

Discussion Questions & Quotes For March 10 thru 16, 2024

—*“We can’t make ourselves spiritually alive, either by our endeavors or our works or our attendance or whatever it might be. Only God is able to do that.”*
—**Alistair Begg**

—**John 20:30–31** “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe (totally trust that) Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name.”

“Delighting in God’s Word leads us to delight in God, and delight in God drives away fear.”
—**David Jeremiah**

—**Hebrews 2:1–4** “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

—*Considering what Jesus told the Jewish leaders in John 5 when He told them that He was God, “In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivaled by any ... character in history.”*
—**C. S. Lewis**

—**1 John 5:11–13** “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

—*“Using religion to try to impress others outwardly rather than seeking to please God on the heart level will keep you from faith in Christ”*
—**Stephen J. Cole**

—“Truth is a characteristic of God, and it’s only as we know God in a personal way that we can actually know and understand truth.”
—**Leon Morris**

—*“Worship is not just an emotional exercise but a response of the heart built on truth about God. Worship that is not based on God’s Word is but an emotional encounter with oneself.”*
—**Erwin Lutzer**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please acquaint yourself with John 5 by reading it carefully, observing the details provided by what’s in the biblical text.

—**1}** *After carefully reading what took place when Jesus healed the man beside the Pool of Bethesda, what thoughts go through your mind?*

—*What does this event tell us about the level of concern & compassion shown to those who had special needs and serious illnesses?*

—*If you had been that man, how would you have answered Jesus’ question about wanting to get well?*

—*What does the man’s answer tell us about him?*

—*What does the reaction from the Jewish leaders tell us about their priorities?*

—*What does Jesus’ answer to the Jewish leaders tell us about His view of the legal requirements surrounding the Sabbath day? (Please realize that the rabbis had added many extra guidelines to what could or couldn’t be done on the Sabbath; many of them were unreasonable.)*

—**2}** The Jewish leaders were strict and rigid in their expectations of the Jewish people. This strictness strongly demonstrated that they believed obeying the Law was what gave them salvation from their sins. This is a legalistic philosophy that is also seen in many “religious” people. What would you say are the main differences between religion and biblical Christianity? Why is this an important distinction for us to acknowledge and understand?

—**3}** *In John 5, Jesus clearly explained and exposed His true identity as equal with God. For many people, this becomes a discussion that might not seem to be exciting. However, the deity of Jesus is an essential aspect of what we believe as faithful followers of Christ. Please take a close look at Colossians 2:6–15, especially verses 8–10. What might cause professing Christians to fall away into religion rather than being faithful followers of Christ? How can we guard against it? If someone slips into this type of empty deception, how would you counsel them?*

—**4}** John 5 is a turning point in Jesus’ ministry. This is when the Jewish leadership began to increase their persecution against Jesus. It appears that Jesus used this occasion to reveal Who He was to them. How does this provide evidence for us to understand that Jesus was in complete control over the timing of His death? What does this teach us about God’s sovereignty?