

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for September 27-28, 2003**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"The Basic Essentials of Witnessing"**

**John 1:29-34**

What are the basic essentials highlighted in John 1:19-34 that must characterize an effective witness for Christ?

The first basic essential that characterizes an effective witness for Christ is humility (John 1:19-28).

The second basic essential that characterizes an effective witness is an accurate portrayal of Christ (John 1:29-34).

John the Baptist accurately portrayed the work of Christ in John 1:29.

The work of Jesus according to the testimony of John the Baptist was to take away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist tries to help them understand how Jesus could take away the sin of the world by referring to Him as the "Lamb of God."

The animal sacrifices brought by the Jewish people did not take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4).

Though animal sacrifices brought by the Jewish people did not take away sin, God's Lamb did (Hebrews 10:5-10).

John the Baptist not only accurately portrayed the work of Christ but he accurately portrayed the person of Christ (John 1:30-34).

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John the Baptist accurately declared Jesus to be the Son of God (John 1:34).

John the Baptist and Jesus were family (Luke 1:36).

John the Baptist had a personal conviction that Jesus was the Messiah prior to the baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:13-14).

When John the Baptist said that he "did not recognize" Jesus, he is saying that his personal conviction had been officially confirmed by a certain specific supernatural sign.

The certain specific supernatural sign that John the Baptist had been waiting for was the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at His baptism (John 1:31-33).

John's baptism pictured the removal of sin in preparation for the King, but the baptism of Jesus in the Holy Spirit pictures the bestowal of new life in God.

If it is only God who can put the Holy Spirit in our heart and it is only God that can baptize in the Holy Spirit. Then what does this make Jesus? God!

Are you prepared to accurately paint a picture of the Son of God offering Himself up as God's Lamb in order to take away the sin of the world?