

How Should We Respond to Christ's Coming?

John 1:10-13

John 1:10-13 ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-13 ¹⁰ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. ¹¹ εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ¹² ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, ¹³ οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκὸς οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρὸς ἀλλ' ἐκ θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν.

I. The Response of the World - Ignorance(vs.10)

A. Christ was in the world

John 1:14 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is probably the most amazing event in all of history. The God of the universe became a man. He dwelt among men. He lived with us.

Philippians 2:5-8 ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

B. Christ created the world.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Colossians 1:15-17 ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

The Creator of the world came into the world. The one in whom all things consist, who holds everything together came to live with His creation. One would think that the creation would be overjoyed to know the creator. One would think that they would worship, obey, seek to know His will his way.

C. The world did not know Christ.

Know - γινώσκω, ginōskō - know, have knowledge of; find out, learn, understand; perceive, discern; to have knowledge; acknowledge, recognize;

W.E. Vines – “signifies ‘to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand,’ or ‘to understand completely.’... In the NT *ginōskō* frequently indicates a relation between the person ‘knowing’ and the object known; in this respect, what is ‘known’ is of value or importance to the one who knows, and hence the establishment of the relationship...”

The world knew of Jesus. He was in the world and live among mankind. Even today, many people know of Jesus. They know some things about

Him: He is God; He died on the cross; they may even know the “Christmas Story.” However, their knowledge of Him is not a life changing knowledge. They do not truly know Him or their need to believe in Him.

II. The Response of His People – Rejection (vs.11)

A. Christ came to Israel.

Matthew 1:20-21 ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

The world may not have known Him, but certainly His own people, who had the prophesy of His coming, who were chosen by Him to be His people would accept their Messiah.

B. Israel did not receive Christ

Acts 13:46-47 ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

Christ’s own people rejected the good news of a Savior and His gift of eternal life to them. Many today have heard the gospel, but have chosen to reject Christ instead of believing in Him.

III. The Response of the Saints – Belief (vs. 12, 13)

A. The saints received Christ

The third group are those who have chosen to receive Christ. They did not Refuse to know Him, and they did not reject Him.

John explains what it means to receive Christ – “to those who believe in His name:”

Believe - πιστεύω, pisteuō - believe (in), have faith (in)

Acts 16:30-31 ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

What does it mean to “believe in His name?”

In biblical times the name of someone represented who they were and what they represented. It signified everything about them. In believing in His name, you are believing all about Christ: that He God, that He is the Savior, that He died to pay for your sin, that He rose again...

B. The saints became children of God

Right – ἐξουσία, exsousia - authority, right, liberty; ability, capability;

God has given the right or authority to those who believe to become His

children. We have been adopted into His family.

Ephesians 1:3-6 ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to **adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

They were born:

This section is a further description of what it means to receive Him. It is not another step, or something further that needs to be done. In order to be born of God, one must believe. That is all. Nothing else.

1. Not of blood – referring to being born naturally.

John 3:3-7 ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Some believe that since America is a "Christian nation," that they are already Christians. They misunderstand the problem of our sin as we stand before a holy God. All are born sinful and none can meet God's standard.

2. Not of the will of flesh –

In and of ourselves, we cannot be good enough to be saved. In our flesh no good thing is found. We cannot come to God in our own righteousness.

Romans 7:18 ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

Philippians 3:8-9 ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Many are trusting in their own "goodness," not realizing that it does not measure up to God's perfect standard. They cannot be saved by the will of the flesh. It is impossible.

3. Not of the will of man –

2 Peter 1:21 ²¹ for prophecy never came by the **will of man**, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Man has never been able to save himself. There is no list of rules that someone has made up which allow a person to be right before God. It is impossible to come to God, except in the way God prescribes.

4. But of God – being born of God is the only way someone can be saved.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

1 Peter 1:22-23 ²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Only God has the ability to save us.

Luke 2:10-11 ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David **a Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.

Only those born of God, through faith in Christ are able to become God's children.

Galatians 4:4-5 ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

How will you respond to the Savior. Will you choose to ignore Him and His death for you? Will you reject Him? Or will you choose to believe Him?