

As you read...

As John 3 closes, John (the gospel writer) says,

*The one who believes in the Son has eternal **life**, but the one who rejects the Son will not see **life**; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.*

This follows a description of an encounter that John the Baptist has with his own followers that you will read below. It's there that John the Baptist makes clear what John (the gospel writer) clarifies in these words above: **life** is found in Jesus alone.

As we join in, John the Baptist's followers are very concerned that people are following Jesus rather than him—concerned to the point that they are ready to reject Jesus in order to honor John.

However, John makes it very clear to his followers that he does not want to be the center of attention. The only one he urges his followers to focus on is Jesus.

It can be tempting in our lives to want to point to ourselves, too. However, just as John does not want his followers' attention to be more on him and reject Jesus, so we ought to hope that others would focus on Jesus and Jesus alone rather than reject Him.

As you read today, hear the wisdom of what both John the Baptist and John (the gospel writer) witness to us: The one who believes in Jesus has eternal life, the one who rejects Him will not see life.

Read [John 3:22-36](#)

### ***Jesus and John the Baptist***

*<sup>22</sup> After this, Jesus and his disciples went to the Judean countryside, where he spent time with them and baptized.*

*<sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized, <sup>24</sup> since John had not yet been thrown into prison.*

*<sup>25</sup> Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification. <sup>26</sup> So they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him."*

*<sup>27</sup> John responded, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."*

### ***The One from Heaven***

*<sup>31</sup> The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he*

*has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony.* <sup>33</sup> *The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true.* <sup>34</sup> *For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since he gives the Spirit without measure.* <sup>35</sup> *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands.* <sup>36</sup> *The one who believes in the Son has eternal **life**, but the one who rejects the Son will not see **life**; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.*

## Questions

1. Take a look at John the Baptist's response to his disciples in verses 27-30. Place yourself into the shoes of one of John's disciples who were worried that Jesus was getting too much attention,
  - What parts of John's response help you become less worried about Jesus getting the attention rather than John?
2. The last thing that John says to his disciples here is, "He must increase, but I must decrease." What do you think this means?
3. In what ways can you, like John, decrease so that others might come to know and believe in Jesus?

A moment to pray.

Holy Spirit, give me wisdom for today. Help me see and give me wisdom. Allow me to decrease so that Jesus would increase both in my life and to those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.