

Study Guide for February 24th, 2008. The Greatness of the Son. John 3: 31-36

Introduction: The identification of the speaker in these verses is debated. Some feel it is John the Baptist concluding his remarks to his disciples. Others feel this is John the apostle giving reflections on the person of Christ. All agree that Jesus is the focus. As such, it forms a climax to the whole of chapter 3 which presents the necessity of a new birth to enter the Kingdom of God. Consider the unique role of Son in bringing salvation.

I. Jesus the Son: The ONE through whom salvation is made available.

- A. What different titles or phrases are used to describe Jesus in these verses and what is their significance?
- B. What is being emphasized about John the Baptist by describing him – in contrast to Jesus - as **the one who is from the earth**? (see John 3:3-6)
- C. Why, according to vs. 32, is Jesus the final authority who alone is able to reveal the way of salvation for humankind? (Compare with John 3:13)
- D. In light of these truths about Jesus, how would you respond to a Mormon missionary who claims that Joseph Smith received a later revelation about God?

II. God (the Father): The ONE who sent the Son.

- A. What, according to vs. 34, was the Father's purpose in sending the Son?
- B. What is the link between a person's response to Jesus' words and God's words?
 - 1) John 8:27-29:
 - 2) John 12:44-50:
- C. What, according to vs. 34 & 35, has the Father given the Son? Why?
(See also Matt. 11:27 & Luke 10:22)
- D. How is the relationship between the Father and the Son described in vs. 35a?
(See also John 5:20, 10:17, 15:9, 17:23-24, 26) What does this teach us about God?

III. Whoever . . . : The Response to the SON.

- A. What (see vs. 32) is the general response to the Son's testimony? (compare vs. 11)
- B. Compare the language of vs. 32-33 with that of John 1:10-13. Who will be saved?
- C. What are the only two responses to the Son (vs. 36)? What are the consequences?

