

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CONTINUED ENDORSEMENT OF JESUS
(John 3:22-30)

- I. Interlude in RURAL Judea (John 3:22-24)
 - A. This period had a PURPOSE
 - 1. Jesus was spending TIME with His DISCIPLES
 - 2. They were BAPTIZING
 - B. It was simultaneous with JOHN'S ministry in Aenon
 - 1. People CONTINUED coming to John and being BAPTIZED
 - 2. John had not yet been IMPRISONED
- II. The DISCIPLES of John the Baptist (John 3:25-26)
 - A. They got embroiled in a CONTROVERSY over PURIFICATION
 - B. They COMPLAINED about Jesus' SUCCESS
 - 1. They described Jesus as "He who was WITH YOU beyond Jordan"
 - 2. They identified Him as the one "to whom you have TESTIFIED"
 - 3. They claim "ALL are coming to HIM"
- III. The Conclusive WITNESS of John the Baptist (John 3:27-30)
 - A. He states an axiomatic TRUTH with BROAD application
 - 1. John cannot be MORE THAN the FORERUNNER of Christ
 - 2. Jesus' SUCCESS is by God's WILL

3. No one receives SALVATION unless it is GIVEN by God
- B. He REMINDS them that he's EXPLAINED his role
1. He emphatically DENIES that HE is the Christ
 2. He insists that he has INTRODUCED the Christ
- C. He compares his role to being the FRIEND of the BRIDEGROOM
1. This was an IMPORTANT and HONORED position
 2. This was a position of TRUST
 3. This was a SUBORDINATE position
- D. He declares, "He must INCREASE, and I must DECREASE"
1. Jesus' increase VALIDATES John's ministry
 2. Jesus' increase makes John's ministry TEMPORARY
 3. This is the INEVITABLE outcome of GOD'S PLAN