

WITNESSES FOR THE GLORY AND DEITY OF JESUS

John 5:30-47

If Jesus is not God, there is no Christianity. If Jesus is not God in human flesh, we have no hope! Our salvation, our forgiveness, and heaven itself is rooted in the Glorious Godhood of Jesus.

1. WITNESS #1 – JOHN THE BAPTIST – John 5:30-35

- In John 5 Jesus brings forth witnesses in this passage to His Deity, or Godhood. He acknowledges the need for more witnesses besides Himself. Anyone can claim anything, but are there witnesses to back it up? This was important in the Old Testament and is still important in law today— Deuteronomy 19:15.
- Jesus' first witness to His own glory is John the Baptist. John pointed to the One coming after him, who was greater than he was – John 1:6-8; 25-27, 29,30. If John was a burning and shining light, they should have continued to seek WHO he illuminated – Jesus! Jesus declares He is not dependent on humans for testimony about Him, but He wants them to recall John's witness "so that they may be saved" – verse 34. John pointed people to Jesus as the true Lamb of God. This should have led them to seek and trust Jesus like John and Andrew.
- Application: We are witnesses for Jesus. We like John are to point people to Jesus – "*as one beggar telling another where to find bread.*" – D.T. Niles. "*Happy, if with latest breath I may but gasp His name: Preach Him to all, and cry in death, 'Behold, behold the Lamb.'*" – Charles Wesley.

2. WITNESS #2 – THE WORKS OF JESUS – John 5:36

- But Jesus has more witnesses than John who testify to Him. The miracles of Jesus pointed to God working in and through Him – John 5:20; 10:24-26. The Father is testifying to the glory of Jesus in the works Jesus does. Jesus will do greater works than healing this paralytic man. He will raise the dead, He will finish the Father's work at the cross, and rise Himself from the dead – John 17:4. Jesus told His disciples that the signs He did bore witness to His glorious Deity – John 14:10,11.
- Application: Jesus' glory is seen in how He lived and what He did. The gospel of John was written to present Jesus and His miraculous signs so that we would believe in Him and have life! – John 20:30,31.

3. WITNESS #3 – GOD THE FATHER – John 5:32, 37-38

- God the Father in His perfect union with His Son witnesses to Jesus as His own unique Son by working in and through Him in perfect harmony. The witness of the Father is true – verse 32. Jesus says the Jewish leadership does not really know God, they have never seen Him, and do not "really get" or understand His Word. Only Jesus has seen the Father – John 6:46. They don't get God's Word because they don't see it pointing to Jesus!
- The Father is seen and revealed in the Person of God the Son – John 1:18. The Father is glorified when people honor Jesus – John 5:23.
- Application: We only honor God the Father when we honor Jesus the Son.

4. WITNESS #4 – THE WORD OF GOD, THE SCRIPTURES – John 5:39-47

- Jesus rebukes the Bible scholars for failing to see the Bible points to Him! They missed the message of the Bible! Scribes trafficked in God’s Word – they counted every letter, they knew how many words were in each section, they wrote out the Books, etc. They had their noses in the Word, but they did not see the main points of God’s Word. They thought Torah itself was “life.” Rabbi Hillel said “...*More Torah, more life...whoso hath gained the word of the Torah, hath gained for himself life in the world to come.*”
- Why couldn’t the scribes and Pharisees see the glory of Jesus in the Scriptures? 1. Their attitude: they thought Bible knowledge is an end in itself. They knew facts about the Bible, but not the message of the Bible – verse 39. “*The Bible is not an end in itself, but a window through which we can learn marvelous truths about God and Jesus Christ.*” – Kent Hughes. 2. Their interests: worldly credentials and worldly power/political power – verse 43. For example, Rabbis Akiba endorsed Simon Bar Kochba as Messiah in the Jewish revolt in A.D. 132. 3. Their motive: their own glory – verse 44. The scribes and Pharisees desired their own self-glorification. They wanted to be known as scholars, noted rabbis, etc. in the eyes of their peers. They failed to see Scripture is all about God’s glory, especially in His Son Jesus.
- Jesus declares that the Law of Moses will stand as a prosecuting witness condemning them in the judgment – Deuteronomy 31:26, 27; Luke 16:31. The whole Law prophesied and pointed to Jesus the Messiah – Luke 24:27; 44-45. All the sacrifices point to Jesus – Hebrews 9:22. Jesus is the Ultimate Passover Lamb. Jesus fulfills all the offices of the Old Testament as the Ultimate Prophet, the Ultimate Priest, and Ultimate King. The Law is fulfilled in Jesus and by Jesus – Matthew 5:17; Romans 10:2-4. The Law points directly to Jesus, beginning in Genesis - Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 49:10. The Prophets witness to Christ – Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53:5-7, 9.
- Application: Beware treating God’s Word as a textbook for head knowledge, or getting lost in minutiae. Seek Christ in the Bible. Seek His transformation of your life – Psalm 19:7-11, 14; 139:23, 24. Immerse yourself in the Word by letting it speak to your heart by the Holy Spirit. Read Scripture to know God better, and to know His will. Don’t miss Jesus as the main point of the Bible! We must open God’s Word “*with sincerity...with diligence...with humility...and with prayer*” – Richard Philips, John.

Concluding Applications:

- Have you trusted in Jesus, God in human flesh, as your only Lord and Savior?
- What witnesses did God use to lead you to trust in Jesus?
- Are you seeing Jesus as the Center and Focus of the Bible?
- Does your daily life, as well as your words, witness to the glory of Jesus?