



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 3:31-36  
From Sermon 6.11.23

Read *John 3:31-36*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: After an extended time away from this blessed book, we returned to John's Gospel. In the setting of our mock courtroom, John the Baptist has been called back to the stand. This will conclude his personal testimony in the series. He is teaching his remaining disciples (and all future readers) that God's plan is playing out perfectly to His glory. All eyes and ears should be on Jesus.

1. Throughout the opening three chapters, and concluded here, John is making it clear that Jesus Christ is supreme. Read each verse and note some of Israel's spiritual leaders that people were trusting in.

- *John 3:26*—John the Baptist
- *John 4:11-12*—Jacob/Israel
- *John 7:42*—David
- *John 8:39*—Abraham
- *John 9:28*—Moses
- *Matthew 23:2-3*—The Scribes and the Pharisees

2. Christ is supreme because He is the Author, not an agent, a biographer, or a messenger. (*John 1:1-2*). Discuss John's point that, although many spoke/wrote infallibly for God, Jesus' testimony is still greater.

1) Every human agent was only given a portion of God's revelation. Often, even they didn't understand the full meaning of what they wrote. (1 Peter 1:10-12) Jesus knew/knows all things. 2) Every human agent was sinner in need of grace. Their testimony could be questioned—by man—because credibility is damaged by sin and inconsistency (Isaiah 6:5). Jesus is fully holy and sinless. Every word is truth. 3) They only had an inspiration by the Spirit and were empowered only for their assigned ministry. Jesus was full of the Spirit without measure—to the point of prophecy, knowledge, spiritual vision, & power over nature (Hebrews 1:1-4).

3. What was the ironic evidence of Christ's supremacy mentioned on Sunday? That fact that He was rejected by both Israel and the world. This is the historic pattern of all mankind rejecting the Light and grace of God. See *John 3:19-20* & *Acts 7:51-53*.

4. What are some of your personal thoughts and observations about John the Baptist?

4a. Have you learned anything new about him in our study of John's Gospel?

5. In verse 35, John states: "*The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.*" What does this mean and which component does today's church hate and reject? Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. This means He is both sovereign in His rule and is the minister of both grace (elect) and wrath (non-elect). The doctrine the church hates is that Jesus will be the Judge, Jury, and Executioner of all who reject Him.

6. Pastor Skip taught us about the fate of the Apostles and their unwavering faith. What was the fate of John the Baptist—this greatest human who ever lived? Like all credible, damaging witnesses, the enemy has him silenced. At the request of his niece/stepdaughter, Herod had John beheaded.