**The Gospel of John:**

**Witness to the Deity of Christ, pt 2**

*John 5:30-40*

**Context**

* The theme of Jesus’ response to the Jews (vv17-47) is His clear claims to be God. He is Divine.
* No one can be saved who does not believe that Jesus is God.
* He is the only means of salvation from our sins and eternal damnation (Jn 14:6)
* His own testimony is in vv17-30
* The Father’s testimony of the Son is in vv31-40 and is given in 3 ways:
  1. The messenger: JTB
  2. The miracles of Jesus
  3. The Scriptures

To validate one’s claims, it required multiple witnesses (Duet 19:15). Jesus validates His claims from the One who gives the greatest testimony—the Father Himself (v32). The way in which the Father has given testimony is both from a point in time (JTBs testimony and Jesus’ miracles) to longstanding and ultimately an eternal perspective (God’s Word via the Scriptures recorded through Moses and the prophets). It moves from the “lesser to the greater” in how it’s presented.

**John 5:30-40**—*I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.* ***31****“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.****32****There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.* ***33****You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.****34****But the testimony which 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 was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.* ***36****But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.* ***37****And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.****38****You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.****39You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;******40****and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.*

**3 ways the Father verifies Jesus’ claim of deity**

1. **JTB: the Father’s messenger heralding the Messiah**

**John 5:33-35***—You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.****34****But the testimony which 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 was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.*

1. John’s mission was to prepare the way for the Messiah
2. The people identified JTB as a prophet being sent from God
3. Jesus rebukes the leaders for refusing to believe JTBs message  
   1. John was a lamp—a small, portable oil lamp; He lit the way to Jesus
   2. Jesus is the light—the essence of light; He is the source of light
4. As great as JTB’s testimony was, there was a far superior testimony   
   1. John pointing to the coming Messiah
   2. He called the people to repentance
   3. He called them to bear fruit in keeping with repentance
   4. He was baptizing as a sign of purging from sin
   5. His call to right living eventually brought about his death
5. **Works: the Father’s deeds accomplished through Christ**

**John 5:36-38**—*But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.* ***37****And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.****38****You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent*

1. Never had they seen such works performed
2. Jesus did only the works which the Father had given Him to do

Not only were His works supernatural; they were also in keeping with God’s exact wishes. Yet, despite Jesus’ incredible works—unmatched by anyone else (15:24) and unexplainable outside of God’s power—there were many who still rejected Him (cf. 1:11).[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. The Father affirms the Son  
   * + 1. @ the baptism of Jesus
       2. @ the transfiguration
2. In spite of all that, they refused to believe because they did not have God’s word abiding in them
3. They give evidence of their hypocrisy since those who reject Christ cannot know the Father
4. Conversely, loving the Son is loving the Father

**1 John 5:9-10**—*If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.****10****The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.*

1. **Scripture: The Father’s writings regarding Christ**

**John 5:39-40**—*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;****40****and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.*

***You search****—*used in other literature of a lion prowling after its prey; wild dogs tracking game; it later came to mean investigate

* + 1. The sacred writings point to Jesus (**John 1:45; Luke 24:27, 44; Revelation 19:10**)\*

**John 5:45-47**—*Do not think that I will accuse you before 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?”*

**Luke 16:29***—But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’*

**Luke 24:25-27**—*And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!****26****Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”****27****Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

**Luke 24:44**—*Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

* + 1. In all their efforts to search the Scriptures, they were unwilling to come (**John 1:11: 3:19**)

**1 John 5:9-10**—*If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.****10****The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.*

1. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John 1-11, p. 210.

   \*See Insert—Christ in the OT [↑](#footnote-ref-1)