



**Sunday, May 17, 2009: The Third Discourse (Part 2):
The Fourfold Witness**

Scripture: John 5:31-47

Sermon Notes:

1. The question of Jesus' authority is answered by a fourfold witness: 1) John the Baptist, 2) the signs or miracles, 3) the Father, and 4) the Scriptures. All four of these witnesses defend Jesus' identity.
2. Jesus does not need human confirmation for his claims because His testimony is self-attesting, but He provides the witnesses so that His hearers may be changed.
3. Two of Jesus' witnesses are infallible: the Father and Scripture.
4. John the Baptist bore witness to the truth. As Augustine says, John was a lamp who pointed people to the sun, that is, Christ.
5. The primary testimony is the Spirit's. There is nothing more ultimate by which to authenticate God.
6. We cannot set up something (for example, our reason and philosophy) by which we 'evaluate' or 'authenticate' God because then we would be making it greater than God.
7. Jesus indicts the Pharisees for failing to believe Moses: they saw the law as a source of life, not the way to life.
8. The Pharisees rejected biblical authority and replaced it with their own thinking and traditions.

Application Questions:

1. In Deuteronomy 19:15, what is the law concerning the number of witnesses needed to establish a testimony? Did Jesus need to provide this number of witnesses in order to prove His identity?
2. Do we come to the Word as an academic exercise?
3. Do we look at the Scriptures as the source of life or the way to Life?
4. Why can we not use our reason for authenticating God?