

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for April 3-4, 2004**

**"The Witness of Christ"**

**John 3:31-36**

The Apostle in John 3:31-36 is giving us his reflections on the conversation between John the Baptist and his disciples in John 3:22-30.

The reflections of the Apostle explain to us why it is necessary for people such as John the Baptist to respond positively to Christ.

The Apostle first of all reflected on the heavenly origin of Christ.

The reason why Jesus, the incarnate Word, must increase while the Baptist must decrease is because Jesus alone is from above and therefore above all.

The Greek word for "earth" conveys the idea of being finite and limited.

When John tells us that those who are of the earth speak of the earth he is saying that their personal experience had been limited to the earthly sphere.

The Apostle secondly reflected on the witness of Christ (John 3:32-36).

He tells us that Christ bears witness of what He has seen and heard (John 3:32).

He tells us that people in general do not receive His witness (John 3:32).

He tells us that the people who receive His witness testify that God is true (John 3:33-34).

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When we receive the witness of Christ we are communicating, like a seal would communicate in antiquity, that Christ's witness are the very words of God.

The Spirit being given to Christ without measure guarantees the truth of Christ's words.

He tells us that how a person responds to the witness of Christ will determine how God will respond to them (John 3:35-36).

Of all the things that God has placed in the hands of His Son, the one thing that appears to be uppermost in the mind of John in this context would be the gift of eternal life.

The witness of Christ would not be seen by the world as a simple statement of fact, but rather as Christ Himself calling them to act.

The wrath of God indicated a settled indignation that will negatively impact not only how the person lives in the here and now but also in the hereafter.

How will you respond to the witness of Christ?