**Sermon Title: The Supernatural Pre-Existence, Part 2**

**Sermon Text: John 1:6-13**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the responsibility of a witness sent and selected by God.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 aspects of a witness sent and selected by God.**

**Introduction:** “We live in an age of pluralism – a belief system that puts an end to truth by declaring everything to be true, especially with regard to religion. It may be difficult for the contemporary Christian to comprehend, but the Christians living in the first few centuries of the faith were actually marked and persecuted as atheists. The culture surrounding them was immersed in theism. Images of deities filled the world, and religion was a booming business. Men not only tolerated one another’s deities but also swapped and shared them. The entire religious world was going along just fine until the Christians showed up and declared, “They are not gods which are made with hands.” They denied the Caesars the homage they demanded, refused to bend the knee to all other-so-called gods, and confessed Jesus alone as Lord of all. The entire world looked on this as jaw-dropping arrogance and reacted with fury against the Christian’s intolerance to tolerance.

 This same scenario abounds in our world today. Against all logic, we hear that all views regarding religion and morality are true, no matter how radically different and contradictory they may be. The most overwhelming aspect of all this is that through the tireless efforts of the media and the academic world, this has quickly become the majority view. However, pluralism does not address the issue or cure the malady. It only anesthetizes the patient so that he no longer feels or thinks. The gospel is a scandal because it awakens man from his slumber and refuses to let him rest on such an illogical footing. It forces him to come to some conclusion – ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’

 The true gospel is radically exclusive. Jesus is not a way; He is *the* way, and all other ways are no way at all. If Christianity would only move one small step toward a more tolerant ecumenicalism and exchange the definite article *the* for the indefinite article *a*, the scandal would be over, and the world and Christianity could become friends. However, whenever this occurs, Christianity ceases to be Christianity, Christ is denied, and the world is without a Savior.”

[**Paul Washer, The Gospel’s Power & Message, Reformation Heritage Books, p.50-51**]

**I. The witnesses revealed. V.6**

**II. The witnesses revelation. Vv.7-8**

**III. The witnesses rejected. Vv.9-11**

**IV. The witnesses received. Vv.12-13**

**I. The witnesses revealed. V.6**

 A. The witnesses were **sent**. V.6a

 As a witness, John was to bear witness to Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior. After 400 years of silence between the Old Testament and New Testament, God sends John.

 B. The witnesses were **selected**. V.6b

 The name “John” normally refers to John the Baptist in the Gospel of John.

 (**Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:2-6; Luke 1:5-25, 57-80**)

**II. The witnesses revelation. Vv.7-8**

 A. The witnesses message. V.7

 The term “witness” or “bear witness” reflects the courtroom language of the Old Testament where truth of a matter was to be established on the basis of multiple witnesses.

 **Deuteronomy 17:6** "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

 **Deuteronomy 19:15** "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

 B. The witnesses method. V.8

 1. The Samaritan woman.

 **John 4:29** "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

 2. The works of Jesus.

 **John 10:25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

 3. The Father.

 **John 5:32-37** "There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. **33** "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** "Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. **35** "He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. **36** "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish-- the very works that I do-- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. **37** "And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

 4. The Old Testament.

 **John 5:39-40** "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40** "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

 5. The crowd.

 **John 12:17** Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

 6. The Holy Spirit.

 **John 15:26-27** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. **27** "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**III. The witnesses rejected. Vv.9-11**

 A. Jesus is the light that offers light to every man. V.9

 This emphasizes the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Through God’s sovereign power, every man has enough light to be accountable.

 B. John the Baptist bears witness of Jesus light. V.10-11

 This is a reflection back to verse 7 “Him” refers not to Christ but to John as the ambassador or forerunner sent, who witnessed to Christ. The purpose of John’s and every believer’s testimony is to point people and produce faith in Jesus Christ the Savior of the lost.

 **John 12:37-41** But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, **38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" **39** Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: **40** "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with *their* eyes, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." **41** These things Isaiah said whenhe saw His glory and spoke of Him.

 **2 Corinthians 5:20-21** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**IV. The witnesses received. Vv.12-13**

 A. The **breath** of acceptance. V.12a

 The book of John divides into 2 halves, the first half (12 chapters) stresses the rejection of Jesus Christ. Chapters 13-21 focus on those who believe.

 B. The **basis** of acceptance. V.12b

 To receive Him who is the Word of God is to:

 1. **acknowledge**

 2. **trust**

 3. **allegiance**

 C. The **birthing** of acceptance. V.13

 The divine side is pictured here in salvation, it is not of man’s effort, but God’s will.

 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

 **1 John 2:29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.