

John 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

Analysis

John the Baptist's emphatic double confession ('confessed, and denied not; but confessed') demonstrates the biblical pattern of faithful witness. His clear denial of being the Christ exhibits humility and proper understanding of his role as forerunner. This threefold repetition emphasizes the importance of acknowledging Christ's supremacy over all ministries, a Reformed principle of *sola Christus*.

Historical Context

Written around 90-95 AD, John's Gospel addresses communities where John the Baptist's followers may have elevated him too highly. The Pharisees' delegation from Jerusalem reflects official Jewish scrutiny of messianic movements in first-century Judea.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does John the Baptist's example challenge modern tendencies toward self-promotion in ministry?

2. What does this passage teach about the proper relationship between human servants and Christ's supremacy?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὠμολόγησεν καὶ οὐκ ἡρνήσατο καὶ ὠμολόγησεν ὅτι
And confessed And not denied And confessed G3754
G2532 G3670 G2532 G3756 G720 G2532 G3670

οὐκ εἰμὶ Ἐγὼ ὁ Χριστός
not am I the Christ
G3756 G1510 G1473 G3588 G5547

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