

Ep 1-18 - The Waters of Salim

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. Last time, we discussed “whoever believes,” learning that it is through belief in Jesus Christ that eonian life is gained. Now, John the author tells us another story of John the Baptizer at the waters of Salim, making John another witness to the truth of Who Jesus is.

III. John 3:22-30. John the Identifier at the waters of Salim.

- A. Verse 22. Galilee, Judea, Samaria. Lord from Galilee to Judea.
- B. Verse 23. Both came for feast? Aenon (Springs) near Salim (Peace).
- C. Verse 24. John imprisoned soon after Lord’s baptism, but not yet in story.
- D. Verse 25. Out of place? Jesus abbreviated to “Iou” mistaken for “Ioudaion”? Dispute actually between disciples of John and disciples of Jesus.
- E. Verse 26. John’s disciples think Lord Jesus is stealing their ministry!
- F. Verse 27. Both their ministries follow course laid out by God (Heaven).
- G. Verse 28. John had already claimed a subservient place to Christ. Note clear implication that Jesus is the Christ! Remember purpose of John.
- H. Verse 29. Friend of bridegroom very important, but does not have bride! John claims this role. His happiness comes from happiness of his Master.
- I. Verse 30. His time of glory is gone. Now, Christ must have it. What a man of God! We should learn from him.

IV. John 3:31-36. John’s second monologue. (Again, quotation marks after verse 30.)

- A. Verse 31. *Anothen* here, does not mean “again.” Jesus from above. One from earth speaks from natural source. One from God superior to all earthly ones.
- B. Verse 32. Prophets speak truth they have received from God. Christ speaks of things He has seen and known! Yet His witness not received. “No one” = Synecdoche (Transfer) of the Whole. Put for greater part. See next verse.
- C. Verse 33. This is faith. This brings about salvation.
- D. Verse 34. Prophets speak words of God when inspired, but Christ (apostello) always. Even when saying “pass the salt”!
- E. Verse 35. All things in Son’s hand! (Many times in NT, like I Cor. 15:27.)
- F. Verse 36. Belief brings eonian life. Already has, not enjoying yet. Lack of faith takes away life. Second “not believe” = *apeitheo*, does not obey. To obey means to have faith. (John 6:29)

V. Conclusion. John the Identifier is a great example to us of giving Christ the first place of all! The Lord Jesus’ words are from God, things he has seen and known. Remember, John wants us to believe in Him!