

Set Your Seal
John 3:22-36
Bethany Assembly of God
10.29.2023

Central Proposition: You should set your seal on God's truth.

Introduction

Pastor Franco recently preached from John 3:1-21 about the importance of believing in Jesus so that we can have eternal life and that belief in Jesus means trusting the revelation of God given to us through Christ and results in being born again. Today we're not hearing Jesus' response to an antagonistic Pharisee but we're hearing John the Baptist's response to Jesus' message and success, followed by the writer's summary and explanation. The heart of that explanation comes in verse 33 where John (the apostle) wrote about Jesus, "Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true."

A seal was a mark of ownership or authenticity. Most of us don't carry a seal around, so we use our signatures. Your signature stands for you. So, what does it mean that if you receive the testimony of Jesus, you set your seal to this, that God is true? Let's take a look at how this passage defines that.

1. You must decrease. See John 22-24; 25-30.

John the Baptist understood the assignment God had given him. It's easy to say that it's all about Jesus, but here is how that sounds in real life, "He must increase, but I must decrease." That's not because you're not valuable, it's just because you're not Jesus. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus.

2. You must live in the truth. See vv. 31-34.

John is driving home a point that we find throughout the Scripture: truth is revealed by God. He who comes from above is Jesus. He who is of the earth is any one of us. Meaning that we don't have the same perspective or knowledge as Jesus, because He is from above. Compare this with Isaiah 55:8-9.

3. You must believe for life. See vv. 35-36.

Everything hinges on what you do with Jesus. He is the revelation of God to humanity. The call of God to truth is that you believe in His Son, Jesus, and follow Him. Note that John says God has given all things into His hands. Jesus is the Truth and if you believe in Him, you'll have eternal life. See John 3:16-17.

Conclusion: Jesus is the Truth

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (**John 14:6**)