

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### TIMING (JOHN 3:22-24) BAPTISM

At this point in the chapter, John (the disciple) has already shared why John (the baptizer) was baptizing. But now we see that Jesus' disciples were baptizing too.

- **Contextually and logically, Jesus' disciples continued the water baptism that John had initiated. Jesus would bring a new Holy Spirit baptism later.**

### CONTENTMENT (JOHN 3:25-30) COMPETITION

John's disciples had gotten into a "discussion" about baptism and its purpose. This conversation apparently sparked more talk about John's ministry in light of Jesus' new popularity.

- **Many "believers" today see God working in other places and respond with exaggeration and resentment. We are NOT in a competition.**

### CONTROVERSY

John responded with conviction: All ministry and blessing come from God, so there can be no competition.

- **What his disciples saw as competition, John saw as completion. God has given abilities, gifts, and ministry to each follower for His purpose in their life.**

### COMPLETION

John understood his role as "the groom's friend." He made preparations in anticipation of the groom's appearance. The bride and the groom would soon be united.

- **We must understand that being "the Church" isn't the goal. People meeting, knowing, and following Christ is. We should "greatly rejoice" when they hear His voice. He must increase.**

### TESTIMONY (JOHN 3:31-36) FROM ABOVE

Jesus was not simply called from Heaven or empowered by Heaven: He came from Heaven.

- Being from the earth, John knew his own limits and only pointed to the one who was without limits. **Since Jesus came from Heaven, He represents the Father and is above all.**

### FROM JESUS

Because Jesus is from Heaven, He can speak with the supreme authority of heavenly things.

- **Jesus came and spoke truth about Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. To accept His testimony is to know He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

### FROM GOD

The Father sent Jesus. When Jesus speaks, God speaks. When Jesus gives, God gives.

- **When we reject Jesus, His words, and His gifts, we reject God. Faith and obedience will result in a new and eternal life (born again). Those who reject Christ will live in the wrath of God for eternity.**

### CLARITY

- The Christian life involves work.
- **Good works are not the goal.**

- **As we follow Christ, we will see God do many things through us and around us. Sometimes it will look different, but we should still recognize God as the author, and not us.**

### MOTIVE

- Not every church is the same.
- **The Body of Christ will work together to fulfill His plans and glorify God.**
- **As the Body of Christ, we are "the Church," but our function isn't to glorify the church. We should be rejoicing because Christ is adding to His body all around the world, and we get to see it with our own eyes.**

### MISSION

- We, like John, should tell who Christ is.
- **Christ testifies through His Word and the Holy Spirit who He is.**
- **Do we live as we believe Him? Unrepentance is unbelief. Disobedience is unbelief. To believe IS to follow Christ into the life He has for us.**