

I. Introduction.

II. John completes his work as the forerunner of the Messiah. v. 15-20

- A. John continues to faithfully preach the gospel. v. 18 Isa. 40:9**
- B. John directs those who are receptive to seek Jesus. v. 15-17**
- 1. John's prophetic preaching raises the expectations of the people. v. 15 John 1:19**
 - 2. John points away from himself to Christ. v. 16-17 John 1:20-23,29 3:25-30**
 - 3. Jesus is superior in every way. v. 16 7:28 John 1:29 13:1ff Mark 10:45**
 - 4. Jesus brings a much greater baptism. Isa. 11:2 44:3 Ezek. 36:25-27 Joel 2:28ff Acts 1:5 2:1ff 1 Co. 12:13 Eph. 1:13-14 John 14:16f Rom. 8:16f Gal. 5:16ff**
 - 5. The coming of Jesus will result in fiery judgment. 2:34 3:9 12:49 17:26ff 2 Th. 1:7ff Mt. 13:24-30 25:41 Rev. 14:9-11 20:14-15 John 3:19-21 2 Pe. 3:7ff**
- C. Those who want to continue in their sin are hostile to John and his message. v. 19-20 7:30 9:7-9 20:3-8**
- 1. The Jewish leaders reject John's ministry. 7:30 20:3-8**
 - 2. John rebukes Herod Antipas for his gross immorality. 1:52 Lev. 18:16 20:21**
 - 3. Was it John's place to condemn the sins of a government official? Pr. 29:2**
 - 4. John is unjustly imprisoned and later executed. 9:7-9 Mt. 14:3-12**
- D. As Jesus' ministry begins, John passes off of the scene. 1:78-79 5:33 7:19-30 9:7-9 16:16 20:3-8 Acts 1:5,22 10:37 11:16 13:24-25 19:3-4 John 3:29-30**
- E. John is a great model for all who seek to serve the Lord. 2 Tim. 4:1-5**
- 1. He boldly proclaims the truth, including many unpopular themes. 2 Tim. 4:1-2**
 - 2. John is not a man-pleaser. Gal. 1:10 Prov. 29:25 2 Tim. 4:3-4**
 - 3. John points away from himself to Christ. John 3:29-30 2 Cor. 11:2 4:5**

III. The Spirit descends and the Father speaks at Jesus' baptism. v. 21-22

- A. The significance of Luke's account of Jesus' baptism.**
- 1. Jesus publicly undertakes His work as Messiah.**
 - 2. Luke places more emphasis on the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of the Father than the baptism itself.**
 - 3. Luke's account of Jesus' baptism is brief compared to the other gospels.**
 - 4. Jesus' baptism reveals the Trinity and refutes doctrinal errors (modalism). Eph. 1:3-14 2 Cor. 13:14 Mt. 28:19 1 Pet. 1:2**
- B. Why does Jesus need to be baptized? v. 21a Ps. 40:8 Heb. 10:7**
- 1. John's baptism was a baptism which signifies personal repentance, but Jesus is sinless. 3:3 2 Cor. 5:21 John 8:46 Heb. 4:15**
 - 2. Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Mt. 3:13-15 17:24-27 Gal. 4:4**
 - 3. Jesus publicly identifies with His people whose sins He will bear. 22:37 Isa. 53:12,4-6 Heb. 2:17 2 Co. 5:21 Rom. 6:3ff 3:24-25 Gal. 3:13 Mark 10:38**
- C. The Son prays. v. 21b**
- 1. Jesus prays often, especially at crucial points in His life and ministry. 5:16 6:12 9:18,28-29 11:1 22:32,42ff 23:34,46 24:30**
 - 2. For what is Jesus praying? 11:13 Acts 1:14 2:1ff**

3. Why does Jesus, the Son of God, need to pray?
 4. If Jesus had to pray, how much more ought we to pray? 11:1-13
- D. The heavens are opened. v. 21c 4:25 9:54 John 1:51 Ezek. 1:1 Acts 7:56 10:11 Rev. 19:11 Isa. 64:1 Mal. 3:10
1. God is revealing Himself in an extraordinary way. Isa. 64:1 John 1:14
 2. Jesus' ministry unites us to heaven. John 1:51 14:2-3 Eph. 3:12 2:18 1 Pet. 1:4
- E. The Holy Spirit descends upon the Son. v. 22a John 1:32 Mt. 3:16 Mark 1:10
1. The Holy Spirit takes the visible form of a dove. John 3:8
 2. Why does the Spirit take the form of a dove? Gen. 8:8 1:2 Mt. 10:16 11:29f 21:5 Isa. 43:2-4 Ps. 68:13
 3. Didn't Jesus already have the Spirit? 1:35 2:40
 4. The Holy Spirit anoints and empowers Jesus for His mission. 4:1,18-19 Acts 10:38 Isa. 61:1-2 Ps. 45:7 Zech. 4:6 Heb. 9:14 Rom. 1:4
 5. This is in fulfillment of prophecy. Isa. 11:1-2 61:1-2 48:16
 6. The Spirit will later come upon and empower Jesus' disciples. Acts 1:8
 7. Through Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit Who works in us. John 3:34 16:13-14 1 Co. 12:3,7,13 Gal. 5:22f Eph. 1:13-14
- F. The Father audibly testifies to the Son. v. 22b 9:35 John 12:28 1 Jo. 5:9-11 Dt. 4:12 Ezek. 1:25,28 Rev. 10:4 2 Pe. 1:18 Acts 11:9 Mt. 3:12 Mark 1:11
1. While others have affirmed that Jesus is the Son of God, the Father's testimony is conclusive. 1:35,41,43,76 2:11,30-32,38
 2. God the Father declares that Jesus is His unique beloved Son. 9:35 20:13 Ps. 2:7f John 12:27-28 3:16 1:14 17:23-26 Gen. 22:2,12
 3. Jesus did not become the Son at this time. He is eternally the Son. 1:35 John 1:1ff 17:24 Heb. 1:1ff
 4. God the Father is well-pleased with Jesus. Isa. 42:1 52:13-53:12 John 10:17 17:23 Pr. 8:30 Mt. 12:17-21
 5. Jesus is worthy of the Father's love and good pleasure.

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Because we are in Christ, we are beloved by God Who is well-pleased with us! Eph. 1:6 Rom. 1:7 John 3:16 Rom. 8:31-32
- B. Honor the Son by repenting, believing and being baptized. Ps. 2:10-12
- C. Honor the Father by doing His will. Mk. 3:35 Eph. 6:6 1 Th. 4:13 1 Pe. 4:2 1 Jo. 2:17
- D. With the help of the Spirit, love as you have been loved. Eph. 5:1-2 1 Jo. 4:19 Rom. 15:7 Ga. 5:22ff

Discussion questions

1. How is John a model for those who want to serve the Lord?
2. Should we, like John, call out the sins of our rulers? Why or why not?
3. How does Jesus' baptism reveal the Trinity? What doctrinal errors does this refute?
4. Why does Jesus need to be baptized?
5. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus?
6. What is the importance of what the Father says to Jesus?
7. What Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled at Jesus' baptism?
8. How can God be pleased with us?