

John 3

Part 6

John The Baptist Continues To Speak

John 3:31-36

- Some believe these words were spoken by John the Baptist.
- Others believe John the apostle wrote these words about Christ.
- Others believe these are words spoken by Jesus Himself.
- It is very difficult to be absolutely sure, but the truthfulness of these words is not changed regardless of which one of these wrote or spoke them.
- It seems best, not certain, to regard these words as a continuation of John the Baptist's discourse. (Jn. 3:27-30).
- John the Baptist certainly knew Jesus was from above and was God's Son.
- He had baptized Jesus in the Jordan river, and heard God proclaim Jesus as His Son. (Matt. 3:13-17).

Matt 3:13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan {coming} to John, to be baptized by him.

Matt 3:14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Matt 3:15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit {it} at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

Matt 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove {and} lighting on Him,

Matt 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

- He recognized Jesus as "the Lamb of God." (Jn. 1:29, 36). The definite article "the" precedes "Lamb" in both verses. Jesus is not "a lamb of God," but He is "the Lamb of God."
- He had a very high conception and understanding of Jesus as expressed in John 3:27-30.

John 3:27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

John 3:28 "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.'

John 3:29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease.

"He Who Comes From Above"

John 3:31 "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

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1. Jesus came from heaven and was with the Father "before the world was." (Jn. 17:5). See Jn. 1:1-3; 8:58; Heb. 1:2.

2. Jesus, the One coming from heaven, is above all - angels, men, lower creation.

3. He is the One who has “all authority.” (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 17:2).

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

John 17:2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

4. Christ is now exalted at God’s right hand and is reigning as King.

John 3:32 "What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

1. Jesus testified concerning what He had seen and heard in heaven from the Father.

2. “No one receives His testimony” means the vast majority.

3. It is obvious from the gospels and all the New Testament that some, not the majority, did receive Christ.

4. The book of Acts records the rapid growth of the early church. (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14).

5. The next verse shows some “received His testimony.” (Jn. 3:33).

John 3:33 "He who has received His testimony has set his seal to {this,} that God is true.

1. The one accepting the testimony of Jesus “has set his seal to {this,} that God is true.”

a. The Greek “sphragizo” [sfrāh **gee** zoh] meaning “seal” was a common metaphor for giving attestation. (Jn. 6:27).

John 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes [only], but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

b. Those who accept Jesus’ testimony recognize He was approved by God.

2. God is faithful and has always done exactly what He promised.

3. It is impossible for God to lie or break a promise. (Heb. 6:18).

4. One who is Eternal, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent is able to keep all His promises.

5. One who is absolutely holy cannot break His promises. (Jas. 1:13). His perfect character will not permit it.

“He Who God Has Sent”

John 3:34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit [to His Son] without measure.

• Believers do not possess the Holy Spirit in the same way Jesus did. (Eph. 4:7).

Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

1. Jesus did not speak His own words, but He spoke “the words of God” His Father.

2. Jesus had “the [Holy] Spirit without measure.” NIV has “without limit.” A literal translation reads like this “for not by measure He gives the Spirit.”

a. Others had a measure of the Holy Spirit.

1) The apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4).

Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

2) Many of the early Christians received miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit by laying on of the hands of the apostles. (Acts 8:17; 19; 19:6). Many of these spiritual gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. (1 Cor. 12::4-11, 26-31). They could not impart miraculous gifts to others as the apostles did.

3) All Christians have a non-miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13,14; 1 Jn. 4:13).

b. **As earlier noted Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure.**

1) He had unlimited power as demonstrated by His miracles that even included raising the dead, walking on water, stilling storms.

2) He spoke only the words of God.

3) This fact is strongly emphasized by the Hebrew writer. (Heb. 1:1, 2).

Heb 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Heb 1:2 **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

“The Father Loves The Son”

John 3:35 "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

1. The Father has an immense love for His eternal Son.

a. This love is later stressed in John 5:20.

John 5:20 "For the Father **loves** the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and {the Father} will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

- b. It is interesting that the Greek “phileo” [fee **leh** oh] is used in John 5:20, but the word “agapao” [ah gah **pah** oh] is used here showing the words are often synonyms.
 - c. There is no real evidence that “phileo” denotes an inferior love as it is used in the Scriptures.
 - d. Both words manifest that God had the highest possible love for His beloved Son.
 - e. It is impossible to understand or remotely comprehend how much love God had for His Son, and how much it hurt Him to see His Son suffering a painful and shameful death on the cross.
2. He “has given all things into His hand” manifesting His great love for His Son.
- a. He has given His Son “all authority in heaven and on earth.” (Matt. 28:18).

1) Similar affirmations of Christ’s authority are found in Matthew 11:27 and Luke 10:22.

Matt 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal {Him.}"

Luke 10:22 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal {Him.}"

- b. It is important to stress Jesus always did the Father’s will. (Jn. 4:34; 6:38; 8:29).
- c. One day Jesus will turn His kingdom back to the Father and yield to Him all authority. (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

1 Cor 15:24 then {comes} the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1 Cor 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

1 Cor 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1 Cor 15:27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

1 Cor 15:28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

- 1) Paul affirms at the end of time Jesus will hand over the kingdom to God, the Father.
- 2) He also makes it clear that “all things” being under Jesus’ authority did not include God.
- 3) At the end of time Jesus will submit all things to the Father including Himself. (1 Cor. 15:28).

“He Who Believes In The Son”

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

1. The one believing “in the Son has eternal life.”

- a. “Eternal life” is sometimes spoken of as a present possession. (Jn. 3:36; 6:47; 1 Jn. 5:11,13).

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- b. It is sometimes spoken of as future possession. (Mk. 10:29,30; Lk. 18:29,30; Tit. 1:2; Rom. 8:24; Matt. 19:29; 25:46; Rom. 2:6,7; Tit. 3:7; 1 Jn. 2:25).

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,
Mark 10:30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

Luke 18:29 And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,
Luke 18:30 who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."

Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Rom 8:24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he {already} sees?

Matt 19:29 "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

Matt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Rom 2:6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

Rom 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to {the} hope of eternal life.

1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

- c. The Christian now has "eternal life" with certain prospect, that is, with full assurance. (1 Jn. 5:13).

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- 1) The Christian has assurance of eternal life and enjoys even now rich blessings from Christ. (1 Jn. 5:13; Eph. 1:3).

- 2) It will not be until the coming of Christ and the resurrection that the Christian will enjoy eternal life in heaven.

"He Who Does Not Obey The Son"

2. The one who rejects the Son and His authority will not enjoy eternal life with God, "but the wrath of God abides on him." (Jn. 3:36).

- a. God is a God of love. (1 Jn. 4:8; Rom. 5:8).

- b. He can also be a God of wrath. (Matt. 3:7; Rom. 11:22; Heb. 10:31).

3. Salvation is only in Christ. (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12).
4. Salvation comes to those who obey Christ. (Heb. 5:9).

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