December 13, 2020


Passage: John 1:9-13

1. In verse 9, John describes the incarnation of Jesus in an interesting way. The very Light who created all things (see vv. 3-5) was now coming into the world that he made. How is the Christian doctrine of the incarnation unique as you contrast it with other worldview religions like atheism, pantheism, or deism? What hope does the incarnation bring to us that no other religious system can offer?

2. Verses 10-11 reveal a tragedy: the very world that Jesus created ends up misunderstanding and rejecting him! In your opinion, why would Jesus willingly enter our hostile world, knowing he would be violently rejected? What do we learn about God’s character as we ponder Jesus’ rejection by the world (see John 3:16)?

3. Do you think it’s possible to “ignore” Jesus, in light of his enormous claims? (For example, see John 4:13-14, 5:26-27, 8:58, 11:25, 14:6, and 20:28). What two choices are set before us in John 1:9-13 regarding what we do with Jesus? What results ultimately come from either choice (see John 3:36)?

4. Verse 12 describes those who “receive” Jesus and “believe in his name.” The word “receive” can be used in the Bible to describe receiving someone into your boat, or into your home. To “believe in his name,” means to embrace Jesus for all that he really is. Putting these ideas together, what does it mean, in biblical terms, to have saving belief in Christ? Is it possible to truly be a Christian if you choose to keep Jesus at arm’s length, on the doorstep, refusing to receive Him into every area of your life?

5. According to Verses 12-13, those who truly believe are adopted into God’s family (“he gave the right to become children of God”), and they are spiritually reborn into God’s family (“born of God”). How do these metaphors help us understand the privileges and inner transformation that come to every true Christian? How would it change our daily lives if we truly grasped the privileges of being children of God? What other “identities” are we tempted to elevate to a greater place than our status as God’s children?