

**An Irrefutable Testimony**  
**Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel**  
**John’s Gospel Study - John 9:18-34**  
*Sunday – March 7th, 2010*

**CONTEXT:** The lengthy dialogue between Jesus and Jews following the Feast of Booths (chapters 7 & 8), and Jesus presentation of Himself as the Messiah ended with an angry and violent rejection. Chapter 9 is connected to chapter 8 not only because it begins with “as He passed by” a connecting phrase, but more because of the content of chapter 8 regarding Jesus declaration of Himself as “the Light of the world” and the “I AM” that existed before Abraham. The opening (vs 9:1-5) establishes contact with the blind beggar and that he was born blind to demonstrate God’s glory through Jesus. Jesus uses the incident to verify all He had stated in the previous two chapters. The healing causes a public stir, first among acquaintances, and then it spreads to Israel’s spiritual leaders.

In our passage today (vs 9:18-34) we have a display of the blindness of the spiritual leaders contrasted to the man born blind, who now sees. After not receiving the answers they wanted from the man born blind, the leaders attempt questioning the intimidated parents. Ultimately, they are forced to again inquire of the healed man. Their attempt to intimidate and influence his answers fails. Ironically, his logic and clarity are impeccable. As they cannot destroy his testimony, and the ramifications of what has occurred, they resort to ridicule and expel him from the Temple. This incident was pre-determined by God to provide irrefutable evidence of Jesus as the Messiah (see John 9:3).

**Broad outline of the Gospel of John (underlined is the immediate context).**

Key Words (9: 18-34)
• know (10)
• blind (7)
• answered (5)
• opened (4)
• who (4)
• how (3)

- VII. The Performance of Christ followed by irrational rejection (6:1-12:50)
  - D. The Controversy over Christ at the Feast of Booths (7:1-53)
  - E. The Confrontation of Christ with hypocrisy (8:1-11)
  - F. The Challenge to Christ’s glorious claim (8:12-30)
  - G. The Clarity of Saving Faith (8:31-47)
  - H. The Clarity of Christ as the “I AM” (8:48-59)
  - I. The Confirmation of Messiah (9:1-41)
    - 1. His Sovereign purpose as the Light (9:1-5)
    - 2. Healing Stirs irrefutable testimony (9:6-34)
      - a. The Striking circumstances of the healing (9:6-7)
      - b. The Spectacle of the healed man draws attention (9:8-17)
      - c. The Self-preserving testimony of the parents (9:18-23)



Introduction:

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c. The Self-preserving testimony of the parents (9:18 – 23)

- Stating only what is expedient (9:18-21)

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- Succumbing to the fear of men (9:22-23)

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d. The Seeing man’s courage and rebuke (9:24-33)

- Sham inquiry revealed and rebuked (9:24 - 27)

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- Superficial reasoning revealed and rebuked (9:28 - 33)

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e. The Shameful response of the leaders (9:34)

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Conclusion:

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