

Gospel of John

“So that you may believe”

Today's Message: John the Baptist's Last Testimony
(Concerning Jesus)

Theme : “He Must Increase; I Must Decrease ”

Today's Scripture: John 3:22-36



The Witness Concerning
“He must Increase; I must Decrease”
John 3:22-36

Review

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

I. The Context — vs. 22-24

A. After these things

B. Jesus and His disciples have moved

1. near Jericho & the fords of the Jordan River
2. the disciples were baptizing

C. John the Baptist is also still baptizing —

1. in Aenon, near Salim
2. there was much water



GALILEE

SEA OF GALILEE

● **Bethany Beyond the Jordan (North)**

Salim ●

● **Aenon**

SAMARIA

JORDAN RIVER

JUDEA

Jerusalem ●

● **Jericho**

WILDERNESS OF JUDEA



● **Fords of Jordan
Bethany Beyond the Jordan (South)**

DEAD SEA

9.5 MI
8.5 KM

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The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

II. The Conversation & a Heart of Humility vs. 25-28

A. A disagreement between — vs. 25

1. a Jew &

2. the followers of John the Baptist

B. The complaint against Jesus — vs. 26

C. A heart of humility — vs. 27-28

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

III. The Illustration of a Wedding — vs. 29

A. The One who has the bride-

> Is the Bridegroom

B. The Friend of the Bridegroom is —

1. the one who stands —

2. the one who hears him —

3. the one who rejoices greatly at his voice —

C. His job, my joy is complete / made full

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

IV. The Declaration – vs 30

- A. of the authority and sovereignty of Jesus
- B. “He must increase, but I must decrease”
- C. for us a preventive measure against pride, envy & jealously
 - 1. by not seeking self but obedience to Jesus
 - 2. by rejoicing in people coming to know Jesus as their LORD & Savior

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

V. John's Last Testimony vs. 31-36

- A. Regarding the Superiority & Supremacy of Jesus Christ
- B. He who comes from above is above all

William Barclay -

“If we want information about a family, we will get it firsthand only from a member of that family. If we want information about a town, we will get it firsthand only from someone who comes from that town.

So then, if we want information about God, we will get it only from the Son of God; and if we want information about heaven and heaven's life, we will get it only from him who comes from heaven.”

Philippians 2:5-11 -

⁵ “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness
of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled
Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death
on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and
bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that
at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in
heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every
tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.”

Hebrews 1:1-4 -

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”

Hebrews 1:10 -

*“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the works of Your hands; ¹¹ They will
perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a
garment, ¹² And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a
garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, And
Your years will not come to an end.”*

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V. John’s Last Testimony vs. 31-36

- A. Regarding the Superiority and Supremacy of Jesus Christ –
- B. He who comes from above is above all
- C. He (Jesus) bears witness to what He has seen and heard. Yet no one receives His testimony – vs. 32
- D. He who receives His testimony has set his seal to this that God is true vs 33

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Romans 10:8-10

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

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- C. He (Jesus) bears witness to what He has seen and heard. Yet no one receives His testimony – vs. 32
- D. He who receives His testimony has set his seal to this that God is true vs 33
- E. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God
vs 34a

John 7:16 *“My teaching is not Mine but His who sent Me.”*

John 14:10b *“The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative; but the Father abiding in Me does His works.”*

John 14:24b *“the word you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”*

John 12:49-50 *“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore, the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”*

John 17:3 *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

John 17:8 *“For the words which You gave Me, I have given to them, and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You and believed that You sent Me.”*

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease”

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V. John's Last Testimony vs. 31-36

➤ Regarding the Superiority & Supremacy of Jesus Christ

A. He who comes from above is above all

B. He (Jesus) bears witness to what He has seen and heard. Yet no one receives His testimony – vs. 32

C. He who receives His testimony has set his seal to this that God is true -vs 33

D. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God vs 34a

E. He gives the Spirit without measure – vs. 34b

1st Corinthians 6:19-20 “ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”.

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- C. He who receives His testimony has set his seal to this that God is true vs 33
- D. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God vs 34a
- E. He gives the Spirit without measure — vs. 34b
- F. The father has given all things into His hand — vs. 35b

1st Timothy 2:5 -

*“For there is one God, and one mediator
also, between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”.*

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

VI. Two Alternatives - vs 36

- A. By disbelieving in God's Son, Jesus, you will not see life but
> the wrath of God abides on you vs 36b

The Witness Concerning “He must Increase; I must Decrease” John 3:22-36

Spurgeon -

“He who does not believe may think that his not believing is a very small business; but indeed, it is a barbed shaft shot against the Deity of Jesus Christ God’s Son”.

Whitfield – “When He was preaching, it’s said often he would hold up his hands and with tears streaming down his cheek, would exclaim, Oh the wrath to come! the wrath to come! Then he would pause because his emotions checked his utterance.”

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Merrill Tenny -

“The wrath of God does not mean a sudden gust of passion or a burst of temper. Rather, it is the settled displeasure of God against sin. It is the divine reaction to moral evil, the reaction of righteousness to unrighteousness. To reject the Son is to reject His gift — eternal life. You can’t tell Him, “I’ll take the gift but reject You.”

Barclay writes—

“It’s not that God sends wrath upon him (the sinner); it is that he brings that wrath upon himself.”

Matthew Henry writes -

“The words of Jesus were the words of God; he had the Spirit, not by measure, as the prophets, but in all fulness. Everlasting life could only be had by faith in Him and might be thus obtained; whereas all those, who believe not in the Son of God, cannot partake of salvation, but the wrath of God for ever rests upon them.”

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VI. Two Alternatives - vs 36

- A. By disbelieving in God's Son, Jesus, you will not see life but
> the wrath of God abides on you vs 36b
- B. By believing in Jesus' death, burial, & resurrection, you
will have eternal life.

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1st John 5:11-12

“...and the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the son of God does not have life.”

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APPLICATION

What is the attitude of your heart after receiving such a gift
as eternal life?

Is Christ uppermost in your life?

Are you Joyful and Thankful that you are not just a friend of the
Bridegroom but are a part of the Bride of Christ, His Church?

“Living for Jesus” *by Thomas Chisholm*

Living for Jesus a Life that is true
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Chorus

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne,
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace;
Such love constrains me to answer His call
Follow His leading and give Him my all.

Chorus

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne,
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone

Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

Chorus

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne,
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.