

**Subject: Evidence That Demands a Verdict**

**Scripture: John 5:30-47**

I'm borrowing the title of this message from Josh McDowell's book which is an excellent defense of Scripture and the Christian faith. A survey in Great Britain revealed that 61% believe Jesus was a real, historical person, but only 22% believe He was God in human form. The entire Gospel of John was written to prove that Jesus is God's Son and the only Savior of the world. The purpose of John was to give convincing evidence so that we would believe in Christ and have eternal life.

The context of verses 30-37 is vitally important. This is part of Christ's answer to the Jews that hated Him (vs. 18-19). In verses 17-29, Jesus made some amazing claims that proved He is the Son of God, and then in verses 30-47, Jesus pointed to the testimony of many witnesses. All of these witnesses are in agreement that He is the Son of God and the Savior. This is evidence that demands a verdict.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST HIMSELF (vs. 30-31)**

Jesus never tried to conceal His identity or His mission. His testimony was clear and true, but they would not accept it because they thought it was unsupported testimony.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** *One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

**John 8:12-14** <sup>12</sup> *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* <sup>13</sup> *The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.* <sup>14</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.* The testimony of Christ Himself was rejected by most people, and it was received by few.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (vs. 33-35)**

The testimony of John was not for Christ's benefit, but for the benefit of others. John was the forerunner of Christ, sent to prepare people for Christ. His ministry was to give a clear testimony about who Jesus was and what He came to do.

**John 1:6-8** <sup>6</sup> *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.* <sup>7</sup> *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.* <sup>8</sup> *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

**John 1:29-34** <sup>29</sup> *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* <sup>30</sup> *This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.* <sup>31</sup> *And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.* <sup>32</sup> *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.* <sup>33</sup> *And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.* <sup>34</sup> *And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*

John not only testified about Christ, but Christ also testified about John (Jn. 5:35). He was a burning and shining light. Two things were true of John's ministry...heat and light. He preached truth, and he preached it with passion. The Gospel of John records one of the greatest tributes that could ever be given to a preacher, **John 10:41-42** <sup>41</sup> *And many resorted*

unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.  
<sup>42</sup> And many believed on him there. The testimony of John the Baptist was rejected by most people, and it was received by few.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES (vs. 36)**

The works refer to His miracles. These miracles attested to Christ's authority and identity as the Son of God. No other person could do the works that He did, as Nicodemus said (Jn. 3:2). We have seen three miracles so far: the water turned to wine (Jn. 2); the healing of the nobleman's son (Jn. 4); and the healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5). The word John used for miracle is "sign," a miracle with a message. The testimony of Christ's miracles was rejected by most people, and it was received by few.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF GOD THE FATHER (vs. 37-38)**

At Jesus' baptism, God the Father did two things to confirm the importance of that event: He sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove (a visible confirmation), and He spoke from Heaven (an audible confirmation). **Matthew 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: <sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. At the Transfiguration God the Father gave a verbal confirmation, **Matthew 17:5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. The testimony of God the Father was rejected by most people, and it was received by few.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE (vs. 39-47)**

This proves that in Jesus' day there was a group of writings known as "the scriptures" or the writings. The Jews were obviously aware of these Scriptures. Paul says this was the greatest blessing of the Jewish people, **Romans 3:1-2** <sup>1</sup> What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. The Jews claimed to love and believe the Scriptures, but actually they had no love for Jesus and would not believe in Him (vs. 39-40). What was the problem? They honored and respected the religious teachers more than they honored and respected God.

They had the greatest respect for Moses, but they had no respect for Jesus. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. How was it possible to love Moses and reject Jesus? They did not study the Scripture and submit to the authority and teachings of Scripture. They did not believe it and apply it. Jesus put His words and the writings of Moses on the same level. If you don't believe his writings, how can you believe my words?

We find a parallel in **Luke 16:19-31**, where Christ spoke of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar. What was the big mistake of the rich man? What was the danger of the rich man's five brothers? They failed to hear and heed the Scriptures. The testimony of Scripture was rejected by most people, and it was received by few.

The Scriptures not only testify the truth about Christ; they testify against all those who reject that truth. The Bible is not only our greatest blessing; it is our greatest threat. All the people who reject Christ are without excuse.

Think about all this testimony: the testimony of Christ Himself, of John the Baptist, of Christ's miracles, or God the Father, and the testimony of Scripture. These are all credible witnesses, powerful witnesses, true witnesses, and still yet many rejected Christ and few received Him. The people who reject Christ will not come to Him that they might have life (vs. 40). They will not believe in Him because they are more concerned about receiving honor from men instead of honor that only comes from God (vs. 44).

How awful is the sin of unbelief. Christ has come to seek and save the lost, but lost people choose to reject the truth and believe a lie. John Flavel, one of the great Puritans, said: "Oh how men act as if they are in love with their own ruin. They accept a cure for anything but their own souls."