

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for August 28-29, 2004**

**"Christ Calls Witnesses to the Stand"**

**John 5:30-38**

We have considered the alleged crime in John 5:1-9.

We have considered the initial investigation in John 5:10-15.

We have considered the decision to prosecute in John 5:16-18.

We are presently considering Christ's extensive defense against the religious Jews' charge, that He had been made equal with God.

-

He began this rather extended defense with a clear explanation of the nature of His equality with God (John 5:19-29).

Jesus continued His rather extended defense by listing certain witnesses that confirmed for these Jews the validity of all that He had said (John 5:30-47).

By changing from the third person to the first person in John 5:30, Christ in effect presented Himself before the court for examination.

The first witness that He called to support His claims was the Father Himself (John 5:31-32).

In John 5:31, I believe that Jesus said that if He bore witness of Himself without the corroborating witness of His Father then His witness would not be true.

In John 5:32, Jesus made it clear that He knew that He and His Father were saying the same thing and therefore He knew that what He said was true.

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

The second witness that Jesus called to support His claims was John the Baptist (John 5:33-35)

Though the religious Jews had at one time been enthusiastic about John the Baptist, their spiritual interest in him had waned (John 5:35).

The third witness that Christ called to support His claim was His works (John 5:36-38).

Jesus told the religious Jews that the works that the Father had given Him to do were a greater witness than the witness of John the Baptist.

When Jesus referred to works, He was not referring to miracles. He was referring to the whole of His life because the whole of Christ's life was a perfect expression of what He saw His Father doing.

The third witness, the witness of His works, then flows quite nicely into a very strong rebuke of His accusers in John 5:37-38.

The only people who can say that they have the Word of God abiding in their hearts are those people who have embraced Christ as the Son of the living God.

We can know that we have by faith embraced Christ if we see ourselves like Christ seeking to fulfill our God given mission.