



Series: The Gospel of John: For God So Loved...

Date: October 9, 2022

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**Text**: John 3:31-36

Title:

- Whats up mercy Church
- It's a pleasure to be bringing the word this morning
- If you do not know me I serve as the Campus pastor of our Northeast Campus
- And it is my supreme joy to preach the word this morning
- This morning we get to do something fun
  - We get to cross Examine a witness

- And this is really exciting for me because when I was younger I really thought I might be a lawyer
  - My mom is a lawyer,
  - and so I thought maybe I would follow in her footsteps
- But there was an event that really stoked the fire of my desire for law
- I was in 7 th grade history class
  - Lets call the teacher mr sweatman
  - Hands thing





- And he composed a project in which we put on trail the Spanish explorers for their war crimes
  - He split the class into groups
- And the groups would be charged with Either prosecuting an Explorer
  - o or defending one
- now I need to give the disclaimer
  - I did very little research before telling this story
  - This is memory of an experience
  - o from 7th grade
- but I believe I was given the Incan people to defend
  - And I was charged with Prosecuting Francisco Pizarro of spain
- We Prepared opening statements
  - presented our cases to the jury
  - and cross-examine Witnesses

- I remember my opponent vehemently defending Pizarro
  - His primary argument was on the basis of religious zeal
  - he argued that Pizarro killed the Incan leader because of his sacrilegious nature
  - He argued with passion that Pizarro should be acquitted
  - because his actions where in response to the Incan leader throwing the Bible given to him to the floor.
- My rebuttal was swift
  - I said
    - For goodness sakes it was a book
  - I closed my text book
  - Flung it ground
  - And cried out
    - Are you going to kill me
- Believe it or not I was still passionate in 7th grade





- Needless to say we won the case
- It was one of the proudest moments of my young life
  - Kids called me Johnnie Cochran for weeks
  - And I really thought maybe ill be a lawyer
- Now as you can see I am not a lawyer
- But today...
  - in a way i get to live out my childhood dream
- Today John the the author of this book
- is going to present Jesus as a witness
  - he will argue for the validity of his testimony
  - and he will call all who hear it to make a judgment about whether or not it is true
- So in a way today we will cross-examine the witness Jesus

- today I will get to live my dream
  - And present a case
- and today you will get to be a jury
  - deciding whether or not he is trustworthy
- And let me say that this court case has extremely high stakes
  - For in it lies the possibility of eternal life
  - And eternal death
- So lets pray and dive in

#### A TRUSTWORTHY WITNESS?

#### **Orgins**

31 The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

• Now before we jump in





- let us remember what we read last week.
  - John the Baptist has just declared
    - Jesus must increase and he must decrease
- and as we pick up in verse 31 commentators are split about
  - whether this is A continuation from John the Baptist
  - or whether this is John the author picking up and summarizing the themes in chapter 3 to this point
  - I lean toward the latter
  - but either way it does not impact the meaning of the text.
- Verse 31 is extremely important for crossexamination today
  - You see before we,

- Can validate whether or not what the witness is saying is true
- We must first validate the trustworthy nature of the witness himself
  - You with me?
- a good lawyer does not first ask the question
  - What say you
- But a good lawyer First ask
  - who are you
- John is a good lawyer
  - o He starts by telling us who Jesus is
  - By telling us where Jesus is from
  - And not only that
    - he unpacks the implications of someone being from that place
- Let's examine the text

The one who comes from above is above all.





- Do you see this
- Both John's
  - have been pointing this out for 3 Chapters
  - They really want us to know that Jesus is from heaven
    - the word from the beginning made flesh
- And that means something
  - He is from above and so...
  - He is above all
    - Do you see that

## The one who comes from above is above all.

- So as we seek to determine whether or not he is a trust worthy witness
  - We have exibit A
  - Jesus is from heaven
- We are so tempted to overlook this
  - But this is not overlookable

- The author's remarks here are summarizing what has been happening throughout the entirety of JOHN
  - He has been exalting and lifting high Jesus the witness

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- We must not rush past this because its phrased simply
  - o There is something significant here
    - Jesus is from above
    - From heaven
    - From the very place that God dwells
- There is an overt pronouncement of His Supremacy here
  - John is staying in plain words what Paul would later say in poetry
  - Collisions 1
    - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.





