"Above All" John 3:31-36

Introduction:

- 1. **IE:** The Last Time I Took Our Car:
 - Through The Car Wash:
 - On The Back Of The Receipt:
 - There Was A Website Where I Could Go:
 - To Complete A Survey!
 - And If I Did The Survey:
 - I Could Get \$5 Off My Next Car Wash!
 - So That's What I Did!
 - On The Survey:
 - The Company Wanted To Know:
 - What I Thought About:
 - Their Product & Service!
 - Both What They:
 - Did Right And:
 - What They Could Improve Upon!
 - If I Thought They Did Something:
 - Great I Could Give Them:
 - A Five-Star Rating!
 - If I Thought They Did Something:
 - Poorly I Could Given Them:
 - A One-Star Rating!
 - I Don't Remember Exactly How I Rated Them:
 - I Just Wanted To Save \$5 On The Next Wash!
- 2. But Imagine If Someone Close To You:
 - Was Asked To Go To A Website And Fill Out A Survey:
 - About You & Your Life!
 - And Specifically:
 - What Is Most Important To You!
 - Some Of The Options Might Be:
 - Your Family That Is Most Important:
 - Or Your House!
 - Your Job That Is Most Important:
 - Or Your Car!
 - But One Of Those Options Would Be:
 - God And Your Relationship With Him:
 - As What Is Most Important To You!
 - And Under Each Option:
 - There Are Five Stars:
 - To Rank What They See & Know:
 - About You!
 - What Would That Survey:
 - Reveal About You & What Is Most Important To You?
- 2. Well As You Think About That:
 - Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 3 This Morning:
 - Where We Ended Last Sunday:
 - With Those Stirring Words From John The Baptist:
 - 3:30 "He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease!"
 - With These Words:
 - John The Baptist Expressed:
 - His Irrepressible Excitement That:
 - Jesus Christ And His Ministry:
 - Was On The Rise!
 - After All This Was:

- What John Had Been Waiting For:
 - And Had Been Preparing For:
 - His Whole Life!
- 2. But Along With That Excitement:
 - Over Christ's Exaltation:
 - That John The Baptist Shared With His Disciples:
 - In 3:22-30!
 - Now In 3:31-36:
 - John The Apostle & Writer Of This Gospel:
 - Gives Us A Further Explanation:
 - Of Christ's Exaltation!
 - And This Explanation:
 - Will Be Our Focus This Morning!
 - From 3:31-36!
 - "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. / And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. / He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. / For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure [unto him]. / The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. / He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him!"
- 3. In These Verses:
 - We Discover The Reason Why:
 - It Was Necessary For Jesus:
 - To Be Increasing!
 - And For John The Baptist:
 - To Be Increasing!
 - It Was Because Of:
 - The Absolute Superiority Of Jesus Christ:
 - Over & Above All!
- 4. As We Go Through These Verses:
 - We Will See That:
 - Jesus Christ Is Superior:
 - In His Value!
 - In His Vision! And:
 - In His Voice:
 - Over Everything & Everyone!
 - And Since He Is:
 - Superior *To* Everything:
 - He Must Be Supreme *In* Everything:
 - To You!
 - That Is The Five-Star Rating:
 - On The Survey Of Your Life:
 - Must Be Exclusively Held:
 - By The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And So As We Look Again At:
 - 3:31 John Wants You To Know First That:
 - Jesus Christ Is Superior:

1. In His Heavenly Value!

- 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all!"
 - Here We Learn That The Reason:
 - Jesus Must Increase & John Must Decrease:
 - Is Because Jesus' Value:
 - Is Infinitely Superior To:
 - John's Value!
 - After All From The First Part Of This Verse:
 - We See That:

