

5 Children of God John 1:12-13

05/17/15

INTRODUCTION / REVIEW

Today we will be covering John 1 verses 11-13. This text is important because it speaks directly to how we can become Children of God and go to heaven. Let's read the text.

READ THE TEXT

John 1:11-13

*¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people **did not receive him.***

*¹² But to all who **did receive him**, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 1:11 Review

¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Last week we spoke about verse 10 in which nonreligious people did not recognize Jesus when He came. Then Verse 11 said that His own people who should have recognized Him by the signs and prophecies He fulfilled did not receive Him. Israel rejected their own Jewish Messiah.

We learned about the nonreligious who loved the darkness more than Jesus, and we spoke about the religious who wanted to be their own savior. They did not want to give glory to anyone but themselves thus they rejected the King of glory.

Verse 12 speaks to those who do recognize and do receive Jesus Christ.

COUNTER CULTURAL

In the 60s there was a countercultural movement. There was social upheaval, rebellion against authority,

sexual liberation and all kinds of drugs and booze. But this so called countercultural movement became normal and is now a part of our everyday culture.

Sexual boundaries have been broken down and the result is that our entire culture is suffering because of the lack of fathers and sometimes mothers who think more of their body appetites than their own family and children. Kids are learning to use one another and turning what should be precious into something common. Covenants and promises meant to protect our hearts matter little.

Drug use is becoming no big deal and there is a huge push to legalize narcotics. The hippies moved to wall street and become politicians, lawyers and college professors. The result is that everything that used to be radical and countercultural is becoming normal and acceptable.

Today if you want to become a radical and go against the culture there is only one thing that you can do,

become a sold out believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was not too long ago in every part of this country if you were a believer you were held in high esteem. But today in many places and in many schools if you are a believer who puts Jesus first in your life, you are a true radical. You are breaking away from the zombies makers of our culture who want you to act just like them and share their drama and misery.

The world and the zombie makers may no longer approve of you because you are willing to be a true radical; a true counter cultural person. But Jesus will love you with a perfect love that does not use you up, but instead lifts you up, and cleans you up, and heals you of your addictions. John 1:12 is for those who dare to be radically counter cultural.

John 1:12

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

When you receive Jesus Christ and believe in His name for salvation you will be transformed from a person of the world who is conforming to the expectations of others - into a child of God who knows the King of Kings and has the power of His Holy Spirit.

THE FIRST QUESTION

So the first challenge from this text is this: “what will you do with Jesus Christ?” “Will you believe in Him for salvation and transformation?”

John 3:36 says;

“Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on Him.”

So this is a huge distinction. Those who believe- have eternal life, and those who do not believe and obey have the wrath of God remain on them.

Believing and obeying means that you believe Jesus Christ is God’s only Son and God’s only way of taking care

of our sin. The cross of Jesus Christ and God's wrath toward your sin poured out on Jesus instead of you, only Jesus removes our sin.

And when we believe we are also called to obedience. When you receive Him as Savior you no longer belong to yourself. You belong to the one who saved your life and promised you heaven. When you believe you are believing Jesus Christ is your creator and He is also your savior and He is also your Lord who created you and who has therefore the right to the throne of your life. The good news is that when Jesus runs your life you will experience more joy and laughter and freedom and blessings than when you ran your own life. Remember how much more drama was in your life before Christ?

WHAT TRULY SEPARATES US?

In this world there is black and white, rich and poor, skinny and fat, male and female. There are many distinctions. Some people work very hard to overcome and

bridge these difference. Others get rich by making sure one group hates the other.

But these distinctions are all temporary. When The Lord returns none of that will matter. When the Lord returns there will be only two classes, two camps, two groups of people, those who have received Him and those who have not.

The healthiest way to look at this life right now is that there are some people who are set apart as children of God and some who are not.

There are those who face God's wrath and those who are God's children. That is the only legitimate distinction that will last forever. All other distinctions are a smoke screen from Satan to get one group to feel morally superior to the other when in fact all groups share the guilt of sin and wrath of God. That is the real problem, not our surface differences.

HOW DO WE GET FROM WRATH TO ADOPTION?

So how do we move from having the wrath of God rest on us to adoption and favor and blessing through Jesus Christ?

FIRST, RECEIVE HIM AS HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE

First, we must receive Jesus as the person he has revealed himself to be. This especially means acknowledging Him as the unique Son of God. Some people admire Jesus but doubt that he could really be God's only Son and only way to God. Yet the Bible insists:

1 John 4:14-15

“the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus confronted His own disciples with this same challenge. In Matthew 16 Jesus asked them; “***who do you people that I am?***” They replied; “some say you are John the Baptist, others think you are elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets come back from the dead. Then Jesus challenged them; “who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered for the group and said; “you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

Jesus hailed their profession of faith in Him as the Son of God. And He said that this is the type of profession on which He would build His church. In other words, they received Jesus Christ on His terms, as the only Son of the Living God. And we must receive Jesus on His terms not ours.

