

Pt 19 Christ Is Better, John Exalts Christ – John 3:31-36

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 3:31-36

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.

32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

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.

If you remember last time we looked at where he said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” We looked at 5 points concerning John and his ministry:

- 1) John’s ministry and preaching was not about himself; it was about Jesus.
- 2) John did not compete with others in the ministry.
- 3) John praised others and not himself.
- 4) John was a man of prayer.
- 5) John wanted to exalt Jesus and not himself.

After John points people away from himself and toward Jesus, he begins explaining the difference between himself and Jesus. He lists 5 things that proves Christ is greater than he was:

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.

1. **Christ is greater because He comes from Heaven - He that cometh from above is above all:**

- a. There could be no greater preacher than Jesus because He’s the only One that originated in Heaven. All other men and preachers originated from the earth - *he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth*.
- b. Men on earth could not speak with direct authority on things in Heaven because they have never been there. Therefore, earthly men speak of earthly things. I can only tell you of things I have experienced and things that are written down in the Bible. But I’ve never been to Heaven, I’ve never sat on the right hand of the Father – but Jesus has and does; therefore - *he that cometh from heaven is above all*.

32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

2. **Christ is greater because He has first-hand knowledge - And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth.**

- a. Jesus testifies of the truths which he personally has seen and heard from God the Father.
- b. Sadly, most men would not receive him, as John says in the last part of **verse 32: and no man receiveth his testimony**.
- c. While some men did receive his testimony, as a whole, Jesus was rejected. **John 1:10-11** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

- d. The fact is, Jesus came here to earth to do the Father’s will. Listen to what he says to the Jews who were asking about him:

John 6:35-40

35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

36 **But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.**

37 **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

38 **For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

39 **And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**

40 **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

3. **Christ is greater because His testimony always agrees with God’s. - He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.**

- a. Any man who believes in Christ and receives him as their savior, has believed in the promises of God concerning salvation, because the testimony of Christ agrees with God’s.
- b. Paul writes about the believer being sealed in his letter to the Ephesians: **Ephesians 1:13-14** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.

4. **Christ is greater because he receives the full Spirit of God, and it is not limited. - for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.**

- a. Though God gives each of us His Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit, we are limited by measure.
- b. No man, besides Jesus, has every had the unmeasured Spirit of God upon him; not the Prophets, the Apostles, the Preachers, the Deacons, or the Laymen. We are all somewhat limited. But Jesus received the full Spirit of God without measure.
- c. Listen to what Jesus said in **Matthew 11:27** **All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**
- d. Also, when Jesus was in his own hometown in the Synagogue where he grew up, he read from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1) concerning himself: **Luke 4:18-19** **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

If you remember after he taught that day, the people became very angry and tried to kill him by throwing him off a cliff. This is another example of how they would not receive him as their Messiah.

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

5. **Christ is greater because God has made Him Sovereign over all.** - The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

- a. The sovereignty of Christ refers to His supreme authority and control over all creation. It encompasses His divine power, rule, and dominion over everything in heaven, on earth, and beneath the earth. As the Son of God, Jesus Christ is not only our Savior and Redeemer but also the rightful King and Ruler over all.
- b. Throughout the Bible, we see proof of Christ's sovereignty.
 - i. He exercises authority over nature, calming storms and walking on water (Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-33).
 - ii. He demonstrates authority over sickness and disease, healing the blind, raising the dead, and restoring the broken (Matthew 9:27-30; John 11:38-44).
 - iii. He exercises authority over evil forces, casting out demons and delivering people from bondage (Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39).
- c. We also see Christ's sovereignty in Spiritual matters.
 - i. He is the head of the Church, His body, and He governs and directs His people according to His perfect will (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - ii. He exercises authority over the salvation of individuals, drawing them to Himself and granting them eternal life (John 6:37-40).
 - iii. He judges the living and the dead and will reign forever as the righteous Judge (2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 19:11-16).
- d. It is obvious that none of us are sovereign. John the Baptist, as great as he was, was not sovereign.

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.

This last verse is both a blessing and a curse. A blessing for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but a curse for those who do not.

The decision to believe or not to believe in Jesus Christ has eternal consequences. Believing in Him assures us everlasting life, and a life filled with His abundant grace, love, and presence.

On the other hand, rejecting Christ leads to separation from God and provokes His righteous wrath.

People like to dwell on God's love, grace, and mercy but don't like to speak of his righteous anger toward sin and rebellion. Listen to what the Hebrew writer wrote:

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The Psalmist also writes about God's anger toward those who rebel against Him.

Psalms 2:1-5

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

It is important to remember that God's righteous anger is the opposite from human anger. Human anger results from selfishness, pride, revenge, and a lack of self-control. But God's anger is always righteous, just, and pure.

God's righteous anger is a manifestation of His perfect justice and holiness. It is His just response to sin and rebellion, rooted in His love for righteousness. While God's anger is fierce, it is always tempered by His mercy and grace. Through Jesus Christ, we find deliverance from God's wrath and experience His love and forgiveness.