



Discussion Questions • "All is Well" • 10/25/2020

Question 1:

Have you seen any articles, videos or memes making the case that 2020 is the "worst year ever?" Along with the pandemic, have there been personal trials in your life this year that have left you wondering if this is indeed the "worst year ever?" In such times Christians will say, sometimes very glibly, "God is in control." If an unbelieving friend asked you to explain how God has been in control in 2020, how would you explain it to them? Have you ever been through a time when the thought of God's sovereignty brought you little or no comfort? Why do you think that happened?

Question 2:

What comes to mind when you think of God's throne? The book of Revelation was written for Christians in a time of intense suffering. The vision of God's throne in chapters 4 and 5 is the "hinge" of the book. How might this vision have encouraged the original readers? Does knowing that Revelation is much more about Jesus than about the end of the world make you less interested in reading the book? What might this say about your heart?

Question 3:

What is written in the scroll of John's vision? Do you find the idea that all of history, including your own, is pre-planned and written in a book to be comforting? Frightening? Unacceptable? Why?

Question 4:

How is Jesus like a lion? How is Jesus like a lamb? Which of these two are you more drawn to? Why? The combination of these two images (conquering through weakness) can be used as an argument that Christianity is true and not made up. Why? If the universe (and your life) is being directed and overseen by One who died for you and who understands suffering, how is that a comfort? Discuss.

Question 5:

Do you find prayer to be a struggle? Why? In his vision, John sees the prayers of the saints (symbolized as incense) present at the throne of God. How could this encourage you in your prayer life? Seeing our prayers as sweet-smelling incense suggests that they are "cleaned up" when they get to God's throne. How might this encourage you in your praying?

Question 6:

What is the truth that ignites the massive explosion of praise at the end of this chapter? If you were watching a crime-drama movie and someone is 'ransomed' what does that mean? If a Christian is someone who has been "ransomed," what does this mean? How is that similar and how is it different from a 'crime-drama'? What do we mean by saying that Jesus gives us an "actual" salvation, rather than a possible or potential salvation? How is this a comfort to you?