

## (9) Co-Ministry with John the Baptist (John 3:22-30)

1. The earliest ministry of Jesus Christ with His disciples was a baptism ministry similar to that of John's (Jn. 3:22-24).
  - a. This was a foundational time for the Lord with the men He was training. "Spending time with them there." διέτριβεν μετ' αὐτῶν dietriben met' autōn. imperf.act.ind. διατρίβω diatribō <sup>#1304</sup><sub>9x</sub>; *to wear away, consume; spend, pass time.*
  - b. This was a baptism ministry, urging repentance on the part of unbelieving Israel. καὶ ἐβάπτισεν kai ebaptizen. imperf.act.ind. βαπτίζω baptizō <sup>#907</sup><sub>77x</sub>; *to wash, purify; baptize.* Note: Jesus Christ supervised His disciples baptism ministry, but He Himself did not baptize (Jn. 4:2).
  - c. This ministry was co-located with John's continued baptism ministry (Jn. 3:23a).
  - d. This training ministry had success in terms of the positive volition of people coming to be baptized (Jn. 3:23b,26).
  - e. This co-located ministry was not described in the Synoptic Gospels (Jn. 3:24).
2. The co-located ministries of Jesus and John the Baptist prompted debate and comparison of the two ministries (Jn. 3:25).
3. The comparative questions led to John's disciples becoming alarmed at John's ministry declining (Jn. 3:26).
4. John the Baptist was not at all alarmed over these circumstances and details (Jn. 3:27-30).
  - a. True ministry blessings come from God the Father (Jn. 3:27; 6:65; Jas. 1:17; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 3:7; 4:7).
  - b. This is the great principle behind grace giving (1<sup>st</sup> Chr. 29:14).
  - c. John the Baptist understood that his purpose and work-assignment was to exalt the One coming after him (Jn. 3:28 cf. 1:23; Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1).
  - d. John the Baptist also understood his eschatological role as the Friend of the Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29).
  - e. John the Baptist recognized that the Will of God includes both increasing and decreasing (Jn. 3:30), giving and taking away (Job 1:21), opening and closing of doors (Rev. 3:7).
5. John the Baptist understood the message that Jesus Christ was delivering (Jn. 3:31-36).
  - a. Jesus Christ has a unique perspective for teaching (Jn. 3:31 cf. v.13).
  - b. Jesus Christ is a faithful witness to that which He has been entrusted to speak (Jn. 3:32 cf. v.11).
  - c. Jesus Christ bears the seal of God the Father (Jn. 3:33 cf. 6:27 & 8:26).
  - d. Jesus Christ is the Spirit filled Apostle of God the Father (Jn. 3:34 cf. v.17; Heb. 3:1).
  - e. God the Father loves Jesus Christ and has entrusted Him with all things (Jn. 3:35 cf. Jn. 5:20-23; 17:23,24,26).
  - f. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, but rejection of Jesus Christ leaves the unbeliever in the lost estate of death (Jn. 3:36 cf. v.18).