16 For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

- So I know i set up this fun little game
  - In winch we determine the validity of Jesus's witness
- But let us pause
  - And realize that we are playing jury to the God
    - who is before all things
    - And from heaven
- You see John wants us to see

- Jesus is not just on another level
- he's in a different category
- Look at the text
- The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all.
  - Do you see the repetition
    - In the words of Moto Moto
    - Its a Phrase so nice he had to say it twice
- And this is just a continuation of what they've been trying to tell us
  - John the baptist said
    - He ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.
  - Nicodemus confessed
    - We know you are from God





- And over and over again we see that Jesus is not like us
  - He is unlike any witness that has ever existed
    - In all the places
    - And all the times
- He's just different
  - So let us evaluate him in that light
- If you know him you know this
  - How He is kind when we are conceited
  - Faithful when we are fickle
  - Patient when we press
- To say it plainly
- Him being form heaven means that he is
  - Pure Perfection
  - The pinnacle of existence
- He has descended right from the very presence and heart of God

- We cannot conceive all of his beauties
  - Look upon this perfect witness
  - Behold his glory
  - He needs nothing
  - He lacks nothing
  - He is unlike us
- And that witness
  - 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard,
- So the one who is from above
  - Who is perfect
  - And therefore sees Perfectly
  - and hears perfectly
  - tells us what he has seen and heard
- How could we not trust him?





- Our witness is not only fundementally different
  - He is an Expert in the field in which he testifies
- Remember were looking for a good Witness
  - And any Lawyer would tell you experts
     make for good witnesses
    - Human Anatomy = DR
    - Finance =Accounting
    - Jesus is an expert in the field of Heaven
- Jesus alone speaks with supreme authority on heavenly things
  - Because no one else has been there
  - No one else is from there
- And even with all this being true
  - Our natural disposition is to be like
  - Meh
- How are we unimpressed

where do we get off being skeptical of Him

32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony.

- John seems to be baffled by this
- The testimony of Jesus was good news
  - the people of Israel had waited for hundreds of years
  - they longed for revelation from God
- For centuries they awaited the Messiah
  - the prophets were explicit
  - Angels declared his coming
    - They showed up at his birth
- there should have been an avalanche of faith in Israel
  - the world should have rejoiced at his coming
  - and yet...





- no one accepted his testimony
- And friends if we are sit here unmoved
  - unconvinced at the reliability of This
     Witness
  - o then we are as blind as they were
- And it begs a question
- why did the masses miss Jesus?
  - We have already seen it in the text
  - The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms
  - o Ch 1
    - He was in the world, and yet the world did not recognize him.
    - 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- And if were honest
  - We prefer it this way
  - We prefer earthly things

- They are tangible
- More Familiar
- More expedient
- **■** More Convenient
- This is why instead of trusting God With our singleness
  - we compromised our convictions and date them anyway
- Instead of trusting God with our children
  - We pressure them into hiding their brokenness
    - behind achievement and morality
- We Prefer the treasures of Earth
  - over the treasures of Heaven
  - Cause we can touch them
- And We would Prefer to earn our Salvation
  - through our works and self-righteousness





- And we have done this so long
  - And so Pervasively
  - that we cannot accept any other way
- You see IF Jesus being from above means he hears perfectly
  - Us being from the earth means that we are deaf to the voice of God
- If Jesus being from above means he sees perfectly
  - then being from the earth means we are blind to the things of God
- We respond to this witness
  - o in our blindness
  - o and our deafness
  - and our Brokenness...
  - to our detriment

- We have rejected the good Witness
  - And Alienated ourself from his testimony
- What shall we do now ???
- Is there any hope for us ???
- Ohh friend there is hope
  - He is still proclaiming the testimony and>>>
  - 33 The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true.
- We can receive new eyes
  - And new ears
  - and see and hear God
  - All we have to do
    - Accept the testimony
- Grasp this
  - Jesus has so seen the heart of his Father
  - And so heard his songs of love





- He so completely speaks for God
- So intimately knows his Character
- That To receive his testimony is not just to affirm that what he says about God is true
  - but to receive his testimony is to affirm the
  - trueness of the nature
  - and character
  - of God himself
- There is an intimate connection between the witness
  - o and the one of whom he testifies
- We see it unpacked in v34 an v 35

**34** For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since hell gives the Spirit without measure. **35** The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands.

