

# ***“The Pre-eminence of Jesus Christ”***

John 3:31-36

## **The pre-eminence of our Lord Jesus Christ and of His testimony to mankind:**

### **1. Pre-eminent in His Origin**

*“He who comes from above is above all; v. 31  
he who is of the earth is earthly  
and speaks of the earth.  
He who comes from heaven is above all.”*

#### **(1) He has come from heaven!**

- From the uncreated and eternal realm
- From the eternal experience of perfect and deepest intimacy with the Father

#### **(2) He is thus entirely set apart from all other men who have ever lived!**

- Every man is **“of the earth”**: entirely shaped in his experience and existence by the earth
- Every man can speak only from this limited realm

### **2. Pre-eminent in His Testimony**

**vv. 32-34**

#### **(1) Absolutely Authoritative!**

*“And what He has seen and heard,  
that He testifies”*

- What He has seen and heard!

#### **- The very words of God in the power of the Spirit!**

*“For He whom God has sent  
speaks the words of God, for God  
does not give the Spirit by measure.”*

- “words” – Gk: *rhemata* = utterances
- Jesus Christ – filled with the Spirit without measure

#### **(2) Man’s Response – The stunning implications!**

##### **-1- The Response of Unbelief:**

##### **Rejection of this Testimony**

*“...and no one receives  
His testimony.”*

- fallen man blinded by his sin
- *because* of his sin, *unable* to receive it

##### **-2- The Response of Faith:**

##### **Reception of the Testimony**

*“He who has received His testimony  
has certified that God is true.”*

- Only possible by virtue of the new birth! cf. 1:12
- To receive Jesus Christ’s testimony is to affirm that God is true.
- To reject Jesus Christ’s testimony is to call God a liar.

### **(1) A Summary of Christ’s Unrivaled Place**

*“The Father loves the Son,  
and has given all things into His hand.”*

#### **-1- God’s love is entirely set upon and centers in Jesus Christ**

It is *through Christ alone* that this saving love comes to man.

#### **-2- Jesus Christ alone has authority to save and to bring man into relationship with the one true God.**

### **(2) A Summary Concerning Man’s Response v. 36 (// v. 18)**

#### **-1- Belief → Life**

*“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life;  
and he who does not believe in the Son  
shall not see life,  
but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

#### **-2- Unbelief → Death - Judgment**

### **Further Application:**

### **3. Pre-eminent in His Person and Mission**

**vv. 35-36**