

John 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

Analysis

John reminds his disciples of his own teaching: 'Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.' They should have known this—John had consistently denied being Messiah and defined himself as forerunner. He references his earlier public declarations. True teachers remind students of fundamental truths that prevent confusion. John's identity was always preparation for another.

Historical Context

John had explicitly denied being Christ (1:20), Elijah (1:21), or 'the Prophet' (1:21). He defined himself as 'the voice' preparing for the Lord (1:23). His disciples should have remembered this. John's self-understanding never allowed competition with Jesus because their roles were always distinct and sequential.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do Christians sometimes forget foundational truths that should prevent confusion?
2. What does John's consistent self-understanding teach about identity in ministry?

Interlinear Text

αὐτοὶ	ὑμεῖς	μοι	μαρτυρεῖτε	ὅτι	εἴπον	Οὐκ	εἰμὶ	ἐγὼ
yourselves	Ye	me	bear	that	I said	not	I am	I
G846	G5210	G3427	G3140	G3754	G2036	G3756	G1510	G1473
ὁ	Χριστός	ἀλλ᾽	ὅτι	Ἀπεσταλμένος	εἰμὶ	ἔμπροσθεν		
G3588	the Christ	but	that		sent	I am	before	
	G5547	G235	G3754		G649	G1510	G1715	
ἐκείνου								
	him							
	G1565							

Additional Cross-References

John 1:20 (References Christ): And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

John 1:23 (Parallel theme): He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

Malachi 3:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 3:3 (Parallel theme): For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