- You see not only are Jesus's origins (Where's hes from/ What he's experienced)
  - o validating His witness in this text
- In v 34 & 35 We see his make up
  - His core identity
  - We see what makes Jesus who he is
- When you are assigning the credibility of a witness
  - you're not only worried about where they're from
  - but who they are
- You see if we can identify a source of identity
  - we can determine a persons trustworthyness

## Ontology(what makes a person who they are)

- So who is Jesus
  - What forms his
    - motives





- desires
- Passions
- Pursuits
- Longings
- Who is he at his core
- On This foundation we will build all other assumptions
- Like is Jesus at his core a creator?
  - If so then can he be who he is without his creation?
- is he at his core a savior?
  - o if yes then does he need our Brokenness?
- We said he needs nothing this can't be it
- What is the source of his identity
  - o The very center of who he is
- Remember hes not like us

- When were trying to determine this about one another
  - We ask questions like "so what do you do"
- Someone says doctor and we assume
  - Smart
  - Ambitious
  - Helpful
- Someone says counselor we think
  - Wise
  - Perceptive
  - Trust worthy
- Someone says a lawyer we think
  - Logical
  - Determined
  - detail oriented
- But here's the thing
- all doctors are not
  - Smart





- Ambitious
- o and helpful
- all counselors are not
  - wise
  - perceptive
  - and trustworthy
- When we seek to Define people>>>
  - Get to the core of who they are
  - We ask doing questions
  - because we are of the Earth our best attempts at Knowing
    - are to measure one anothers production
  - We measure our doing
  - And the doing of others

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- But John is showing us there is more to a person than what they produce
  - You are more than what you produce

- We are more than what we produce
- There is a better way to find identity
- Look at Jesus in this text
  - He is not producing

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- He will do the most generous
  - Loving
  - sacrificial producing; recoded in history
    - But that is not what defines him
  - Jesus is more than just a savior
- Let us Drink deep the identity of Christ

**34** For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since hell gives the Spirit without measure. **35** The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands.

- So who is Jesus
  - From the very beginning we must see that he is trinitarian





- See the Trinity on full display
  - Here Heaven is peeled back,
  - o and we get a glimpse of Heavenly things
- Here we are privy to interactions between
  - Father
  - Son
  - o and Spirit
- And when we pull back the curtain what do we find about Jesus
  - He has the spirit without measure
  - and he is loved by the Father...
  - Ohh saints this matters
- We must see Christ
  - not just for what he has done
  - But to see him for who he is
- If you ask my son who his mama is he may say
  - o ...feeds me
  - o ... plays with me
  - o ... cares for me

- And all of these are true
- But thats what she does not who she is
- But when he is a man I think he will say things like
  - She is strong
  - She is wise
  - She is godly
  - Because depth of maturity in the relationship sees the who
    - Not just the what
- Jesus has the spirit without measure
  - o and he is loved by the Father
  - o That's who he is
- So let's start with what it means that He is filled by the Spirit
- Why is the Jesus being filled with the Spirit without measure
  - o crucial to his identity?