SECOND, RECEIVE JESUS IN HIS **SAVING OFFICES**

The second thing we must do as part of our confession of faith is to receive Jesus Christ in **His saving offices**. What do I mean by that? What is a saving office? In the Old Testament the Messiah is called The Anointed

One. So what is the Messiah anointed to do? The Messiah was expected to come in the three main offices that God used to run Israel. God ran Israel through anointed Prophets, Priests and Kings. So the Anointed Messiah would come he would be greater than any man. He would be anointed in all three offices of **Prophet, Priest and King**.

The True **Prophet**

Jesus claimed to speak for God in the office of a prophet. The word of God says;

Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

A prophet speaks for God. And Jesus Christ spoke for God. He spoke AS GOD. And He spoke FOR GOD. His

disciples received His prophecies and then they wrote the gospels and the letters and epistles. All of these books were written based on the teachings of the final and greatest prophet, The Lord Jesus Christ.

So when we receive Him we must receive Him as God's final word and final authority and greatest prophet.

The Final And True Priest

Jesus also claimed the office of Priest. the Old Testament priests offered sacrifices to God - Lambs, bulls, and goats - for the purpose of purifying sinners. Jesus Christ came as the true Sacrifice and the true High Priest. John the Baptist said of him,

John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus is both the sacrificed Lamb of God and He is the priest who made the offering for our sin. Receiving Jesus Christ in His office of Priest means that you come to Him believing that you need to have your sins forgiven.

And your belief is that His sacrifice alone cleans you from your sins. He alone can give you peace with God by removing your sin.

The Office of King

Finally, Jesus comes to us in the office of King. The kings of Israel were anointed to rule God's people, and Jesus is the true Anointed One, the Christ, and the King of Kings. Receiving Him and believing on His name means bending our knee and opening your heart to be ruled by Him. Jesus came to forgive our sins, but also to lead us into a new life of righteousness. We do not truly receive Him unless we are willing to yield to His commands. Our faith acknowledges to Him;

Christian Love

Jesus *how glorious is thy name!*

The Great Jehovah's equal thou!

O let me catch th' immortal flame,

With which angelic spirits glow!

As angels love thee, I would love!

And imitate the blessed above!

*My **Prophet** thou my heavenly guide,
They blessed instructions I will hear;
The words that from thy lips proceed,
O how divinely great they are!
Thee my great prophet, would I love,
and imitate the blessed above!*

*My **Great High Priest**, whose precious blood,
Did once atone upon the cross;
Who now does intercede with God,
And please the friendless sinners cause!
In thee I trust; thee would I love,
And imitate the blessed above!*

*My **King Supreme**, to thee I bow,
a willing subject at thy feet;
All other Lords I disavow,
And to thy government submit!*

*My Savior King this heart would love,
And imitate the blessed above!*

----- end hymn -----

Charles Spurgeon Quote:

Can we, dear Friends, thus accept Christ tonight, as Prophet, Priest, and King? If not, it is idle to talk about receiving Jesus Christ—we do not know Him—and are not known of Him! Our Lord is not to be divided and parceled out. You must have Him altogether or not at all. You must admit Him in all His offices, or He will not come under your roof.

This is what it means to have faith in Christ, which makes the great distinction between those who are saved and those who are lost; to receive Him as The only Son of God and as Christ in all His offices - Prophet, Priest and King.

And we must receive Him personally. it is one thing to acknowledge that a feast is prepared, but another to come and eat. We must not merely assent to Jesus as a God and a Christ, but say: *“Jesus, you are my God. You are my Christ - my Prophet, my Priest, and my King.”*

The great and true dividing line of the human race - a distinction that will last forever - is between those who personally receive Jesus in faith and those who refuse Him in unbelief.

John 10:27-28

My Sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

THE RESULTS AND PRIVILEGES OF RECEIVING
JESUS

John 1:12

¹² ***But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,***

People work all their lives to receive titles and privileges...to become vice president or chairman of the board. Others dream of being a prince or princess who is a daughter or son of a king. But John holds in front of us the highest possible privilege; we become children of God through faith in Christ.

This is our greatest need, to be brought into God's family and to become His blessed children. People may talk about God as being the Father of everyone, but the Bible denies this concept.

Receive Jesus as the only true and final prophet.
Receive Jesus as the final priest who paid for your sins.
Receive Jesus as the king of your life who will give you the power to obey Him. If God is calling you to receive Him on His terms, then you will become a children of God... verse 13...

¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The bible claims those who receive Him are born of God; In other words God gives you the faith to believe Jesus Christ is prophet, priest and king and you have the faith and desire to cry out and receive Him as your final word, as your sacrifice for sin and as the king of your life.

You and I will never be perfect this side of heaven. But when God gives you a new heart and gives you His own name, your desires will change. When you are born of God your desire is to please God and it will really bother you when you live contrary to the will of your Heavenly Father.

TAKING IT HOME

1. There are only two real classes of people, those who receive Jesus Christ and those who have not. Where are you today?
2. Will you receive Him on His terms today?
3. Have you received Him in the past as Savior, but not as your king and not as your only source of truth?

4. If so, will you receive Jesus as He really is?... receive Him as **Savior** to forgive your sins; receive Him as **Prophet** to be the final word and source of truth; and receive Him as **Lord and King** of your life.