

John 5:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

Analysis

Jesus acknowledges that His testimony alone wouldn't be legally valid ('If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true'), referencing Jewish law requiring multiple witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6). Yet He will demonstrate that multiple witnesses do attest to Him: the Father, John the Baptist, His works, and Scripture. This shows Christ's respect for proper testimony while affirming His divine mission.

Historical Context

Jewish legal procedure required at least two witnesses for establishing truth. Jesus' argument follows rabbinical reasoning while transcending it—His witnesses include not just human testimony but divine attestation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God provide multiple lines of evidence for Christ's identity and mission?

2. What is the relationship between legal validity and spiritual truth in establishing Christ's claims?

Interlinear Text

Ἐὰν ἐγὼ μαρτυρῶ περὶ ἐμαυτοῦ ἡ μαρτυρία μου οὐκ
If I bear witness of myself witness my not
G1437 G1473 G3140 G4012 G1683 G3588 G3141 G3450 G3756

ἔστιν ἀληθής.
is true
G2076 G227

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 27:2 (Parallel theme): Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

John 8:54 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: