

I. Opening Thoughts

- A. No one can bear witness to themselves; in the court of law, you cannot bear witness to your witness
- B. The world was on trial before Jesus, not Jesus before the world
- C. John demonstrates Jesus' innocence by and the world's guilt by parading before the readers a multitude of witnesses who bear witness to Christ's true identity.
- D. This section of John's Gospel presents a "trial", hence the words "testimony" and "bear witness", "receive", and "believe"
- E. There are four who bear witness to Christ: John the Baptist, Christ's works, God the Father, and the Scriptures,

II. Bearing Witness

- A. Bearing false witness was strictly forbidden by God – Exodus 20:16
- B. In OT law, witnesses had to be validated, not through hearsay – Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15
- C. Jesus' Lordship was validated not by Himself, but by credible witnesses

III. Witnesses

- A. John the Baptist – vss. 32-35
 1. John 1:6-8, 15, 29-34
 2. "Burning and shining lamp" indicates John's ministry was a dim reflection of the true light
 3. Jesus did not need John's witness; He did it for their sake because they knew John
 4. As Believers, does our light burn for Jesus?
 5. John 3:30
- B. Jesus' works – vss. 35-36
 1. Miracles have been cheapened in our secular and church culture. The biblical purpose and functions of miracles is to authenticate that the messenger is sent from God. On the contrary, Satan cannot perform miracles. He performs counterfeit tricks. He cannot make something out of nothing.

2. The works of Jesus do not prove that Jesus is God; God gives Jesus the power to perform miracles in order to bear witness to the Son. God authenticated Jesus as an agent of revelation. In essence, Jesus is saying, "my works ought to be enough to prove to you that I am the One that the Father sent". He is not saying that by doing His works He is proving that He is the Son of God; rather, God is authenticating His identity – R.C. Sproul

3. John 3:2; John 7:31; 10:25, 37-38; Matthew 11:1-6

4. The miracles of Jesus were witness to His deity and messiahship. His miracles fulfill a purpose

5. John 20:30-31

C. God the Father – vss. 37-38

1. John 8:18; Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22

2. Israel in the wilderness heard God's voice, but this current generation did not – Deuteronomy 4:12

3. These people had the Word, but the Word was not in them

4. The Word became flesh was standing before them, yet they didn't see Him

5. The people are rejecting God's testimony by rejecting Jesus

D. The Scriptures – vss. 39-47

1. All of the Scriptures point to Jesus; We can read the Scriptures and still miss Christ

2. Search the Scriptures for Jesus; don't read the Bible for your own personal fulfillment

3. Luke 24:27

4. Some people accept false teachers because they tell them what they want to hear. Israel's tendency was to do this

5. Why don't people believe? Vss. 41-44

- a. They refuse to come

- b. They do not love God

- c. They receive false teaching

- d. They desire human approval

6. The Scriptures bore witness to Christ through Moses – Numbers 21:9; Deuteronomy 18:15; Luke 16:31