

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

Psalms 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	ὡμολόγησεν	καὶ	οὐκ	ἡρνήσατο	καὶ	ὡμολόγησεν	ὅτι
And	confessed	And	not	denied	And	confessed	G3754
G2532	G3670	G2532	G3756	G720	G2532	G3670	
οὐκ	εἰμὶ	Ἐγὼ	ὁ	Χριστός			
not	am	I	G3588	the Christ			
G3756	G1510	G1473		G5547			

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