

## How Can You Know?

In our last study, we observed the enormous claims that Jesus Christ makes about Himself: He is one with the Father, He is the key to eternal life, and He will come to judge all humanity in the Last Day. When such large claims are being made—claims that have huge implications for our lives—we always seek verification and validation for such claims. In our text today, Jesus offers just that.

### John 5:30-47

**30** “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. **31** If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. **32** There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. **33** You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. **35** He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. **36** But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. **37** And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, this form you have never seen, **38** and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. **39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, **40** yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. **41** I do not receive glory from people. **42** But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. **43** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. **44** How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? **45** Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. **46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. **47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

- I. **Jesus presents irrefutable testimony that He is the Messiah, the Son of God (vv. 30-39)**  
 Jesus Himself testifies that these things are true, but He explains that a man's unaccompanied testimony is not sufficient according to the Scriptures (see Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Numbers 35:30). Furthermore, although the testimony of John the Baptist is very powerful and saving to those who will believe, his is merely a human testimony and thus insufficient to prove the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus, therefore, explains that there is “another” whose testimony is deemed valid by all. That testimony is from none other than the Father Himself. This testimony can be seen in the works He gives Jesus to do (v. 36) in His voice by His Spirit speaking in our hearts (v. 37), and through the Scriptures (vv. 38-39), which the Jewish leaders systematically misinterpret. Nothing but the testimony of God Himself can validate the being of God. (see this same principle with respect to the Scriptures in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 1, Paragraph 5).
- II. **Jesus explains why human beings do not believe (vv. 40-44)**  
 Jesus describes His detractors in several ways: 1) they do not have His word in their hearts, 2) they do not understand the Scriptures, 3) they do not love God, 4) they are easily deceived, and 5) they seek praise from men instead of from God. This is quite an indictment!
- III. **Jesus explains the consequences of rejecting Him (vv. 45-47)**  
 Jesus says to the unbelieving Jews that the very one they are trusting, Moses himself, is the one who will accuse them in the Last Day because Moses spoke of Jesus Christ. (see Luke 24:27, 44; John 1:34; 3:14; 8:56; Acts 26:22; 28:23; 1 Cor. 10:4; Hebrews 11:23-26; 1 Peter 1:10-12.)

How can we be sure to seek the glory of God rather than the glory of other human beings?  
Simply this: receive the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Messiah, and Savior of the World.

**Discussion Questions**

1. This text confirms the witness to Jesus Christ. Why is that an important issue for us?
2. Who is the ultimate witness to Jesus Christ? How do we obtain and benefit from his testimony?
3. How can we strengthen our assurance that Jesus really is the Messiah, the Savior of the world? If we are certain of His lordship, how does that change our lives?
4. How does Jesus describe those who reject the valid testimony to Jesus? What parallels do you see in the lives of those who are rejecting Him today?
5. What are the consequences of rejecting the Father's testimony about Jesus? (see verses 45-47).

**Going Deeper**

1. In what circumstances are you most inclined to seek the praise of fellow humans rather than the praise of God?
2. What is the key that would move you to seek His praise alone?