- Jesus Is The One From Heaven! - And - Jesus Alone! - Jesus Alone Is: - "He That Cometh From Above!" (3:31a) - Jesus Alone Is: - "He That Cometh From Heaven!" (3:31c) - And So - Jesus Alone: - Is "Above All!" - And This Heavenly Origin Reveals To Us: - The Person Of Christ: - In His Nature As God! As Well As: - The Position Of Christ: - As The Lord And Master: - Of Everything & Everyone: - Including You! - Jesus Christ Is Above All: - Because It Is His Nature: - To Be Above All! - IE: Like The Nature Of Helium - Which Is A Gas That Is Lighter Than Air! When You Fill Up A Balloon With Helium - It Wants To Ascend Higher & Higher Into The Sky! Hard To Keep It Down! - So It Is With The Heavenly Nature Of Christ! - He *Must* Be Above All: - Because He Alone: - Is From Above! - But Then - From The Second Part Of This Verse: - We See That: - John Is The One From Earth! - John The Baptist - And Every Other Person In This World: - Can Be Described As: - "He That Is Of The Earth!" - And This Earthly Origin Reveals To Us: - All That We Are: - In Our Nature! - Three Times The Same Phrase Is Used: - In This Verse: - "Of The Earth!" - We Who Are: - Of The Earth - Are: - Of The Earth! "Earthly!" - So - Not Only Does The Earth: - Describe: - Where We Are From - And: - Who We Are! - It Also Describes: - What We Know! - We Can Only Speak: - "Of The Earth!" - In Other Words: - Jesus Is Superior In His Value: - Because - As God: - He Is Heavenly! - But We - As Men: - Are Only "Of The Earth" - Earthly! - Jesus Christ Is Infinite! - But We Are Finite! - Jesus Christ Is The Creator! (Chapter 1)

- But We Are Creatures!

- And That Which Is Heavenly:
 - Will Always Rise Above:
 - That Which Is Earthly!
- Jesus Christ Is Absolutely Superior:
 - To Everything In His Heavenly Value!
 - And That Is Why:
 - He Is To Be Supreme:
 - *In* Everything To You!
 - Is This True For You?
 - How Many Stars Would You Select:
 - If You Surveyed Your Own Heart This Morning?
 - Is His Value Greater To You:
 - Than Anything Else Of Value In This World?
 - Won't You Value & Love:
 - The One Who Came From Above:
 - To Show His Love:
 - For You?
 - A Love That Took Him:
 - From The Glories Of His Heavenly Home:
 - To The Humiliation Of The Cross!
 - He "Came From Above" So That:
 - He Could Save You From Your Sin!
 - By Living For You!
 - By Dying For You!
 - By Coming Back To Life For You!
 - And That Is What Makes Jesus:
 - Superior In His Heavenly Value!
 - He Is The Pearl Of Great Price!
 - Have You Found Him? Do You Believe In Him? Do You Love Him? Is He "Above All" To You?
- * But We Also See In 3:32-33 That Jesus Christ Is Superior:
- 2. In His Heavenly Vision!
 - 3:32-33 "And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. / He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true!"
 - **IE:** One Of The Things I Do Like About Social Media Platforms Like Facebook Is That I Get To See Things That I Wouldn't Otherwise Get To See! I've Never Been To Alaska, But I Have An Former Classmate Who Lives There, And Posts Some Of The Most Beautiful Pictures From There! And Through Those Pictures I Get To See What She Sees! My Eyes Can Go To Where Her Eyes Have Gone! In A Sense Her Vision Becomes My Vision!
 - But The Most Beautiful Things Are Not Earthly Realities, But Heavenly Realities!
 - So How Can We See Them? How Can We Know Them? Only Through:
 - The Revelation Of Christ!
 - According To 3:32a The One Who Came From Heaven:
 - Did Something For Us!
 - "And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth!"
 - Jesus Came To Reveal:
 - The Glory And Beauty Of Heaven:
 - To Earth-Bound People Like Us!
 - He Came To Reveal:
 - The Heavenly *Things:*
 - That He Had Seen:
 - With His Own Divine Eyes!
 - "Things" That We Could:
 - Never See With Our Own Earthly Eyes!
 - Because He Dwells "In The Light Which No Man Can Approach Unto!" (1 Timothy 6:16)
 - Also Jesus Came To Reveal:

