

# 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

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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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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αὐτοὶ ὑμεῖς μοι μαρτυρεῖτε ὅτι εἶπον Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐγὼ  
**yourselves** **Ye** **me** **bear** **that** **I said** **not** **I am** **I**  
G846 G5210 G3427 G3140 G3754 G2036 G3756 G1510 G1473

ὁ Χριστὸς 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

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**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.

