to the situation is not ignored. Life’s events whether positive or negative are opportunities for growth.