



December 18th, 2016

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN | John 3:31-36

31 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. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 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.

John 3:31-36 ESV

INTRODUCTION

In John 3:31-36 Jesus is presented in at least three ways: 1) as coming from God, 2) speaking as God, and 3) ruling as God. In light of this, how we choose to respond to Jesus determines what we think about God. The one who rejects Jesus as coming from God, speaking as God, and ruling as God has determined in their heart that God is a liar, and therefore, the wrath of God remains on them. However, the one who receives Jesus as coming from God, speaking as God, and ruling as God has determined that God is true, and therefore, has eternal life. This is the synopsis of our text today.

I. FROM GOD

First, Jesus is presented as coming from above, from God the Father. (Verse 31)

John, the author, makes it clear to us that Jesus does not have his origin on earth, but with God in heaven. He is drawing a distinction between Jesus and everybody else. The point here is the same as in John 3:6 where Jesus said to Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." In other words, every single human being is fleshly, earthly, and natural. We are all completely void of supernatural life. Humanity is in desperate need of a new birth. Every single one of us falls into this category, except one - Jesus.

17 If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
ESV *Romans 5:17-19*

There are only two categories of people: 1) people under Adam and 2) people under Jesus. One is earthly, and the other is heavenly. Adam is the earthly federal head of the earthly human race. However, all who believe in Jesus have been clothed in his righteousness, and are now under Christ as the heavenly federal head of the heavenly human race.

Jesus does not share in Adam's sin, because he is not under Adam. Jesus is "from above". If the Son of God had not been sent "from above" we would all still remain in our sin and under the just wrath of God. Fortunately, Jesus is infinitely different from the rest of mankind.

II. SPEAKING AS GOD

Second, Jesus is presented not only as coming from God, but also as speaking as God. (Verses 32 & 34)

We must remember that whenever Jesus speaks he speaks as God. Verse 32 says that Jesus "bears witness to what he has seen and heard." And this Jesus is "the one who comes from above and is above all." So what Christ has seen and heard is exactly what he has seen and heard in heaven, or from God. When Jesus speaks he is literally speaking the words of God.

III. RULING AS GOD

Third, Jesus not only speaks as God, but he also rules as God. (Verses 31 & 35)

Verse 31 says that “he who comes from above is above all.” The phrase “above all” means that Jesus is above all things both in power and authority.

Verse 35 says, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.” All things are given by God into the hand of Jesus. To have something in your hand that has been put there by God means that you are in complete authority over it.

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:16- 17
ESV

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
Hebrews 1:1-3
ESV

CONCLUSION

When presented with Jesus, one person believes, and puts his seal on Jesus, claiming that God is true, and another person disobeys by refusing to believe on Jesus, and claims that God is a liar. (Verses 33 & 36)

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
1 John 5:10-12 ESV