- Well let us consider what we see the Spirit do in scripture
- Let us consider Matt 3 at the Baptism of Jesus
  - he comes to John the baptist to be baptized
  - John tries to stop him
    - John is baffled he's like bro you need to be baptizing me
- But God and His kindness wanted us to get a peek in on the trinity
  - Jesus is baptized
  - the heavens open
  - the spirit of God descends
  - and for the first time in the New Testament the people of God hear the voice of the Father
  - and what does he say
    - This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."
- Before any production

- Jesus is beloved by the father
- before any production
  - o the father is pleased with him
- So Saints do you see it?
  - with the spirit comes the awareness of the Father's Love and pleasure
  - And Jesus has that without Measure
- In Ephesians 3 Paul is going to pray that the Saints would be
  - strengthened in their inner being by the spirit
  - being rooted and grounded in love
  - o so that they can comprehend the
    - length
    - and width
    - and height
    - and depth of God's love for them
  - And Jesus has that without Measure





- In Romans 8 we learned that the Spirit of God
   leads the sons of God
  - giving us a spirit of adoption by which we cry out Abba Father
  - And Jesus has that without Measure
- And in Romans 5 we learned that our hope in God will not lead to disappointment
  - Because God's love has been poured into our hearts
    - through the Holy Spirit
  - And Jesus has this without Measure
- So do you see this Saints
  - Jesus having the spirit of God without measure
  - meant that he could **receive** the love of the Father without measure
  - and return the love of the father without measure

- So then it is no coincidence that right after John testifies that Jesus has the spirit without measure
  - he testifies that the father loves the son.
- The Spirit is evidence and substance of the Fathers perfect love
- Jesus has the spirit without measure
  - because he is measurlessly loved by the Father
- Look at the text read it
- For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since hell gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands
  - What we must see is that the spirit with out measure
    - is the Specifics
  - of the lavish and more General all things that the father gives to the Son





- The spirit is the greatest of the gifts
  - that the Father gives to the Son
- therefore when Jesus is talking to his disciples in Luke 11
  - explaining to them that HIS Father gives good gifts
  - he says
    - 13 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

      13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give
      - And we would expect good gift
      - But instead he says
    - the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- Who is Jesus
  - He is passionately and perfectly loved by his Father
- So get this Jesus is a witness
  - Not out of Duty
  - nor out of obligation
  - But out of a natural response to being loved

- this is not a random aside
  - this means everything for the trustworthy nature of our Witness
- His perfect Security in the love of his Father means
  - o That **He dosent need us** to be who he is
- He needs nothing from us
  - he has no ulterior motive in his testimony





- he has zero motivation to manipulate
- He is fully secure in being loved
- And therefore
  - holistically trustworthy
- He can love us freely because he has been freely loved
- He testifies freely
  - Hes has no need>>>
    - that would drive him to take advantage of us
  - No brokenness to compensate for
    - at our expense
- Ohh saint who longs for holiness
  - Do you know without a doubt that God loves you
  - Ohh do you believe it
  - That before you do anything you are loved
- If the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

- then let me argue that knowing the love of God
- is the beginning of holiness
- For why do we lie
  - o If not so we dont lose love
- What drives us to deep anger
  - more than **not being seen and loved** by others
- Why are we so driven to achieve
- Why do we tear down others
- What fuels our jealousy
  - o And our **fear** of those who are not like us
- Is it not our intense need to be loved
  - and our lack of knowing love we so desperately desire
- But Jesus is not afflicted with our ailment
  - he knows without question
  - That he is Loved by his Father





- And here is the good news
  - There is a way we can be just as sure
  - That the Father loves us to
- For our trustworthy witness
  - Has a glorious testimony

# **A GLORIOUS TESTIMONY**

- Now I must confess that the testimony of Jesus is not explicit in our portion of the text today
- But John assumes that we are not jumping into the middle of his letter
  - but have read what has come before
- And so if we were to summarize the two major tenets of Jesus's testimony to this point
  - it would be the Fallen nature of man
  - and the love of God
- What have we learned about men to this point?

