

The Gospel of John Part 24: The Witnesses of Truth Concerning Jesus (Part 1)

John 5:31-47



John 5:31-47 "If I alone bear witness about Myself, My witness is not true. 32 "There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the witness which He gives about Me is

true. 33 "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 "But the witness I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 "He was the lamp that was burning and shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 "But the witness I have is greater than the witness of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish – the very works that I do – bear witness about Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 "And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. 43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the only God? 45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

A timeless question rings out in every generation and constantly demands an answer: what is truth? In every generation humanity sets forth in different ways to answer that question so that we might gain knowledge and understanding. Well, that question is never more important than when we apply it to the person of Christ. How can we know that Jesus is who He says He is? How can we know that Jesus will do what He says He will do? The answer to that question is fully given by Jesus Himself, and He offers for us today four reasons why we can know He is truth, and two reasons why people refuse to believe. The truth of Christ is revealed through four witnesses:

1) The Testimony of John Bears Witness to the Truth. John the Baptist was a man, called and equipped by God, to prepare and point the people of God to their Messiah. John carried with him a credible testimony that flowed from a life devoted to God. The church today is called to pick up John's ministry in the world to prepare and point the sinner to the Savior. Jesus reveals that even in a culture today that demands a "pragmatic" view of truth, or a truth that is practically beneficial, there is no greater benefit available to humanity in the truth that Jesus saves the sinner.

2) The Works of Jesus Bears Witness to the Truth. Jesus was not a man who said He could do something and then never showed that to the people. Rather, Jesus did the works that only God could do and proved with His miracles that His word was true. In other words, Jesus's miracles appeal to the human sentiment that "seeing is believing." In our culture today, many will not believe something unless that thing "corresponds" to reality. Meaning it can be observed, measured, and tested. When Jesus healed the sick, those people became walking and talking demonstrations of His truth in the here and now. The Christian today is a walking and talking demonstration of the truth of Jesus in the here and now. A transformed life, that can only be explained by the miraculous work of Jesus, is a powerful testimony in the world that bears witness to the truth concerning Christ.