

# **THE GLORY OF A DIMINISHING MINISTRY**

## **JOHN 3:22-30**

### **I. THE PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING JOHN THE BAPTIST'S FINAL TESTIMONY, INVOLVE THE IDENTICAL MINISTRIES OF JESUS AND JOHN (3:22-26)**

A. It Appeared To Be Similar Enough In Men's Eyes That It Gave Rise To A Series Of Pertinent Questions (3:25)

1. The Questions Concerned Purification
2. The Difficulty Arose Because Of The Close Geographical Proximity In Which John And Jesus Were Baptizing

B. It Appears That There Was Evidently Some Taunting Of John's Disciples On the Part Of The Jews, Concerning The Increasing Popularity Of Jesus Of Nazareth (3:26)

1. The Chronological Progression Of Events Created A Circumstance In Which A Final Answer Can Now Be Given About The Significance Of John The Baptist
2. John's Upcoming Imprisonment And Martyrdom Would Only Serve To Enhance John's Credibility And Popularity

### **II. IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT JOHN BE THE ONE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS SINCE IT WAS HIS MINISTRY THAT APPEARED TO BE THREATENED (3:27-30)**

A. The Proper Philosophy (3:27-29)

1. A Foundational Premise (3:27)
2. A Scriptural View Point Of Oneself (3:28-29)

B. The Proper Recognition (3:30)