

**Believing Christ**

Responding to John’s Gospel

**Overcoming Unbelief**

-Five stumbling blocks to faith in Christ-

(John 5:30-47)

*Stumbling Block 1: The opinions of respected people* (vs. 30-35)

**Deuteronomy 17:6**

On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

**Matthew 18:15-16**

15“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

**1 Timothy 5:19**

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses

*Stumbling Block 2: The claims of lack of evidence* (v. 36)

*Stumbling Block 3: Personal religious works* (vs. 37-40)

*Stumbling Block 4: False teachers who appeal to pride* (vs. 41-44)

“Why do men follow impostors? Because they are ‘men whose claims correspond with men’s own desires.’ The impostors came promising empires and victory and material prosperity; Jesus came offering a Cross. The characteristic of the impostor is the offer of the easy way; Jesus offered men the hard way of God. The impostors perished and Christ lives on.”

**William Barclay**

*Stumbling Block 5: Ignoring sin and God’s forgiveness* (vs. 45-47)

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