

"THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM"**Introduction**

1. Jesus and John: their place
2. **Illustration**: Sun and moon
3. This conversation in which John the Baptist corrects his disciples.

1. MINISTERS OF GOD ARE NOT IN COMPETITION

- 1) The case of John and Christ here.
- 2) The same for Paul: 1 Corinthian 1:12
- 3) This attitude always does harm:
 - (i) it is the spirit of the world
 - (ii) it fails to see that all gifts are of God
 - (iii) every minister has his own calling
 - (iv) personal loyalty can be misplaced

APPLICATION: Love and esteem all who preach the word of God – no strife!

2. MINISTERS ARE NOTHING BUT HELPERS OF MEN TO COME TO CHRIST

- 1) John's humility:
 - (i) v.27: Christ's greatest honour
 - (ii) v.28: his disclaimer
 - (iii) v.30: his self-effacement

OBSERVE: The mark of a true minister is that he be deeply humble.
- 2) The unique Glory of Christ: v.29
 - (i) A wedding used as illustration
 - (ii) The Bridegroom is Christ
 - (iii) The Bride = Church

- (iv) The Best Man: only there to help.

2) The illustration explained:

- (i) John, and all ministers, have a past.
- (ii) But the climax is the Wedding Day.

APPLICATION: O! Look forward to that Day!

3. THERE IS ONE ONLY SUPREMELY IMPORTANT THING IN TRUE RELIGION1) v.33: Faith in Christ as Saviour

- (i) receiving the truth to our heart
- (ii) setting our seal to the truth
- (iii) to do otherwise is to make God a liar

2) How we recognise Christ as the Eternal Son of God and Saviour:

- (i) he "comes from above"
 - (ii) he is "above all"
 - (iii) he speaks of what he has seen
 - (iv) he speaks of heavenly things
 - (v) he is full of the Spirit
 - (vi) he has all authority from God
- See how this fits perfectly the character and ministry of Christ: It is all heavenly!

3) In the light of all this we must all face up to this challenging fact:

v.36.

- (i) "he that believeth on the Son"
- (ii) "he that believeth not..."

CONCLUSION

Our place is not to argue with our preachers but to believe in Christ.

PSALM

110: 3 – 7

89: 24 – 29

117: 1 -2