

IV. BE A LIGHT TO A **DARK** WORLD

A. The world is getting **darker**.

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

And from such people turn away!” II Timothy 3:1-4

B. Christians must get **brighter**.

“8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8-10



ARE YOU LIVING A GREAT LIFE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, ...” Luke 1:15a

THE GREATEST (John The Baptist) The Greatness Of John’s Bright And Shining Light Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. In sports there’s an acronym used to describe the greatest of all time. It’s the phrase “G.O.A.T.” It stands for the GREATEST OF ALL TIME. It is common for fans to argue over who is the greatest of all time in the various sports. But whose the greatest person ever born...the G.O.A.T. when it comes to everyone who has ever lived? Well, in this area there is no debate. Jesus made it clear that John the Baptist was “THE GREATEST,” the true G.O.A.T.

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” Matthew 11:11

B. What made John stand out that Jesus singled him out as the greatest? There were seven great qualities that made John so great. In THE GREATEST teaching series you will learn how to live a great life by adding John’s seven qualities to your life.

This eight part series features the following messages:

Aug 25	Who Was John The Baptist?
Sep 1	The Greatness Of John’s Parents
Sep 8 AM	The Greatness Of John’s Dedication
Sep 8 PM	The Greatness Of John’s Message
Sep 15	The Greatness Of John’s Obedience
Sep 22	The Greatness Of John’s Humility
Sep 29	The Greatness Of John’s Courage
TODAY	The Greatness of John’s Burning And Shining Light
Oct 13	Jesus: Light For Living

God has called all of us to greatness so plan now to attend this series as much as possible.

C. **Text:** John 5:33-35 (Pew Bible/Page 1046/New Test.)

The use of the word “was” (v35a) indicates that John was probably now dead. This passage is a eulogy given by Jesus about his loyal supporter John the Baptist.

THE GREATNESS OF JOHN'S BRIGHT AND SHINING LIGHT

I. JOHN WAS A **WITNESS** (5:33-34)

A. Jesus claimed to be **equal** with God.

“16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.” John 5:16-18

B. Jesus testimony concerning Himself was not based just on His witness. There are **four** collaborating witnesses (5:33-47):

“Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.”

Deuteronomy 17:6

- The Witness Of **John** The Baptist (5:33-35)
- The Witness Of **Works** (5:36)
- The Witness Of The **Father** (5:37-38)
- The Witness Of The **Scriptures** (5:39-47)

C. John the Baptist was sent to bear witness to the **truth** about the deity of Jesus and salvation through Jesus (John 1:29-36).

II. JOHN WAS A **BURNING** LIGHT (5:35a)

John was a burning light because he got close to the LIGHT. The closer you are to the fire the hotter you become.

A. Draw close to **God**.

“Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses’ hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.”

Exodus 34:29

B. Draw close to the **Word** of God.

“And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:32

C. Draw close to the **work** of God.

“not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;”

Romans 12:11

III. JOHN WAS A **SHINING** LIGHT (5:35b)

A. Jesus was the **Light**. John the Baptist was a **lamp** that carried the Light.

“He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”

John 1:8

B. You are to **receive** and **reflect** the Light.

“5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

II Corinthians 4:5-6