

I DON'T UNDERSTAND OR I WON'T BELIEVE?

Part Two
John 5:37-47

Introduction / Review:

1. The Testimony of John the Baptist (John 5:33-35)
2. The Testimony of the Works (John 5:36)
3. The Testimony of the Father (John 5:37-38)

A) What is Jesus referring to when He says, “The Father who sent Me has testified of Me.” (John 5:37a)

- > The time when the Father spoke audibly at Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:17)
- > That Jesus Himself is the testimony of the Father (John 5:37b)
 - This would line up with the emphasis in the Prologue (John 1:1-3, 18)
 - This would explain the statement in the last half of verse 37
 - This would explain the statement in verse 38

B) Jesus testifies that He is God the Son sent by God the Father to speak with the Father’s authority

- > Jesus said He was God (John 14:7-11)
- > Jesus accepted the accusation that He was God

Notice that Jesus is affirming that their charge against Him is accurate (John 5:17, 19-30)

Contrast Jesus’ response with two other occasions where people were treated as gods
Herod (Acts 12:20-23)
Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:8-15)

4. The Testimony of the Scriptures (John 5:39-47)

A) Clarifications

- > When Jesus says refers to the Scriptures, what does He have in mind?
- > The Scriptures are not an end in and of themselves, they are revelation

Mastering the data is not the objective

It is possible to have a high view of the Scriptures, search them carefully, and totally miss their significance

The danger of Bibliolatry – worshipping the Bible instead of its Author

* Amazing: In front of the religious leaders stands the embodiment and fulfillment of the Scriptures

The religious leaders just don't get it or do they? (John 5:40)

B) The Cause – Why do these religious leaders reject Jesus?

> They love to be honored by men (John 5:41, 44)

> They don't love God (John 5:42)

How big of a problem could this be? (Matt 22:34-40)

> These religious leaders, experts in the Scriptures, copious in their keeping of and enforcing the Law – don't love God and therefore refuse to believe His Son. (John 5:42-43)

They are content with the honor they receive from their peers

C) The Condemnation

> Jesus sets these self-righteous Jews up and now He lowers the boom

Don't think that I will accuse you before the Father (John 5:45a)

There is one who accuses you – whose authority you recognize – Moses (John 5:45b; Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

> Jesus confronts them with an option they would not like

IF you really believed Moses, you would recognize and believe Me. (John 5:46)

IF they refuse to believe Moses – who spoke for God, they will certainly refuse Jesus – who speaks for God. (John 5:47)

CONCLUSION:

1) The dangerous delusion of religious traditions that blind us to the truth

> We mistakenly believe that we are devoted to God and His Word

2) The dangerous delusion of confessing the authority of the Scriptures even though they condemn you

> I know and love God but do not love my brother
The Scriptures condemn you (1 John 3:16-19)

> I am saved because I believe in Jesus Christ even though I am not obeying Him.
The Scriptures condemn you (1 John 2:3-6)