

## **Bible Study – February 3, 2015**

### **The Baptist's Testimony (John 1: 15 – 34)**

#### **What are the Characteristics of John the Baptist's Testimony? (John 1: 18, 20, 21, 23; Luke 3: 3 – 6; 10)**

1. His Testimony was about two persons. One was about Christ and the second was about himself.
2. Who he is not (Humility) – not Christ - v 20, 21
3. Who he is (Humility) – a voice - v 23. John the Baptist knows that he is not in the world to imitate or become like any other person but he has a unique identity in relation to Christ and Christ's work. The one who is not even worthy to be Christ's slave (cf. Lk 7: 26 - 28)
4. He modeled Jesus Christ (1: 18)
5. He is testifying whatever he has seen and experienced (1: 34)
6. His testimony was justified or supported by the Word of God (Luke 3: 3 – 6)
7. His testimony brought repentance in others (Luke 3: 10)

#### **What is the purpose of John the Baptist's testimony? (1: 20, 21, 26, 27, 29)**

The purpose of John the Baptist testimony is to reveal Christ (1: 23, 29, and 30). John the Baptist makes known the Christ who is unknown to many. He prepared the way for Christ. The leaders wanted to know who John was (1: 19) but John wanted to make known to them who Jesus was (The best way to defend us when we are being questioned). In revealing Christ, John the Baptist hide his self in a very positive way (3: 30). Through his testimonies John the Baptist let Jesus go ahead of him (1: 30).

#### **How do John the Baptist understand Jesus Christ in these verses? (John 1: 17, 18, 29, 33; Luke 3: 9, 16, 17)**

1. The one who reveals the Father (1: 18).
2. The one who make realizes grace and truth to this world (1: 17).
3. The Lamb of God which takes away the sins of this world (1: 29). The main purpose Jesus came for (Jesus should be preached for this purpose). He is the special Lamb provided by God to be slaughtered. (1: 29)
4. The one who is distinguished because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Anointed) (1: 33)
5. The one who baptizes in Holy Spirit (1: 33; cf. Matt 3: 11; Luke 3: 16). Therefore, whoever is baptized will be distinguished
6. The one who baptizes in the fire (judgment)(Luke 3: 9, 16, 17)
7. The Son of God (1: 34)

**In light of these discussions, how can the Church/children of God become an effective witness?**

The child of God can be an effective witness by humbling self and lifting up Christ. One should have the attitude to hide/decrease his/herself and reveal Christ. One should not take pride in the opportunity he/she get to witness Christ. Our witness should be rooted in the Word of God and must have Jesus in it. Our testimonies should come out of our experiences with and in Christ.