

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“The pursuit of unmediated, mystical knowledge of God is unsanctioned by Scripture, and is dangerous in more than one way... Our access to the knowledge of the living God is mediated exclusively through Christ, whose death and resurrection reconcile us to the living God. To pursue unmediated, mystical knowledge of God is to announce that the person of Christ and his sacrificial work on our behalf are not necessary for the knowledge of God. Sadly, it is easy to delight in mystical experiences, enjoyable and challenging in themselves, without knowing anything of the regenerating power of God, grounded in Christ’s cross work.”

~D.A. Carson, *Themelios* 36.3, “Spiritual Disciplines”

“A person, seasoned with a just sense of the imperfections of natural reason, will fly to revealed truth with the greatest avidity.”

~David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

“For Herod had killed this good man [John the Baptist], who had commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, righteousness towards one another and piety towards God. For only thus, in John’s opinion, would the baptism he administered be acceptable to God... Now many people came in crowds to him, for they were greatly moved by his words.”

~Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “John’s Testimony to the Light” – *Pastor Ryan Bouton*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *John 1:19-34 (NASB)*

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And so they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE THE WAY OF THE LORD STRAIGHT,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

<sup>24</sup>And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup>It is He who comes after

me, of whom I am not worthy even to untie the strap of His sandal.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing people.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is He in behalf of whom I said, ‘After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.’ <sup>31</sup>And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” <sup>32</sup>And John testified, saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup>And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”