

# The Gospel of John

Chapter 3, Verses 31-36

# Review

- General Introduction to the Gospel of John
  - one of the five ***Johannine*** books, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to be written
  - one of the four ***gospels***, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life
  - originally written in Greek ***to Jews and Gentiles***, including but not limited to those who had already accepted Christ
  - First read within the context of ***early Christian literature***, the ***Jewish Bible*** and ***other*** religious and philosophical writing.

# Review

- **Prolog (1:1-18)**
  - Jesus Christ was the Word become flesh (1:14).
  - “**Flesh**” emphasizes that Jesus was exactly what we are.
  - The “**Word**” (Greek, *Logos*) was what God was and did what God did from the beginning.
  - He is ***rejected by the world***, in general.
  - But he is ***the savior of all who receive him***.
  - ***Only*** those who receive him shall be ***children of God!***

# Review

- Jesus was revealed to Israel by ***John the Baptist*** (1:19-34)
- ***Disciples*** began to follow Jesus (1:35-51)
- Jesus did his ***first sign at Cana of Galilee*** (2:1-11)
- Jesus ***cleansed the temple*** in Jerusalem (2:12-22)
- Jesus performed ***signs in Jerusalem*** (2:23-25)
- Jesus told Nicodemus that ***a man must be born again in order*** to see the Kingdom of God and that ***whoever believes in the Son of Man may have eternal life.***(3:1-15)

# Review

- **John 3:16 --- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***
  - This important passage may continue the speech of Jesus begun at Verse 10 (e.g. ESV) or it may mark the beginning of six verse a commentary by the author (e.g. RSV).
- In either case, the narrative resumes in Verse 22 with a change in scenery, from Jerusalem to someplace in the Judean countryside where John the Baptist and Jesus' (other) disciples were baptizing.

# Review – Last Week's Lesson

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- John’s disciples noticed that many of the people who came to be baptized were going to **Jesus** instead of John.
- They brought this to John’s attention. (3:26)

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- They brought this to John’s attention. (3:26)
- John told them that this was exactly what **should** be happening (3:27), exactly what he had **expected** (3:28), and that he, John, was **happy** about this trend (3:29)!

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  - This important saying by John was a mark of his *greatness*.
  - It remains as an example for all time for everyone who does any kind of Christian “*ministry*.”
  - It also points to the difference and the relationship between Christ and every *Christian*.
  - I think these are the last words spoken by John the Baptist in this gospel (c.f. ESV, RSV) although some (e.g. NASB) see his speech continuing through Verse 36.

# John 3:31-36

**3:31** 上から来る者は、すべてのものの上にある。地から出る者は、地に属する者であって、地のことを語る。天から来る者は、すべてのものの上にある。

**3:32** 彼はその見たところ、聞いたところをあかししているが、だれもそのあかしを受けいれない。

**3:33** しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである。

# John 3:31-36

**3:34**神がおつかわしになったかたは、神の言葉を語る。神は聖霊を限りなく賜うからである。

**3:35**父は御子を愛して、万物をその手にお与えになった。

**3:36**御子を信じる者は永遠の命をもつ。御子に従わない者は、命にあずかることがないばかりか、神の怒りがその上にとどまるのである」。

# John 3:31-36

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.

<sup>33</sup> Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

# John 3:31-36

<sup>34</sup> For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

<sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

<sup>36</sup> 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

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  - Verses 31-36 may continue the speech of John the Baptist begun in verse 27.
  - But more likely this is a commentary added by the author.

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- In any case, this continues the comparison of John and Jesus and builds on the thoughts expressed in Verse 30 (i.e. that John must decrease while Christ must increase).
- John is great but cannot be compared to Jesus (Mt. 11:11).

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**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.

- He who comes from above is ... who?

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- He who comes from above is ... Jesus!
- He who is of the earth is ... who?

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- He who comes from above is ... Jesus!
- He who is of the earth is ... John



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- He who comes from above is ... Jesus!
- He who is of the earth is ... John, and all men.

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- He who comes from above is ... Jesus!
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- Jesus alone among all men is also God.

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- Jesus alone among all men is also God, the Word become flesh (1:14).

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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.}**

- The last three words in this verse (“is above all”) do not appear in every Greek manuscript.

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- The last three words in this verse (“is above all”) do not appear in every Greek manuscript.
- If they are set aside, “the first part of the sentence, “He who comes from heaven,” belongs with the next verse.

