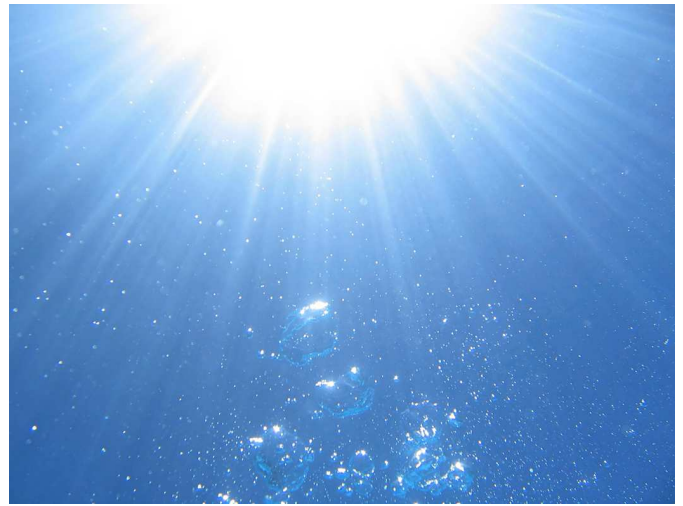


'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 12 - 'How to Witness with Power' John 1: 19 - 28



Here we come to a new division of the Gospel of John. Having considered the wonderful prologue which clearly sets out the glory of Christ in His divinity as the eternal Word, and the fact that He came to dwell amongst us in flesh, at verse 19 we are brought to look upon the events of the first incredible week of Jesus' ministry. We examine here the testimony and witness of John the Baptist. Through his example and action, we considered how we, if we are truly the Lord's people, believers by grace, should witness of Christ. We can consider the following:

The Witness of John - Firstly, in v19-28, John underlines and denies that he is the Light. Secondly, in v29 - 34 we see that John bears witness to the Light and the final statement declares, '*And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*' Then thirdly, the rest of the chapter shows that John's testimony points some of the first disciples to Jesus Christ. Notice how John makes it clear that he is not the Light. He makes it clear that he himself is not the answer to other people's problems, he is not the Light. It is amazing how sometimes people portray themselves, knowingly or unknowingly, as having all the answers. We don't, but if we are Christ's we know that He has! Notice too, that as John witnesses, He is bearing witness to Jesus Christ, pointing to Him. He is not enforcing a particular view which has to be accepted before Christ, it is all of Christ, pointing to Him. Then notice, that John has a passion and desire that those who he is witnessing to might indeed believe. Let us not be caught in a state of apathy or coldness where once we have delivered our part, then we have done our job. Pray for them, weep for them, having a burden and desire that they might know Christ.

The Words of John - The importance of this section of the narrative is imperative. 'This was John's testimony'. The first question they pose as they approach John is, are you the Messiah? John denies this with real force! He rejected it in a way that also made it clear that Messiah was there, did exist at that very time. Then they ask John whether he was Elijah? As with the first question, he rejected it out of hand. He was too focused on proclaiming Christ to look for accolades, so we must be. Although, Jesus Himself would commend John with this honour, that he was like Elijah, and fulfilled Malachi's prophecy. The final question asked John if he was 'that prophet'? This referred to the prophet Moses had predicted in Deuteronomy 18:15(18). John then reveals how he views himself by quoting from Isaiah 40. He says that he is a voice who had come to prepare the way of the Lord as prophesied. A voice cannot be seen. There are lots of people who want to be heard, who want to be seen and heard, it is about them. Yet, the effective Christian ministry, the effective Christian witness, says let them see nothing of me, let them see Christ, and Christ alone!

The Work of John - We are to be about the King's business. Acts 20:24 should be imprinted on our minds. ! If we are to be powerful witnesses of Jesus Christ, it means losing yourself. Losing your likes, your dislikes, your personal interests, your free time, even your ambitions and goals. The powerful witness will think firstly of bringing glory to Christ, and secondly, of those who need the Saviour. What will make a person do this? A person who has met with God, who has a real awareness of the glory of Jesus Christ, His worth, and His love. It means cost, sacrifice, sometimes suffering, but this fades when the focus is on Christ.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs