

Jesus Is Above All
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John 3:30-36

He must increase, but I must decrease." He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

31-36 addresses why "He must increase"Jesus Christ's greatness and supremacy

- He alone worthy to be treasured above all things because He is above all.
 - Reason should believe in Him for salvation.

Heavenly origin gives Him superiority over all (2x) things. John 3:31, John 1:1 & 14, John 17:5

- Jesus is uncreated: existed before incarnation....dwelt eternally with Father.
 - Speaks of deity of 2nd person of Trinity: 1 God in 3 persons.

Because He is of heavenly origin, Jesus' testimony regarding heavenly matters is absolutely true because He's an eyewitness. John 3:32, 11

- Jesus Christ is God incarnate from heaven who knows everything from eternal omniscience and thus gives perfect and true testimony about all things.
- He testifies faithfully of heavenly truth, yet Jesus and his message are rejected.
 - "no one" Not literal but emphasizes world's tragic rejection.
 - Tolerance often simply thinly veiled rejection. i.e. Nicodemus

Universal rejection contrast with those who believe His divine testimony. John 3:33, John 1:11-12, 1 John 5:10

- Belief affirms truthfulness of God regarding entire Gospel.
 - Can't say God speaks truth and reject One whom God sent (39X in John).
 - To reject Jesus' testimony is to call God a liar.

Jesus Christ is God so His words are the words of God and He has not only heavenly authority but all authority/rule. John 3:34-35, Ephesians 1:20b-22, Matthew 28:18a

- Because He is above all for all eternity everyone's eternal destiny hinges on believing in Jesus Christ.....John 3:36
 - Not become condemned; continue in condemnation.
 - Full fury of wrath in eternal conscience punishment.
 - Aim of preacher/everyone... preach all of Word. Offensive/difficult doctrines.
 - Without wrath ultimately immoral god. Salvation of little significance.
 - Unloving not to preach whole Gospel to lost. Penn
 - Challenge: Who you share faith/invite to LEFC?

Jesus Christ and gracious gift of salvation He brings are greatest treasures in entire universe.

- He who has Jesus has (present) eternal life. John 3:36, John 20:31, 1 John 5:11-12
 - Eternal life begins at moment of spiritual rebirth.

Invitation goes from believing to obeying.....faith and conduct linked and inseparable.

- Genuine saving faith is obedient faith. Matthew 7:21; Titus 1:16a; James 2:26; 1 John 2:3
 - False faith claims to believe, but denies by disobedience.
 - Good works/obedience can't save, but evidence of saving faith.
 - None obey perfectly, but general pattern is obedience to Jesus Christ.
- Saving faith produces fruit of good works (observable transformation) by grace thru abiding in Jesus Christ....This how Jesus increases. Colossians 1:9-14, John 15:4-5, 8
 - Pursue with Holy Spirit's empowerment to be like Jesus Christ in thoughts, words, deeds.

“Why” should Jesus increase and we decrease: because He alone is worthy to be treasured above all things because He is above all. J. C. Ryle

- Jesus Christ is incomprehensible, invincible incarnate God from heaven.
 - When Jesus increases in our lives...God is glorified and our joy complete.