- The Heavenly *Truths:*
 - That He Heard:
 - With His Own Divine Ears!
- "Truths" That Were Discussed:
 - Within The Eternal Counsels Of The Godhead!
- And If You Want To Know:
 - About Those Beautiful, Heavenly Things:
 - Jesus Is The Only One Who:
 - Can Testify & Tell You About Them!
 - He's Seen Those Heavenly Things & Heard Those Heavenly Truths:
 - Because He's From There!
- And His Heavenly Vision:
 - Is Far Superior To:
 - Any Other Vision You Might Ever Get:
 - In This World!
 - But Sadly What Do So Many People Do With:
 - His Revelation? See Next:
- The Rejection Of Christ!
 - 3:32b "And no man receiveth his testimony!"
 - So Even Though Jesus Is Revealing:
 - Wonderful Heavenly Things:
 - "No Man Receiveth His Testimony!"
 - John Told Us Something Similar:
 - Back In 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not!"
 - What Sad Words!
 - This Is Even True, Sometimes:
 - For Those Who Believe In Christ!
 - We May Hear:
 - **Some** Of His Words:
 - But Do We Hear:
 - All Of Them?
 - Not Just With Our Ears:
 - But With Our Hearts?
 - We May Heed:
 - **Some** Of His Words:
 - But Do We Heed:
 - All Of Them?
 - "No Man Receiveth His Testimony!"
 - This Is Why We Need To Ask The Lord To:
 - Open Our Eyes:
 - That We Might See!
 - Open Our Ears:
 - That We Might Hear!
 - Open Our Hearts:
 - That We Might Receive And Believe In The Testimony Of Christ More And

More!

- And When The Lord Is Pleased:
 - To Answer Our Plea Then There Can Be:
- The Reception Of Christ:
 - That John Tells Us About Next In:
 - 3:33 "He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true!"
 - When You Realize That:
 - Jesus' Vision Of Things:
 - Is Far Superior:
 - Than Any Other Vision! And:
 - When You Receive:
 - His Testimony About Those Things:
 - Then You "Set To Your Seal That God Is True!"

- IE: Seals Were Used In Bible Times More Often Than Today But They Are Still Used Today
- For Important Correspondence! Used To Be Authorized To Notarize Documents & Do Signature Guarantees! Loved To Emboss The Seal!
 - But What Did It Mean? I "Set My Seal" Upon A Document Not To Verify The Contents But To Verify The Signature & Identity Of The One Whose Document It Was!
- So When You Believe In & Receive:
 - The Words *Of* Jesus Christ:
 - At The Same Time:
 - You Are Confirming & Certifying:
 - That All The Words About Jesus Christ:
 - Are True As Well!
- Belief In Jesus And His Testimony:
 - Goes Hand-In-Hand With:
 - Belief In God And His Testimony:
 - As Found In The Bible!
 - Because The Entire Bible:
 - Is God's Word About Jesus!
 - This Means That:
 - If You Don't Believe In:
 - Christ And His Words:
 - You Make God A Liar!
 - But If You Don't Believe In:
 - God And His Words:
 - As Found In The Bible:
 - You Make Christ A Liar!
 - 1 John 5:10 "He that believeth not God, hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son!"
- So What Will You Do:
 - With The Vision Of Christ?
 - And His Testimony About The Things:
 - He Has Seen & Heard?
 - Jesus Is Absolutely Superior:
 - In His Heavenly Vision!
 - And That Is Why:
 - He Is To Be Supreme:
 - In Everything To You!
 - Will You Reject His Vision?
 - Or Will You Receive His Vision?
 - Keep Looking To Jesus:
 - To See What You Need To See Most!
 - To Hear What You Need To Hear Most!
 - To Know What You Need To Know Most!
 - Because Any Other Vision Of Things:
 - Is Faulty! **IE:** Recent Phenomenon In Technology Deep Fakes! May Look Real & Sound Real! But Its Not Its Fake!
 - Jesus Christ Is Above All:
 - Because His Heavenly Vision:
 - Is Ever True!
- * Then We Also See In 3:34-35 That Jesus Christ Is Superior:
- 3. In His Heavenly Voice!
 - 3:34-35 "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure [unto him]. / The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand!"
 - According To This Verse:
 - Jesus Was Sent By God:
 - To *Speak* For God!
 - And Jesus Was Faithful:
 - In His Mission & With His Message!

