

John 10:34-42

How to Answer Religious Skeptics

INTRO- People reject our blessed Lord and Savior for a whole slew of reasons.

Such as: _____

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

How were you particularly comforted/encouraged/admonished as you listened to the word of Christ this morning? Did you receive the truth in trusting faith? What might you study further?

The “Savior of the world” is also the Master Evangelist. Christians love and worship the Lord Jesus Christ, but we also seek to walk as He walked! (note 1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Matthew 4:19).

List some of the reasons why unbelievers do not embrace Christ as Lord and Savior (God and King)? See passages such as John 3:19-20; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 5:31-32; Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 10:37-39).

Consider signing up for our *personal evangelism and local outreach training* led by deacon Evan Jones. This practical application orientated class will meet once a month (January through April 2022). For more details, please reach out to Evan Jones or Cathy Solon.

What is a religious skeptic? Here’s my definition, “A religious skeptic is someone who doubts and/or questions gospel truth, often as a covering for sin and unbelief.” A skeptical unbeliever might believe that Jesus existed historically (which is true) but does not believe that He is Divine Messiah, the eternal Son of God, our blessed Lord and Savior, the Good Shepherd. Note John 20:30-31. Those who truly believe, love Jesus (1 Cor. 16:22), and follow Him as a believing disciple (John 14:23; Luke 9:23-25).

When I mention “agnostics” I am referring to unbelievers who say that it is impossible to truly know absolute truth concerning God, salvation, the Deity of Christ, life after death (heaven/hell), etc, etc. Agnostics often claim to be neutral, “I neither believe or disbelieve X, Y, and Z.” They sort of present themselves as an undecided voter (when it comes to Christ, the Bible, the gospel, etc). Many unbelieving “intellects” were raised in the church and then go off to a university and come home an “agnostic.” Note 1 John 2:19-26; John 3:36; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Matthew 12:30. I think some agnostics fear the possibility that the God of the Bible may be exactly who the Bible says He is. If they are wrong, they want God to have mercy on them for not embracing Jesus as Lord and Savior (God and King). Some think that you can be neutral as it relates to Jesus and be safe (if there ends up being a day of final judgement; Heb. 9:27; Rom. 2:5-16; Rev. 20:11-15).

In John 10:32f Jesus encourages His skeptical (religious) audience to consider two things. What are the two things and why does Jesus mention them? What’s Jesus’s point? What’s His goal? List the false religions or cults that would claim to believe in Jesus (not the true Christ of Scripture)? List those that have a moderately high view of the Bible? Talk about the concept of almost not quite. Puritan Matthew Mead wrote a short book titled, “The Almost Christian Discovered.”

John’s mountain of Gospel evidence demands nothing less than a saving faith verdict (John 20:30-31). Encourage people to read the Bible. In particular the Gospel of John. Lovingly tell them 4 or 5 things to look for as they read; (perhaps provide them with specific passages that correlate with those 4-5 things. Such as the Miraculous Works of Christ; the I Am sayings of Jesus; some of the key O.T. Messianic passages with N.T. fulfillment; etc).

If the Master Evangelist’s gospel presentations/invitations were rejected by unbelievers, should we expect that if we get the message right, or if we are logically consistent and scripturally persuasive, that everyone we encounter will embrace Christ as Lord and Savior (God and King)? Unlike Jesus, we often have room to improve (and should work hard to be the most faithful evangelist/apologist we can be). With that said, God calls us to be faithful and to leave the results in His hands. Also remember, Divine sovereignty does not lessen or eliminate human responsibility or human culpability.

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