

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

1.) We see in the Bible that the “old covenant” was unable to justify, however, it served a significant role in that it **POINTED** to the Savior as we find in Jeremiah 31:31. This was written 600 yrs before Jesus birth:

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God...” Jer 31:31

2.) Through this we understand that God indicates the old covenant was not the **FINAL HOPE**, but pointed the way to the New Covenant put in place through the saving work of Jesus.

New Covenant is superior because of: -a better mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:6); it offers a better hope based on promise of complete forgiveness (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 10:4); grants all believers direct access to God without the need for priests; gracious (Heb. 8:9) in that its blessings will never be forfeited by disobedience; it is internal, written not on tablets of stone (2 Cor. 3:7; Ex. 31:18), but on the heart (Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10); it brings spiritual life, not spiritual death (2 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 8:2–3); results in righteousness, not condemnation (2 Cor. 3:9); it is clear and straightforward, unlike the old covenant's symbols and mysteries; energized by the liberating power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17)

3.) vs 22 indicates Jesus was “*spending time*” with the disciples. The word used- Diatribō/implies considerable length, possibly months while he was teaching and baptizing.

Note: Jesus did not personally baptize, as we find clarified in **Jn 4:1**

4.) The insight we gain that John the Baptist had “*not yet been thrown in prison*” informs us of a **PERIOD** of **TIME** about which Mt, Mk, Lk are silent. Jesus’ recorded ministry in the synoptic gospels begin after John is already in prison.

Note: John’s making it clear the time frame does not conflict with that of Matthew, Mark, or Luke

5.) vs 25 finds John’s disciples in a heated argument over Doctrinal issues which soon became **PERSONAL**. Somehow the disagreement descends into a debate of John -vs- Jesus.

6.) vs 26 John’s disciples felt a deeper issue is at stake; they’ve seen John Baptize Jesus and seem to think John must be **SUPERIOR**.

7.) Early in the ministry, the disciples of both Jesus and John are clearly in it **FOR THEMSELVES**. It’s not until they learn the meaning of taking up a cross that they began to see God’s purposes.

8.) vs 27 is a simple but straight-forward biblical truth, we have what we have because it came from God. Everything, **INCLUDING MINISTRY**- is a gift from God, not something to which a person is entitled

9.) vs 28 it’s clear that John never took his eye off the ball. His measure of success was not how many people followed him, but how many people follow Jesus.

10.) Vs 29 The “*friend of the bridegroom*” is not distressed when the “*bridegroom*” arrives to take his bride—**HE’S ELATED**. John found great joy that Jesus could receive full attention

11.) vs 32 Jesus’ teaching is superior to anyone else’s because His knowledge is **NOT SECONDHAND**. He is the source.

12.) vs 36 reminds us of our **PRESENT POSSESSION** of eternal life, it’s not merely a future hope but a true present reality for those who believe in the Son.

GREEK WORDS USED TODAY

Zetesis (dzay'-tay-sis) *searching* :- a dispute

Chara, *khar-ah'*; *cheerfulness*, calm *delight* :- gladness, × greatly, (× be exceeding) joy (-ful)

Meno (men'-o) present, continuance:- enduring

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**John built a strong case for his position in Christ**

The one who comes from above is superior to all

The one who accepts his testimony has confirmed God is truthful

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life

The one who rejects the Son will not see life, God’s wrath remains on him