



"He Is 'I Am'"

John 8:48-59, Mark 1:1-13

Sunday | December 1st, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

John 8:48-59
Mark 1:1-13

(See also Jn. 8:21-47, 1:1-5, 14, 14:10, 10:30, 5:18; Ex. 3:13-14; Col. 1:15, 2:9; Php. 2:5-11, Rom. 5:17-19)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Michael Reeves] *"Even for Christians, overlooking Jesus is easier than falling off a log, it seems. We instinctively think of God, life, grace, reality with rarely a pause to have Jesus shape what we mean by those things. We can even have a 'Christian worldview' and find Jesus is but an interesting feature in its landscape; we can even have a 'gospel' and find Jesus is just the delivery boy who brings home the real goods, whether that be salvation, heaven or whatever. But that must change if we are to take seriously the fact that he is the beloved Son."*

"Sometimes we find ourselves tiring of Jesus, stupidly imagining that we have all there is to see and used up all the pleasure there is to be had in him. We get spiritually bored. But Jesus has satisfied the mind and heart of the infinite God for eternity. Our boredom is simple blindness. If the Father can be infinitely and eternally satisfied in him, then he must be overwhelmingly all-sufficient for us. In every situation, for eternity."¹

[Nicene Creed, 325 A.D.] *"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of Very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made..."*

¹ Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing In Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), p.21.

[Matthew Henry] *"In this (as in many other things) Adam was a figure of him that was to come; for out of the side of Christ, the second Adam, his spouse the church was formed, when he slept the sleep, the deep sleep, of death upon the cross, in order to which his side was opened, and there came out blood and water, blood to purchase his church and water to purify it to himself."*²

DISCUSS

1. Pastor Patrick talked about our proneness this time of year to be "wholly distracted." During the Christmas season, where are you most prone to get distracted? With regards to a focus on Christ this time of year, what is it that has the best chance of causing you to miss (i.e. overlook) Christ?
2. Read the above quotes from Michael Reeves and discuss. Have you ever been "spiritually bored?" What causes spiritual boredom?
3. Looking at the person of Christ, read John 8:48-59 (see also 8:21-47) and discuss (See also Ex. 3:13-14). What is Jesus saying? Who is He? (See also Heb. 1:3, Col. 1:15, 2:9, Jn. 1:1-5, 14)
4. Reeves uniquely said of Jesus, *"There is no God in heaven who is unlike Jesus."* What does this mean? How might this affect our "spiritual boredom" this Christmas?
5. Read Mark 1:1-13 and discuss. Why does the person of Jesus matter so much? If He truly is who Scripture indicates He is, how should we to respond? What changes?
6. Read the above Matthew Henry quote and discuss. What is significant about this?
7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon?

²*Ibid.* p. 37.

³*M Ibid.* p. 14.