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Q. Who is “He?”



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- This teaching has been given previously in John and will be repeated elsewhere in John and throughout the Bible.

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- We understand from context that this is a figure of speech meaning ***almost (or initially)*** no one receives his testimony.

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- We understand from context that this is a figure of speech meaning ***almost (or initially)*** no one receives his testimony.
- Because we know that, by the grace of God, some people finally do receive his testimony.

## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、  
たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

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**Whoever receives his testimony** sets his seal to this, that God is true.

- Now we are asked to consider each person who finally **does** receive the testimony of Christ.



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A. Who he is.

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Q. What is his testimony?

A. Who he is.

A. What he does.

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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

Q. What is his testimony?

A. Who he is.

A. What he does.

A. What he requires.

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しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

Q. What does it mean to “receive His testimony?”

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A. To hear it, first of all

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A. Then to believe it.

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Q. What does it mean to “receive His testimony?”

A. To hear it, first of all

A. Then to believe it.

A. Finally to embrace it lovingly, to trust and obey him.



## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、  
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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

- What does this (“sets his seal”) mean?

## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

- What does this (“sets his seal”) mean?
- To acknowledge, affirm, bear witness....

## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, **that God is true.**

- To receive the testimony of Christ, is to acknowledge, affirm, and bear witness to the fact that “God is true.”

## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、  
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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true.**

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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

Q. What does it mean to say “God is true?”

A. Perhaps primarily that God is faithful.

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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true.**

Q. What does it mean to say “God is true.”

A. Perhaps primarily that God is faithful, which means, in part, that God exists and rewards those who diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

## John 3:33

しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

Q. What does it mean to say “God is true.”

A. More than that, it means that God is longsuffering and gracious towards even those who reject him (Rom. 5:8)!

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しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true.**

Q. What does it mean to say “God is true.”

A. Still more it means that God keeps all of his promises and remains eternally consistent with his own perfect character.



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しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

Q. What does it mean to say “God is true.”

A. Still more it means that God keeps all of his promises and remains eternally consistent with his own perfect character, which is both loving and just.

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しかし、そのあかしを受けいれる者は、神がまことであることを、たしかに認めたのである

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

- In sum, all of God's perfection shines forth in Christ and by receiving Christ and the salvation found only in him, God's perfection shines forth through us also.

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Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

- In sum, all of God's perfection shines forth in Christ and by receiving Christ and the salvation found only in him, God's perfection shines forth through us also.
- Remember Pastor Takeshi's light bulbs!

## John 3:34

神がおつかわしになったかたは、神の言葉を語る。神は聖霊を限りなく賜うからである。

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

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Q. Who is this?

A. Although God has sent others, here it is the testimony of Christ that is in view.

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For he whom God has sent **utters the words of God**, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

- Christ alone among men speaks the very words of God.

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For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, **for he gives the Spirit without measure.**

- Christ alone among men speaks the very words of God.
- This is because to Christ alone among men God has given his Spirit without measure.



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For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, **for he gives the Spirit without measure.**

- Christ alone among men speaks the very words of God.
- This is because to Christ alone among men God has given his Spirit without measure.
- I think this is the best of several possible readings of 3:34.

## John 3:34

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For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit **without measure**.

- The Spirit is given to each believer, but not to each in the same way and not to anyone, “without measure” (c.f. 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4:1-16).

## John 3:34

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- The Spirit is given to each believer, but not to each in the same way and not to anyone, “without measure” (c.f. 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4:1-16).
- Therefore, I think this statement can apply only to Christ.

## John 3:35

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- This supports what has been said previously.
- Other men have been given a certain measure of God's Spirit and sent to speak God's words among men.
- But among men, only Jesus has been given everything.

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- The Father and the Son are One.



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- The Father and the Son are One.
- Such gifts as we receive from the Father, in some sense, overflow to us from the Son.

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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.

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- He who truly believes in the Son, knows that God is true, loves the light, and hates the evil deeds done in darkness.

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- Eternal life belongs to such as these.

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- Disobedience proceeds from unbelief.
- Therefore death follows from disobedience.



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- God's wrath is removed from all who accept Christ.
- Those who reject Christ remain exposed to God's wrath.

# Reading Assignment

- Before next week, please read Chapter 4