

JOHN'S WITNESSES

John

By Raymond White

John's purpose in writing his gospel was to tell us who Jesus is and to present the evidence. Some of that evidence is the testimony of eye witnesses, those who saw and heard important things and freely told us their experiences. Their words ought not to be ignored and we should pay attention.

Here then, is John's list of witnesses. It's impressive.

[1] JOHN THE BAPTIST

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. :7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. :29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

There were many Old Testament prophets who said that the Messiah is coming. But John was the first to say he is here, right here, right now. And he probably pointed and said, "He's standing right there. See him?"

[2] A PHARISEE

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, name Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. :2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Nicodemus understood what so many failed to understand, then and now: the miracles were the proof that Jesus was who he claimed to be.

Please don't make too much of the "by night." Some think he was sneaking around, trying to see Jesus when no one could see him. He wasn't sneaking around, he just came to Jesus in the evening when he got off work, the same as you would do.

[3] A GENTILE WOMAN

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things which ever I did. Is not this the Christ?

Jesus had just told her that she was living in sin, *:18 ...he whom thou now hast is not thy husband...* People get annoyed when their sins are pointed out to them. Not this woman. She was just excited to have found the Messiah and she wasted no time proclaiming him to her friends.

When Jesus points out our sin to us, what is our reaction? Annoyance? Hatred? Or gratitude that forgiveness is available?

[4] THE MIRACLES

John 5:36 *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath give me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

Anybody can say anything. “Words, words, words,” said Eliza Doolittle to Freddie in “My Fair Lady.” Then she demanded, “Show me!” Well, Jesus did. Over and over. His miracles were his witness. **10:38... though ye believe not me believe the works.**

[5] GOD

John 5:37 *And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

God bore witness of his son several ways: prophecy, miracles, his own verbal declaration at the baptism, and by his spirit. All of which, these people somehow missed.

Note that “ye have neither heard his voice” cannot be general. People had indeed heard God’s voice — people at the baptism and at the Mount of Transfiguration had heard his voice. Jesus is simply saying to these people, God has borne witness of me, to bad you missed it.

[6] THE SCRIPTURES

John 5:39 *Search the scripture, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

So you think you’ve found eternal life in the scriptures? Well, it’s good that you’re reading them but you need to read them again. I’m there and you’ve missed me. Yes, you find eternal life in the scriptures, but only if they lead you to find me.

[7] HIMSELF, AND HIS FATHER

John 8:18 *I am one that bear witness of myself and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

Of course Jesus bore witness of himself. Anyone with a message must put themselves on the stand, so to speak, and claim his message as his own. “Don’t shoot the messenger” was not a defense for Jesus. He was the messenger, but he was also the message.

But he was not alone. How many witnesses did the law require? **Deuteronomy 17:6** *...two witnesses, or three witnesses...* Why? Because one witness can lie. Two can be examined separately to see if their testimonies agree. Jesus said he was the Christ. Anyone can say that of themselves, but in Jesus’ case, God confirmed it, God was a second witness.

[8] THE COMFORTER

John 15:26 But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the father, he shall testify of me:

Beyond words, beyond deeds, the Holy Ghost is a miracle that happens in the hearts of every believer. We believe because we cannot not believe. God put it in us to believe.

[9] THE DISCIPLES

John 15:27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

That includes you. Once you came to the truth, Jesus called you to proclaim it so that others can benefit from your witness.

[10] SUMMARY

Why all these witnesses? Well, because:

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

The claim before us that we are required to decide on, that Jesus is the Christ, is so important that God wants to make available to us the best evidence possible. So that, at the very least, if we decide wrongly, it won't be because of a shortage of reliable witnesses.