- we have learned that we rejected the one who created us
- ... places of prayer into conduits of exploitation
- ... love Darkness because our deeds are evil
- ... our sin has left us condemned by God
- And if we take just one moment to examine our world
  - to examine ourselves we know this testimony to be true
  - the world is broken
    - and we broke it
  - We are broken
    - and we break others
- I went to a funeral a couple of weeks back
  - And I wept in my seat at the brokenness of our world
  - Things are not the way they should be





- And in that moment I was overwhelmed at how my sin contributed to the world's brokenness
- In moments like this we know The testimony of this witness is true
  - o It weighs on us
- but the good news
  - he doesn't just testify about us
  - he is also testified about God
- This is where I want to land
  - This is the whole point of today
- what He has seen and heard from his Father is that
  - though we are not lovely
  - We are still loved by God
- God so loved the world
  - that he sent his only son

- Ohh if we could only believe this
  - o I'm not only talking to this skeptic
  - Christian if we could only believe God loves
- Ohh that's we would cease our striving
  - Cease praying as if we are trying to get to a God who has come to us
  - Cease pretending that we have it all together
  - Cease hiding our brokenness
- There is nothing we can do to make God love us
  - And yet according to the witness
  - God loves us anyway
  - He loves you anyway
- We struggle to hold this tension
  - our acceptance of our Brokenness
    - leads us to believe that God can never love us





- our rejection of our Brokenness
  - lead us to believe we do not need the love of God
- but Jesus testifies to the contrary
- Hear His holistic testimony
- that though we are broken
  - God still loves us
  - he loves us enough to pursue us
  - and he loves us enough to provide a way back to himself
- all we need do
  - is accept the testimony
- This is good news
- This testimony is glorious
  - That though we are not lovely
  - despite our Brokenness We Have Been Loved by God
  - supremely loved

- This has been John's point since Chapter 1
  - "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
    - We did nothing to earn this
  - , who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."
- Ohh glory
  - You Christian,
    - have been chosen and loved by God
- It gets better yall
- If we really press in
- and examine the testimony of Jesus we see
  - God the Father
  - Has loved us





- In the same way he has loved his own son
- V 34-35 told us
  - Jesus is loved by the Father
  - Receives the Spirit without measure
  - And received all things from the Father
- Christian
  - God loves us like Jesus
  - This is why in the gospel of John
  - Jesus Is the beloved one
  - But in his epistles
  - That title is expanded to us
  - Over and over again we are referred to as the beloved
- That is mind-blowingly glorious
  - In John 17 Jesus prays
    - that we the church would be completely one

- that the world may know that the Father sent Jesus
- and has loved us as He has loved his own Son.
- Ohh let that sit on you
  - o That Jesus the one worthy of His love
  - The one who has been loved by him from eternity
  - Is turning to us as saying He loves YOU the same way
- Ohh somebody needs to hear this
- Consider that the spirit makes Jesus supremely aware of Gods love
- And then in John 16
  - Jesus tells us that it is better that he go
  - o so that he can send us the very same Spirit





- That we may know with all the saints what is the
  - Height
  - Depth
  - Breath
  - And width of Gods love for us
- Would you consider with me that
  - the Father's Love For Us means that we also receive all things
  - therefore Paul writes in 1 Cor 3
    - let no one boast in human leaders, for everything is yours— 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—everything is yours, 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

- Somebody better worship
- Ohh Would we believe this truth
  - that we have been loved by God
- only one question remains now
  - You have seen the witness
  - you have heard the testimony
  - so will you believe
- Will you believe
  - Or will you reject the witness

#### **WILL YOU BELIEVE**

Much hangs on the answer to this question

**36** The one who believes in the Son has eternal life but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

 This verse is a fitting climax to all that has been said in John to this point





- What is at steak in the testimony of Jesus
  - o is nothing less than life and death
- on the witness of the Son of God
  - hangs Eternal salvation
  - And the just wrath of God
- Juxtaposed against one another are
  - blessings and danger
  - trust and rejection
  - Bliss and torment
  - Heaven and Hell
- There can be no straddling of the fence
  - To accept this testimony
    - is to accept that the way of the world does not satisfy

- •
- It is to reject the lie that pleasure comes
   from the accumulation of things
- o It is to walk away from old pursuits

