

John 3:31–36

³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

³² And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

³³ He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

³⁴ For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

³⁵ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

“What Will You Do With Jesus” John 3:31-36

INTRO:

As John the Apostle closes out this third chapter, he gives us a divine editorial summary of what we need to know about Jesus. To the Apostle John it is vital that we understand that all of this that he has recorded is more than a historical narrative. There must be a response in our lives to the record that he has presented. We might ask John, *“Why is it so important that we take this historical Jesus so seriously?”* He answers in two ways.

First, it is important because of who He is. He is God incarnate in human flesh. The Son of the living God has come and dwelt among us! Second, it is vitally important because of the consequences of listening to Him. The consequences are eternal in nature. We need to pay attention to Him because . . .

I. He Is God (v. 31, 34-35)

II. The Consequences of Listening to Him (v. 32-33, 36)

I. He Is God (v. 31, 34-35)

A. The first reason why we must listen to what the Lord Jesus said in this chapter is because of who He is.

“He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.”

1. The apostle underlined the most important point. Jesus is from above.
Remember what Jesus said in **John 3:11-13**.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”

We must understand that Jesus is God with us.

2. To make this point the Apostle underlined the origin and authority of our Savior as contrasted with the origin and authority of John the Baptist. Jesus is ***“from above.”*** As this new birth that Jesus talked about has its source in heaven, so also did Jesus come from heaven. Because Jesus is from heaven, we know He is over all. He speaks from a position of ultimate authority.

3. Lest we miss this point, The Apostle repeats it in **verse 35**,
“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.”

What are these ***“all things”*** the Apostle speaks about? Here the Apostle anticipates several things he will write about later. It is clear that one thing that the Father has given to the Son is the right to rule over the creation He made. The Apostle’s point is we must listen to the Son of God because He is God with us. The Apostle has already told us in **John 1:18**,

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

This is God the Son declaring who God is and His plan for the ages. Listen to Him!

B. Because He is God the Son, He speaks the Father’s words.

v. 34 *“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.”*

We need to listen to the Words that He says because they are God’s Words.

1. I think of a song I like to play on my guitar and sing. ***“For the words Thou speakest / they are life indeed/ living bread from heaven/ now my spirit feed.”***
The words Jesus spoke are not just conveyers of ideas. They are the very words of eternal life.

2. In **John 6**, Jesus confronted the folks who ate the free lunch with the 5,000 and told them they needed to make a commitment to the truth that they have

heard. Most of them turned away and did not follow the Lord any more. We read there,

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’”

Bless his heart, Peter answered.

“Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

Peter also understood the power of the words that He spoke.

II. The Consequences of Listening to Him (v. 32-33, 36)

A. The Apostle told us we must listen to Him first, because of who He is. When God speaks we need to listen. Second, the Apostle said we need to listen to Him because of the consequences of listening to Him.

B. Our Apostle stated the consequences of listening to Him in two ways. First, he stated the present effect in **verses 32 and 33**. Second, he described the ultimate result in **verse 36**. Look at **verses 32 and 33**,

“And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.”

1. When the Lord Jesus bore testimony to eternal things, He did not speak as one who theoretically knew these things. He speaks as one who witnesses the eternal realities. Remember what He said to Nicodemus earlier in this passage? **vs. 10-11** ***“Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.”***

2. After stating this fact, our Apostle flatly observes, ***“No one receives His testimony.”*** We learn something of the language of the Bible here. If we take this statement in an absolute sense, then no one is saved. However, we know from the very next statement that some believe, just not many. Our Apostle’s point is not only few believe, but that most see the Lord Jesus as a liar, and thus God, the Father is a liar also. The first present consequence of listening to Jesus is that if we do not listen, we are calling God Himself a liar!

3. This implication comes into focus when we consider the other side of the present consequences coin.

“He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.”

Those who receive His testimony attest that God is true. We who believe in Christ, by our faith show that God Himself is true. This is why our faith in Christ brings glory to God.

4. There is a point here that we need to briefly apply. All through the New Testament we read how few will be saved. Remember that classic passage in the *Sermon on the Mount*?

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Do you sometimes feel like Elijah did? Do you think that you are the only one who has not bowed the knee to Baal? There have been other times in history when few acknowledged the Lord and yet, God still had a great work to do. Remember the first church? A handful of Christians would rock the known world for Christ. How about the Reformation? A monk named Martin Luther who changed the world. Don't give up hope, God is still powerful, and He can use us to change the world!

C. Having looked at the present consequences of listening to Him, we now turn to the ultimate result of listening or not listening to Him.

v. 36 *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

1. The negative consequence is for those who do not believe. Notice the unhappy folks spoken about here. They are not exceptionally evil people. We all would nod our heads in agreement if the murderers of this world, the terrorists, and the swindlers were found in this verse. The fact is, it is not great sin that places one under the wrath of God. We know of some who were great sinners who escaped God's wrath. Paul himself wrote:

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

2. If it is not the extremely evil people who are under this great penalty, who is it? It is all those who refuse to submit in faith to Christ Jesus. These are they who look at the greatest gift ever given and say, *“No, I will not have salvation in that way.”*

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

They do not want the Son. They do not want the love of God and they do not have to have it. That is their great sin. The ultimate consequence of not hearing Him is God's righteous wrath upon them.

3. The ultimate consequence of listening to Him and believing is also in this verse. ***“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life.”*** If you are believing, you have right now eternal life. Let me run to the end of the story in **John 17:1-3** ***“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”***

Eternal life is a life of quantity, it will never end. It is also a life of quality, it is a life filled with fellowship with the Living God.

What do we learn from this?

We need to ask ourselves, *“What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be. Someday your heart will be asking, What will He do with me?”*

My Saviour