John’s Two Christ-Exalting Responses to the Inquiry of the Jewish Leadership (John 1:19-28)

1. John Exalts Christ as He Testifies to His Own Identity (vv.19-23)
   1. He Responds Negatively (vv.20-21)
      1. Not the Messiah (v.20)
      2. Not Elijah (v.21) [cf. Mal. 4:5; Matt. 11:14; 17:11; Mark 9:13]
      3. Not the Prophet (v.21) [cf. Deut. 18:15-18; Jn. 7:40-41]

*“[These answers] appear to stem from a dislike for answering questions about himself. He had come to bear witness about Another.” (Leon Moris)*

* 1. He Responds Positively (vv.22-23) [cf. Isa. 40:3]

1. John Exalts Christ as He Defends His Own Authority (vv.24-28)
   1. The Decisive Question (vv.24-25)
   2. The Explicit Answer (vv.26-27)
      1. His baptism with water points to the coming Christ.
      2. The Christ he has pointed to has already arrived onto the scene
         1. He is unknown
         2. He is of supreme worth