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- And Now - You Can Listen To & Trust In:
                 - His Voice - Because Of:
- God's Infinite Supply:
        - To Christ!
                 - According To 3:34b - "For God Giveth Not The Spirit By Measure Unto Him!"
                         - In This One Verse - We Get A Glimpse:
                                  - Of The Mystery Of The Trinity!
        - Because - In This One Verse:
                 - We Have God The Father:
                         - Who Is The Sender!
                 - We Have God The Son:
                         - Who Is The Speaker! And:
                 - We Have God The Holy Spirit:
                         - Who Is Being Supplied By The Father To The Son!
        - And - This Unbroken Connection:
                 - Between The Father & The Son & The Holy Spirit:
                         - Ensures That Whatever Jesus Says:
                                  - Is So! It Is True!
                         - "For God Giveth Not The Spirit By Measure Unto Him!"
                 - Now - God Used Other Prophets:
                         - To Give Us His Word In The Past!
                                  - And - He Inspired Them Through The Holy Spirit:
                                           - But Only "By Measure!"
                 - But - When God The Father:
                         - Sent God The Son:
                                  - There Was No Such Limit!
                                          - IE: No Measuring Cup!
                         - So That Every Word & Even Every Act Of Christ:
                                  - Revealed Something About God To Man!
        - And - That's Why:
                 - The Voice Of Jesus:
                         - Is Superior To Any Other Voice!
                                  - Its Because Of God's Infinite Supply To Christ Of His Spirit!
                                          - But Its Also Because Of:
- God's Infinite Love:
        - For Christ!
                 - According To 3:35 - "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand!"
                         - And That Infinite Love & Trust Motivated Christ:
                                  - To Say What He Said & To Do What He Did:
                                          - Faithfully!
- So - Once Again:
        - Jesus Is Absolutely Superior:
                 - To Anything - In His Heavenly Voice!
                         - And That Is Why:
                                  - He Is To Be Supreme:
                                          - In Everything - To You!
        - Whose Voice Are You Listening To Most Today?
                 - Whose Voice Do You Trust Most?
                         - Whose Voice Is Supreme?
                 - There Are So Many Voices:
                         - That Are Trying To Get Your Attention!
                                  - In The News!
                                  - In Movies & TV Shows!
                                  - In Podcasts!
                                  - Even Well-Meaning Friends And Family!
        - Instead - Listen To The Voice Of Christ:
                 - More Than Any Other Voice:
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- That Is Out There!

- Because His Voice Alone:
 - Is The Voice Of The Triune God!
 - That Is The Will Of The Father, The Son, And The Holy Spirit:
 - Is Expressed In Every One Of His Words!
- And You Can't Go Wrong:
 - If You Listen To & Live According To:
 - His Voice!

Conclusion:

- 1. So Why Is Jesus To Be Supreme:
 - In Your Life?
 - Its Not Just:
 - To See How Many Five-Star Ratings There Are!
 - No Its Far More Serious Than That!
 - Jesus Is To Be Supreme:
 - In Your Life Because:
 - It Is A Matter Of Life And Death!
- 2. And That Is Why:
 - In The Last Verse Of John 3:
 - John Reminds Us Of The Hope:
 - That Jesus Offers:
 - When You Believe In Him!
 - As Well As The Hopelessness:
 - That You Are In:
 - If You Refuse To Believe In Him!
 - 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him!"
- 3. When You Believe In Jesus:
 - You Can Have Real Hope:
 - Because His Value & Vision & Voice:
 - Is Superior To Everything!
 - And Because He Alone Is Faithful & True!
 - If You Need This Hope And:
 - If You Want This Hope:
 - Then Let This Be God's Call To You!
 - Hear It & Believe In Christ!
 - Love Him! Look To Him! And Listen To Him!
 - And You Will Not Regret It!
- 4. But If You Don't Believe In Jesus:
 - Your Hopelessness Is Real Too:
 - Because "The Wrath Of God [Already] Abideth On You!"
 - In A Very Real Sense:
 - Both Heaven And Hell:
 - Begin Here On Earth!
 - It All Depends On:
 - "What Will You Do With Jesus?"
 - If You Don't Believe In Jesus:
 - Its Further Proof Of:
 - A Stubborn & Disobedient Heart!
 - And If You Find Yourself In This Hopelessness:
 - Then Let This Be God's Caution To You!
 - Because What You Do With Jesus:
 - Matters Now & For All Eternity!
- 5. But The Reason We Have These Verses:
 - Is So That You Will Believe & Trust In Jesus!
 - Because Of His Superior Value:
 - Jesus Alone Can Bring You To Heaven:
 - So That His Home Can Be Your Home!

- Because Of His Superior Vision:
 - Jesus Alone Can Show You:
 - "Great And Mighty Things, Which Thou Knowest Not!" (Jeremiah 33:3)
- Because Of His Superior Voice:
 - Jesus Alone Can Speak Into Your Ears:
 - "Words Of Life And Beauty!"
- 6. Since Jesus Christ Is Superior:
 - *To* Everything Trust In Him And:
 - Make Him Supreme *In* Everything:
 - In Your Heart & In Your Life!

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