Intro: It is our heavenly privilege this morning to read the last of the recorded testimonies of John the Baptist concerning Christ Jesus, where in testifying of Jesus he expresses why it is of ______________ ________________ that Jesus must increase, while he must decrease.

John 3:31-36

I. ____________ must ________________ while we must decrease because:

A. ____________ is from ____________.

1. In his first letter the Beloved testified saying, 4:14, “And we have beheld and bear witness that the ____________ has the ________ to be the Savior of the world.”

2. Beloved, the Scripture is irrefutable! Christ is from above! descended ____________ ________________! (Cf. John 1:1, 14; 3:13, 17; 6:38, 51, 62;16:30)

B. Because Christ is come from above, He is ________________ _____.

1. The ____________ of Nazareth, having come from above, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, being the only begotten Son of God, _____ divine; God very ________ Himself and therefore, above all!

C. _____ must decrease because we are _____ and therefore, from the ____________.

1. Eccl 3:20 rightly says, “... _____ came from the ________ and all return to the _________.”

2. _____ are of the earth, subjected to the fall, born of ________, limited in knowledge and experience and in all ways, and under the Sovereign rule of the ____________ who is from ____________ and above all (including us!). Therefore, we must decrease.

D. Because ______________ is the ____________ one who came from above having been in the bosom of the Father, He alone is uniquely qualified to explain the Father to us. No earthly man is able to ______________ ________ like the One who descended from heaven.

And, that One is Christ our Lord.
1. ____________ must increase because He _____________ of the Father whom He has personally seen and heard.

2. Christ must increase so others will _____________ His witness, that ________ is true.

3. Christ must increase because He was ____________ by God ____________ the words of God.

4. Because the Heavenly Father gave His only begotten Son alone the Spirit ____________ _____________, we are assured that He spoke the words of God accurately and completely; explaining the Father to us as the only One who had seen and heard the Father. Therefore ____________ must increase!

E. Christ Jesus must increase because “the ____________ loves the Son, and has [exclusively] ____________ _____ things into His hand.”

F. Christ must increase for there is _____ ____________ name under heaven by which we can be saved. Therefore, “He who believes in the Son eternal ___________; ...”

1. Christ must increase that He might be made known because the ____________ of God ____________ upon all those who have not known Him.

Closing: Now, dear church, is there any wonder why He must increase and we must decrease? It is not about us, but ____________ the Lord for He alone is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Lamb of God who ____________ ____________ the ______ of the world! ... Therefore, we must diminish and He must increase in our lives so that when the world sees us, they see ____________ _____ _____!

Let us consider our own lives. ________ ____ the Supreme One in our life? What do we hold dearest; whom do we hold _____________? To the degree that we recognize the supremacy of Christ, we will ____________ Christ as the Supreme ____________.

We must learn to promote Him and deny ourselves! We must deny ourselves and ____________ ______ His ____________ that all may know that He is the Christ! ____________ must enlarge, and we must diminish! He must increase we must decrease. To God be the ______________!

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