**Two Ways** **the Supremacy of Christ Over All is Portrayed Through John the Baptist (John 3:22-30)**

1. John’s Baptism is Replaced by the Superiority of Christ’s Purification (vv.22-26)
   1. Two Coinciding Baptisms (vv.22-24)
      1. The Beginning of Jesus’ Baptism Ministry (v.22; cf. Mk. 1:14; Jn. 4:1-2)
      2. The Progressive End of John’s Baptism Ministry (vv.23-24)
   2. A Sharp Debate (v.25)
   3. An Embittered Question (v.26)

*“John’s disciples believe that John had behaved generously in bearing his witness to Jesus. They find it intolerable that Jesus should then act in independence, so to speak, and gather more disciples than his illustrious predecessor.” (Leon Morris)*

*Aside – “Purification”*

* *How does the purification that Jesus provides differ from John’s?*
* *How Do We attempt purification apart from Christ?*
  + *Self-Atonement*
    - *Wallowing in guilt*
    - *Promising God repayment*
    - *Fear of approaching God until I can earn his favor by good works*
  + *Blame-Shifting (not owning our guilt totally and without qualification)*
  + *Moralism*
    - *Moral improvement apart from faith in the Gospel and trust in God’s promises.*
    - *Try to fix my life in my power with man’s techniques with no dependence on the Spirit through the Word.*

1. John’s Person is Overshadowed by the Superiority of Christ’s Person (vv.27-30)
   1. He Exalts God’s Sovereign Purposes (v.27; cf. 1 Cor. 4:17)

*“God’s sovereignty stands hidden behind all human claims, for a human being does not have anything but what he has received.” (Carson)*

*Warning Flags of Self-Exaltation (Evidences that I have begun to compete with Christ)*

* + 1. *When I covet or envy the giftedness, position, or calling of others.*
    2. *When I* *do not rejoice when he is glorified in and through another.*
    3. *When I don’t commend another for the work I see God doing through them.*
    4. *When I get frustrated when I am overlooked or not thanked.*
    5. *When I do things to intentionally get noticed.*
    6. *When I’m not content with where Christ has sovereignly placed me.*
  1. He Retells His Single Mission (v.28)

* 1. He Rejoices in His Obscure Position (v.29; cf. Eph. 5:26; Isa. 62:4-5)
  2. He Enjoys Complete Satisfaction (v.29b)
  3. He Embraces His Displacement (v.30)