
Bearing Witness to the Light

John 1:6-8

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

In John 20:31, the Apostle John gives us the purpose of this gospel when he says, “these things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” And Jesus has already described that “life” when he says in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” So as we dig deep into the gospel of John, may it strengthen our belief, for in doing so we will know abundant life.

This week we are looking at the first introduction to the other John, the one we usually refer to as John the Baptist. What I find very interesting is the placement of these verses. Why would the Apostle interrupt his explanation of Christ as the Word and the Light to speak about John the Baptist? The wording seems to flow so nicely from verse 5 to verse 9. What is the point of this interruption? I think John Piper has it right when he concludes that the Apostle intended this interruption to make a very important point. That point is that by God’s design, the Gospel would be brought to the world through human beings. We have been given the great privilege and responsibility of bearing witness to the light. And with that privilege and responsibility comes a warning.

1. The Great Privilege of Bearing Witness to the Light (v.6)
2. The Great Responsibility of Bearing Witness to the Light (v.7)
3. The Great Warning in Bearing Witness to the Light (v.8)

Discussion Questions

1. What word is repeated most in these three verses? What does that tell us about the emphasis of the Apostle?
2. Why would we say that it’s a great privilege to bear witness to the light?
3. What are some of the ways in which a person might bear witness to the light?
4. Why would we say that it is a great responsibility to bear witness to the light?
5. What are some of the examples from the life and death of John the Baptist that would help us understand what it takes to live a life of bearing witness to the light?
6. What do we see in verse 7 is the goal of our witness?

7. Why do you think it was necessary for the Apostle to make it clear that John was not the light?

Going Deeper

1. It is clear from these verses and other places in Scripture (John 15:26-28; John 20:19-21; Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8) that bearing witness to Christ (giving testimony or making disciples) is the very mission of our lives. How are you doing in this mission? What changes do you need to make to bring your life into alignment with Christ's mission for you?
2. With whom is God calling you to share His Gospel? What is your plan for that?