

The Gospel of John Part 25: The Witnesses of Truth Concerning Jesus (Part 2)

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?"

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 of devotion 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 than the truth that Jesus saves the sinner.

2) The Work of Jesus Bears Witness to the Truth. Jesus did the works that only God could do and proved with His miracles that His word is true. 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 physical demonstrations of His truth in the here and now. The Christian today is a physical demonstration of the truth of Jesus in the here and now. The transformed life of the Christian bears witness to the truth of Christ.

3) The Voice of God the Father Bears Witness to the Truth. God the Father, the One who sent Jesus into the world, is the One who established firmly the credibly and trustworthiness of Jesus; His word and His works. In the days of Christ, God the Father spoke from heaven to the people declaring Jesus as the beloved Son of God. In our day, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and bears witness to the truth of Jesus as the voice of God in the world. When God's voice speaks in our heart we are to listen to Him.

4) The Words of Scripture Bears Witness to the Truth. The Bible, from beginning to end, is one great testimony from God concerning the person Jesus. The Scriptures are God's special revelation to humanity that reveals His character, His nature, and His purposes, all of which find their perfect fulfillment in Christ. In our culture today some will evaluate truth by its "coherence." That means the claims, arguments, and propositions are internally consistent and rational. The Bible, though written by over 40 different authors, and over the course of 1,500 years, is consistent concerning the truth and maintains a perfect coherence.