

Back To Basics

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SPECIAL ISSUE: WE WOULD SEE JESUS

Johnie Edwards

The statement, “Sir, we would see Jesus” finds itself at a time when, “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after him. And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Phillip...and desired him, saying, Sir we would see Jesus” (Jn. 12:20-21). This special issue takes a look at who men and the Bible say Jesus is.

1) JESUS ASKED THE QUESTION. As early disciples came in from teaching, Jesus asked, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am” (Mt. 16:13)? In this day, men had various concepts as to who Jesus was. “Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets” (Mt. 16:14). We know that Jesus was none of these.

2) EACH ONE MUST GIVE ANSWER. After hearing what men had to say as to who He was, Jesus asked, “But whom say ye that I am” (Mt. 16:15)? So, each one of us must study the word of God to find out who Jesus is. Only the Bible can give us a full and complete knowledge of this question. Many have never learned who Jesus is because they consult the

wrong source. We are asking you, “Whom say ye that Jesus is?”

3) THE APOSTLE PETER KNEW. “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16). Now, we are beginning to learn from the right source that Jesus is the Son of God. This truth is a divine revelation from heaven! Many do not believe this, but it is still so. In fact, Jesus uttered, “if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).

4) A ROCK-BUILT CHURCH. Peter confessed, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of God” (Mt. 16:16). This grand ledged truth became the “rock” on which the church of Christ was built. Jesus affirmed, “And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). A failure to understand who Jesus is, undermines the very church He established. Paul told the Corinthians, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).

It really does make a difference as to who you think Jesus is.

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THE "I AM" STATEMENTS OF JESUS

John Isaac Edwards

Who better to tell us about Jesus than Jesus Himself? Jesus knew who He was and from whence He came (Jn. 8:14).

1) **"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE" (JN. 6:35).** Following the feeding of the 5,000 with "five barley loaves and two small fishes," Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (Jn. 6:35).

2) **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" (JN. 8:12).** Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12). John said of Jesus, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (Jn. 1:4) and "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (Jn. 1:9).

3) **"I AM THE DOOR" (JN. 10:9).** When Jesus spoke concerning "the sheepfold," He said, "I am the door of the sheep" (Jn. 10:7). Again, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (Jn. 10:9). Since Jesus is *the door*, He is the only means of entrance into the sheepfold.

4) **"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" (JN. 10:11).** Jesus declared, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (Jn. 10:11). Another quality of the good shepherd is that He knows His sheep and is known of His sheep (Jn. 10:14). Elders can learn who they need to be when they see Jesus as the good shepherd.

5) **"I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE" (JN. 11:25).** Jesus said to Martha, "I am

the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (Jn. 11:25). "Believest thou this?" (Jn. 11:26).

6) **"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE" (JN. 14:6).** When Thomas said to the Lord, "we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (Jn. 14:5), Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6).

We see who Jesus is as we look at when Jesus said, "I am."

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A SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS JESUS

Melba Edwards

We read about a Samaritan woman meeting Jesus in John 4:3-42. After Jesus left Judea, He headed for Galilee. But he needed to go through Samaria. Jacob's well was there and Jesus, being wearied from His journey, sat by the well. A woman of Samaria came to draw water and Jesus asked her for a drink. There are several things this Samaritan woman learned about Jesus.

1) JESUS GIVES LIVING WATER. This woman of Samaria asked Jesus why He asked her for a drink since He was a Jew and she was a Samaritan, because the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus said unto her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." She asked Jesus concerning the living water. Jesus answered her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." She asked Jesus to give her this water. We can have this living water today when we seek God's word and his righteousness (Mt. 5:6).

2) JESUS KNEW ALL THINGS SHE HAD DONE. In their conversation, Jesus told her how many husbands she has had. She thought Jesus to be a prophet. Later the woman leaves her waterpot and went into the city and told the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" The men came

to Jesus. "And many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all that I ever did.'" Jesus stayed there two days and many more believed for they heard Him themselves and they knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Savior of the world.

3) JESUS TAUGHT HOW TO WORSHIP. She then spoke concerning the mountain where their fathers worshiped and that the Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

4) JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, THE CHRIST. She told Jesus she knew the Messiah was coming and He would tell them all things. Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." Later the Samaritans knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Savior of the world.

After the woman of Samaria learned these things about Jesus, many Samaritans believed because she brought them to Him. Women today need to be like this woman of Samaria. When we have found the Christ, we need to bring others to Him.

WHO MEN SAY JESUS IS

Donnie V. Rader

Jesus raised the question of who men say He is (Mt. 16:13). On another occasion Jesus asked the Pharisees, “What do you think about the Christ?” (Mt. 22:41-42). The fact that Jesus raised that question tells us that it is important to know what men are saying. It helps us to refute error and teach the truth. It lets us see just how confused the world is.

1) **FIRST CENTURY IDEAS.** Some said that He was John the Baptist (Mt. 16:14). Some thought He was Elijah (Mt. 16:14). Some held to the idea that He was Jeremiah (Mt. 16:14). The Scribes and Pharisees made many charges about Jesus. They said He was a blasphemer (Mt. 9:1-8). He was accused of being a winebibber and a glutton (Mt. 11:19). They charged that He was a sinner (Jn. 9:24), and a lawbreaker (Mt. 12:1-8).

2) **PRESENT DAY IDEAS.** The **world** says He is just a man. “Today, one can find evidence virtually everywhere – on every continent, in both Protestant and Roman Catholic circles – that the theologically ‘in thing’ is to contend for a Jesus who was only a man by nature and for a Bible that is virtually silent regarding the classical incarnational Christology of a two-natured Christ – true God and true man in the one person of Jesus Christ. It is very much in vogue to believe that the better case can be made for understanding Jesus as only a man – a very unusual man, of course, with a special mission from God – to explain the biblical ascriptions of divine qualities to Him in the other than ontological terms” (Robert L. Reymond, *Jesus Divine Messiah*, pp. 2-3).

