

## **1 John 5:1-6<sup>iv</sup>**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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### **<sup>iv</sup> About the Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

The writing of 1 John seems to have been occasioned by a schism in the community due to heresy, specifically the denial of Jesus' humanity. The central theme of 1 John is that "God is love" (4:8). The significance of this statement is explored through repeated meditation that interweaves theology and ethics. Those who make the early baptismal confession, "Jesus is the Christ," have assented to a pattern for their behavior. As God's children, Christians are to love God and one another and to obey the commandments. Through trust in Jesus, the Christian may overcome the world.