

That You Might Believe

◆ A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN ◆



"These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name." John 20:31

A 'Tuesday Night at the Crescent' Series

Bible Teacher: Derick Bingham BA

TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1994

Subject: Witnesses for Christ's defence (John 5:31-47)

- Bearing witness:** Christ does not mean that his claims are false, only that His testimony alone would not be valid in a court of law. The reason for his statement in verse 31 that 'If I alone bear witness of myself, my witness is not true' is that according to Jewish law, even a single witness was insufficient to determine the truth of a matter (Deut. 19:15).
- Witness number one:** God, the Father (v32,37-38. See also Matt. 3:17; John 17:5; 27:51-54; 28:1-7; Acts 1:9-11).
- Witness number two:** John the forerunner (v33-35). The light they liked. It was the heat that drove them away.
- Witness number three:** Jesus' own works (v36). These works provide irrefutable evidence for Christ's divinity.
- Witness number four:** the Scriptures (v39-44). The Old Testament Scriptures megaphoned news of the coming Messiah but the Jewish leaders turned a deaf ear. Be careful that you understand that the Bible is not a legal document or merely a self-help book: it is a love letter. If it does not draw you irresistibly to Christ then it is possible that you do not have His Word abiding in you.
- Witness number five:** Moses (v45-47). Moses wrote prophetically of Christ (see Deut. 18:15,19. See also Acts 3:18-23).

*"Christ is lovely, Christ is very lovely, Christ is most lovely,
Christ is altogether lovely" (Thomas Brooks)*