

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 3:22-30

The Baptist's Final Testimony

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²²After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea; and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. ²³Now John also was baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there; and people were coming and being baptized— ²⁴for John had not yet been thrown into prison.

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THE CONTEXT

I. Introductory Remarks and Resurgence of the Baptist

- *Our author wants to substantiate the claims he has made thus far about Jesus through the testimony of John the Baptist*
 - a) Jesus is the Savior of the World
 - b) Jesus Inaugurates the Anticipated Messianic Age

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²⁵There arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

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THE CONFLICT

II. A Misplaced Loyalty

- *The disciples of John the Baptist's misunderstood the ministry of their teacher and wrongly gave their allegiance to him*
- How easy is it to fall into the temptation to be enamored by the messenger and miss the Messiah?

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²⁷John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' ²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the groom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. ²⁵He must increase, but I must decrease.

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THE CLIMAX

III. A Perfect Reply

a) John's **Perspective**

- *John's ability to resist competitive comparison comes by his understanding of God's sovereignty*

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THE CLIMAX

III. A Perfect Reply

b) John's **Purpose and Pleasure**

- *John's pleasure was not in popularity but in his purpose fulfilled by the present-ness of the promised Messiah*

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THE CLIMAX

III. A Perfect Reply

c) John's **Plea** - "*He must increase but I must decrease*"

- *John's plea is that Christ be magnified and he be minimized*

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