

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 5:31-39**.
“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. **39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;
- B. Jesus was confronted with a small problem. He knew that if he alone bore witness of Himself that His witness would not be true (5:31). Ex.: Just because I say that I am a sky-diver doesn't make me one.
- C. So, in the text, He gives four witnesses that are true.

I. THE FIRST WITNESS: **JOHN THE BAPTIST** (Jn. 5:31-35).

- “If I *alone* bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony which He bears of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. But the witness which I receive is not from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.”
- B. John the Baptist had a two-fold message:
 - 1. The kingdom is near (at hand).
 - 2. Behold, the Son of God.
- C. John never pointed to himself as the X (Jn. 1:19, 36).
This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” **36** and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”
- D. We are saying, “God is not true” if we reject the witness of John the Baptist (Jn. 3:32-33).
What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. **33** He who has received His testimony has set his seal to *this*, that God is true.

II. THE SECOND WITNESS: **THE WORKS OF JESUS** (Jn. 5:36).

- A. John wrote these things in his gospel account so we might believe (Jn. 20:30-31).
Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- B. Jesus had works which showed power over time, disease, gravity, death, the elements (weather), quality, and quantity.
- C. It is easier to believe the miracles than is the explanation against them (the Swoon Theory).

III. THE THIRD WITNESS: **THE FATHER HIMSELF** (Jn. 5:37-38).

- A. At least 3 times in the scriptures we hear or see of God's approval of Jesus:
 - 1. At Jesus' baptism (Mt. 3:17).
...and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”
 - 2. At Jesus' transfiguration (Mt. 17:5).
While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”
 - 3. God glorified Christ, at Jesus' request (Jn. 12:28).
“Father, glorify Thy name.” There came therefore a voice out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”
- B. God only need say something once to make it true.
- C. Man cannot desire any greater witness than God.

IV. **THE FOURTH WITNESS: THE SCRIPTURES** (Jn. 5:39).

A. The OT is a “finger pointing to X.”

B. Jesus said the OT spoke of Himself (Lk. 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.”

C. Phillip was able to use the OT and teach about X (Ac. 8:35).

And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

D. We can start anywhere in the OT (after Gen. 3:15) and teach Jesus. Every OT book has a purpose.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. By these four witnesses (John the Baptist, Jesus’ works, God Himself, and the OT Scriptures) we have more than ample proof and information showing Jesus to be the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

B. Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.