

John Series: That You May Believe
#3: Response To Christ (Prologue Part 2)

Text: John 1:6-13

Man's Response – Unbelief or Faith (vs. 6-13) Paragraph 2 of John's Prologue.

I. The Witness (vs 6-8) – Introduction of John the Baptist. He is just a "*man*" (in contrast to the Word). Rather than being God, He is "*sent from God.*"

1. God has ordained the **method** of sending men to bear witness of Jesus Christ. Through the preaching of witnesses sent from God, believers are drawn to Christ and the church is built. (1 Cor 1:18-24, Rom 10:14-17, Acts 1:8). (pray for pastors, encourage, study, respect)
2. John the Baptist's **purpose** was to show people the Light (Jesus) so they would believe Christ. "*Witness.*" This word is used 47 times in John's gospel. He is giving witnesses so we will believe in Christ. John makes it clear that John the Baptist **was NOT the Light** (clear up heresies). (2 Cor 4:5)

II. The Incarnation (v9)

1. "*Coming into the world*" speaks of Christ (the Light), not "*every man.*" This is shown further in the context, as the next verse shows Christ "*in the world.*" This is John's first mention of **the incarnation**. Jesus, the Word of God, was coming to the world!
2. Light is given to every man. While this is true, and the light of *conscience* and *creation* are given to all (so that men are without excuse – Rom 1) it seems that this verse is speaking of the more specific **gospel light**, given to those who hear the gospel, or to those who are saved. Just as the Old Creation began with the words "*Let there be light,*" so the New Creation begins with Christ's LIGHT entering the heart (2 Cor 4:6).

III. The Response of Rejection in Unbelief (vs 10-11) – very sad verses. Here is the continuing theme in John of **blind people rejecting Jesus**. When Christ came to the place & people who were especially prepared for His coming, He was not received. John is also showing Jesus as the Messiah (He came to Israel). Isaiah 1:2-3 (you can have advantages and still not receive Christ – Bible, church in your city, Christian radio & tv, Christian family).

IV. The Response of Receiving Christ by Faith (vs 12-13) – verses of hope, grace and glory to God. John's gospel is a tragedy of unbelief, but also a great drama of unfolding faith.

1. **Some received Him.** He gave these the right to become children of God. Paul speaks of "sons of God" by adoption, pertaining to our rights in Him. John speaks of "*children of God*" by spiritual birth, pertaining to LIFE, likeness, nature & characteristics.

2. **Responsibility of Man** (v12). It's not enough to believe Jesus is a Savior, or even **THE** Savior. He must become **MY** Savior! **You must receive Him, believing in His name.** God will not repent for you. (Acts 2:36-41, Acts 16:30-32)

3. **Sovereignty of God** (v13). **Qualifies** and **explains** verse 12. **How** can some of these fallen men receive Jesus? **How can blind men see Jesus as God?** (1 Cor 2:14, Luke 18:23-27, Luke 19:8-10).

John tells us, positively and negatively:

Negatively: they "*are born, NOT:*"

- a) "*of blood.*" Doesn't run in the family (inheritance). Not by nationality (Jews only).
- b) "*of the will of the flesh.*" Not based on works, self-effort, natural instinct.
- c) "*of the will of man.*" Not originating in human choice.

Positively stated, "*who were born...of God.*" A direct supernatural exercise of divine power. (Jonah 2:9b, Rom 9:15-16, 1 Cor 1:29-30, James 1:18)

Reference: many Quotes, Outlines & Ideas for this sermon taken from the commentaries on the gospel of John written by Charles Erdman, Warren Wiersbe, John Phillips and William Hendrickson.

Scripture References

Rom10:14-17 "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? **15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" **16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" **17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2Cor4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake."

2Cor4:6 "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Is 1:2-3 – "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: " I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; **3** The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider."

Acts2:36-41 ""Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." **37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." **40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

Acts16:30-32 "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." **32** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."

1Cor2:14 "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Lk18:23-37 **LOOK UP**

Lk19:8-10 **LOOK UP**

Jonah2:9b "Salvation is of the Lord"

Rom9:15-16 "For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." **16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy."

1Cor1:29-30 " that no flesh should glory in His presence. **30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption"

James1:18 "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."