

He Must Increase

John 3:22-36

1. John's _____ witness. (vv. 22-30)

- So, without the Gospel of John, we would not know that there was a period of several months when Jesus and John the Baptist were ministering _____, Jesus in Judea and John in Samaria.
- John the Baptist's disciples got _____ for him. (vv. 25-26)
- Jealousy that comes from _____ with others is a sin.
- And this is exactly John the Baptist's _____. (vv. 27-30)
 - Receiving a _____ is no cause to boast or be proud. It is a glory to the Giver, not the receiver.
 - They needed to remember God's Word in the midst of their _____, as do we.
 - John the Baptist is like the _____ at a wedding where Jesus is the Bridegroom.
 - John's job as the Jesus' best man was to bring the faithful remnant of Israel, depicted in the Old Testament as the _____ of the Lord (Isa. 54:5-6; 62:4-5; Jer. 2:2; 31:32; Hos. 2:16-20), to the Bridegroom.
 - Finally, John the Baptist summarized the whole picture into a _____ for his disciples: He must increase, but I must decrease.

2. Jesus' _____ witness. (vv. 31-36)

- Commenting on what has come before, John wants to re-emphasize four things:
 - Jesus came from _____ and is totally pre-eminent. (v. 31)
 - Jesus is an eyewitness to heaven and speaks the _____. (vv. 32-33)
 - Jesus has _____ from the Father. (vv. 34-35)
 - Jesus brings either eternal _____ or eternal _____. (v. 36)

Calvary Connection Group
Discussion Questions for the week of Feb. 11, 2024

Getting to Know Me

- For breakfast, do you prefer toast, biscuits, or muffins? Why?
- What country where you have not been would you most like to visit? Why?

Into the Bible

- What one thing stood out to you in this week's sermon as something important to understand and apply?

- What do you think is the difference between common human jealousy that is a sin (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3) and godly jealousy? (Hint: See 2 Cor. 11:2; Ex. 20:5; Deut. 4:24)

- What do the following verses tell us about Israel, God's bride in the Old Testament? (Isa. 54:5-10; 62:3-5; Jer. 2:2; 31:31-34; Hos. 2:16-20) What should this tell us about our role as the Bride of Christ? (Hint: See Rev. 19:6-8)

- Verse 36 contains John's only use of the word "wrath." It is a consequence of disobeying God's command to trust in Jesus for our salvation. But other New Testament writers use the word. What do the following verses tell us about what causes the wrath of God? (Rom. 1:18-23; 2:5-8; Eph. 2:3; 5:3-6; 1 Thess. 2:14-16)

Application

- What has tempted you to either be sinfully jealous or caused you to experience someone else's sinful jealousy in the past? How did you deal with that temptation or sin?

- Humility is both one of the most important attitudes for the Christian, and one of the hardest to achieve and maintain. We should always be seeking it, but realize that we will never totally attain it (because once we think we have it, we have lost it). What kind of situations have caused you to struggle with humility the most in recent years?