- And earthly comforts
- Because we have found a treasure in the love of God
  - Worthy of trading away the whole world
- Jesus says
  - No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other,
    - You cannot kind of accept this testimony
    - It is all or nothing
- If we chose nothing
  - We must not be shocked at the consequences
- Jesus's testimony about us>>>
  - Asserts that we have been alienated from The God Who created us
  - As a matter of fact his testimony





- more accurately states that we have rejected him
- How should we expect the Father to respond
  - when we reject HIS Son
  - the one whom he loves
- You want infurate me
  - Mistreat my wife or my children
  - My beloved
- God gives his very self to humanity
  - o He give us his son
- The very greatest offense we could thrust upon him
  - Would be the rejection of his beloved
  - given on our behalf
    - for our sin
- Hear me clearly
  - o if we reject God's love

- we must prepare ourself for his wrath
- We should not be surprised that when a holy God
  - desends on the world he created
  - And finds it in fallen into Rebellion
    - He is angered
- We should not be surprised that when that God
  - offers that world salvation
  - o and little want anything to do with it
  - No one accepts the testimony
    - He is upset
- We should not be surprised at his anger
  - For even a moment
  - $\circ \quad \text{If we would only consider it} \\$
- No we should be surprised
  - o By his Grace
- We should be astonished
  - At HIs love





- Long ago
  - on a little hill outside of Jerusalem
  - Gods Wrath
  - meet Gods Love
- And it was there on that little hill
- We saw The Love of God
  - And we saw the length to that our witness would go for the sake of his testimony
- As we conclude our mock trial
  - with his witness
  - And johns evidence
  - And your deliberations
  - We meet the righteous Judge
- And before you give your verdict on this trial
  - let us consider another Trail
  - that took place 2000 years ago

- In this trial an innocent man was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
  - They tracked him down and arrested him in the dead of night
  - they bribed false witnesses to give false testimony about him
    - They spat in his face
    - Slaped and mocked him
  - In the morning they turned him over to authorities that had the power to end his life
  - again false accusations were raised against him
    - he did not respond to a one
  - the governing Authority saw the man's innocence through their jealousy
    - yet in order to keep the peace
    - he gave them what they wanted





- the men responsible for his arrest stirred up the watching crowd
  - intent to trade this man's innocent life
  - for the life of a notorious murderer
- The crowds cried in unison
  - free Barabbas
  - crucify him
  - And The innocent one suffered on behalf of the guilty
- He was beaten within an inch of his life
  - glass, metal and Bone tore through his skin
  - then a crown of thorns was weaved together and pressed on his head
  - He was beaten
    - And scorned
  - He was stripped naked
    - In order to maximize his shame

- Then they dragged him to that Hill outside of Jerusalem
- They put nails in his hands
- They put nail in his feet
  - They ran a spear through his side
- And Gods anger with humanity was poured out on his very own son
  - Do you see how much God loves you
  - Is more evidence still needed
- Our sin ohh the bliss of this glorious thought
  - Our sin not in part but the whole was nailed to the cross and I bear it no more praise the Lord
  - Praise the Lord
  - Ohh my soul
- How astonishing is it that the very rejection of God
  - Drew forth the deepest depths of his love





- Our Witness
  - o was willing to die
  - o to prove true the words of his testimony
- And yet; that witness is still testifying to this day
  - Because early Sunday morning
  - 3 days later he burried death as he rose to life
  - And he is now seated at the right hand of his Father
- So hear the testimony of our living witness
- We are not lovely
  - but but we are loved
- So now only one question remains
- Will you believe

- Would one who gives a false testimony
- o Also give his life
- Consider it
  - Will you believe
  - God so loved the world that he gave his only son
  - So that whosoever believes in him shall not perish
- Will you believe
- You Christian fallen into a works based righteousness
  - trying to earn the love of God
  - He loves You
- Will you believe





- You who has rejected his testimony over and over and over
  - he's still testifying
  - o you can receive his love
- Will you believe
- The evidence has been presented
  - the witness trustworthy
  - the testimony glorious
- will you believe
  - That though you can't earn it
  - you have been lavishly loved by God
- Everything hangs on this question
  - Will you believe
- Let us pray