The **Jews** say that Jesus is not the Messiah, not Divine, but just a man. Rabbi Naftali Silberberg said, “If Jesus is the Messiah and this is what Redemption is all about – who needs the Messiah?” (*askmoses.com*). “Jews believe God is God, and hu-

mans are humans. God does not become human nor do humans become God” (*whatjewsbelieve.org*).

The **Muslims** say that He was a great prophet, but not the Son of God. “Jews and Muslims have held throughout history that Jesus could not have been the Son of God. But, whereas Judaism does not accept the mission of Jesus, Islam accords him the exalted position of prophet and messenger of God to his people – the Israelites” (Dr. Salah El Dareer, *Hutto - El Dareer Debate*, p. 10).

The **Jehovah’s Witnesses** say Jesus was “a god,” but not divine. Their own New World Translation of John 1:1 says, “the Word was a god.” “In truth, when Jesus was on earth, He was a perfect man, nothing more and nothing less” (*Reconciliation*, p. 111).

The **Mormons** say Jesus was a polygamist. “there were several holy women that greatly ‘loved Jesus,’ such as Mary and Martha her sister, and Mary Magdalene; and Jesus greatly loved them... if all the acts were written, we, no doubt should learn that these beloved women were His wives” (Orson Hyde, *The Seer*, pp. 158-159).

The **Christian Scientist** says that He was a great man, but not the Christ. Mary Baker Eddy wrote, “...Jesus was the man that was a prophet and the best and greatest man that ever has appeared on earth, but Jesus was not Christ, for Christ is the spiritual individual that the eye cannot see. Jesus was called Christ only in the sense that you say, a Godlike man...” (Altman K. Swihart, *Since Mrs. Eddy*, p. 53).

As you continue reading this issue of *Back To Basics*, you will learn who Jesus is as the Bible presents Him.

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JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

John Isaac Edwards

Jesus was not just a man as some would have us believe -- He is the Son of God. Faith in the divine Sonship of Jesus rests upon recorded testimony (Jn. 20:30-31). Let's bring some witnesses to the stand and hear them testify that Jesus is the Son of God.

1) THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS. On occasions numerous and in terms certain, Jesus asserted Himself to be the Son of God. In the healing of the paralytic, the Son of man from heaven was demonstrated to be the Son of God on earth (Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:1-12; Lk. 5:18-26). When Caiaphas told Jesus, "tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God," He answered, "I am" (Mt. 26:63-64; Mk. 14:61-62; Lk. 22:70). When Jesus brought sight to the man born blind, He said unto him, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee" (Jn. 9:35-37).

2) THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN. Jesus said, "There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth" (Jn. 5:32-33). As a God-sent witness, John saw and bear record that Jesus "is the Son of God" (Jn. 1:34).

3) THE TESTIMONY OF THE WORKS. In John 5:36 Jesus added, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." Jesus offered His works as evidence of His divine Sonship and grounds of faith (Jn.

10:24-25, 36-38). Since Jesus finished the works, the testimony is complete (Jn. 17:4).

4) THE TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER. Jesus stated, "And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me" (Jn. 5:37). At the baptism of Jesus, "lo a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Mt. 3:17). At the majestic mountain scene of Matthew 17, "there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 17:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:17-18).

5) THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES. Jesus appealed, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (Jn. 5:39). Those things "written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms" concerning Christ bear witness of Christ (Lk. 24:47, 44; Jn. 1:45). Peter affirmed, "...those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18), and fulfilled prophecy is divine testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The evidence of the divinity of Jesus culminates in the resurrection of Jesus. He was "declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4). In light of the overwhelming evidence, we echo the words of Simon Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (Jn. 6:68-69). Do you believe? Jesus said, "if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24).

JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS

David Eldridge

The apostle Paul, speaking of Jesus, penned these words, “Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Tim. 6:15). John, in his revelation, saw Jesus who “hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, And Lord of lords” (Rev. 19:16). We must see Jesus as the King of kings! Viewing Jesus in this way has a number of ramifications for us today. Notice that Jesus as the King of kings...

1) **HAS ALL AUTHORITY.** In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said to His disciples, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” That Jesus has all authority indicates that everything, both seen and unseen, is subject to His will. The only exception to the authority of King Jesus is God the Father (1 Cor. 15:27). Even today, Jesus is seated on the figurative throne of David, exalted to the right hand of the Father (Heb. 8:1). Jesus will continue to reign as King until the end of earthly time when He puts down all authority at the feet of the One who gave it to Him (1 Cor. 15:24-25). To see Jesus as the King of kings is to see the One who has authority over you, me, and all of creation.

2) **HAS A LAW.** The churches of Galatia were told to “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). This law is not a law system as was the Old Law. However, Jesus has a law replete with commandments. We cannot simply do whatever we wish and think that our King will be pleased. We must walk by the commandments revealed in the law of Jesus. The law of our King has been revealed to us in the writings of the New Testament. Paul said,

“...the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37). To see Jesus as the King is to see One who has a law that has been given to us in the New Testament.

3) **DEMANDS SUBMISSION.** Perhaps we are too far removed from the notion of monarchies for some to appreciate the submission required by the king who is in power. However, King Jesus has all authority, has given us His law, and expects complete submission unto His commands (Eph. 5:24). It is profitable to submit to Jesus as “...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9). We are told “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Phil. 2:10). We should bow the knee in submission to Him now as we obey His commands. However, if one refuses to do so, there is coming a Day when, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” (Rom 14:11). You can bow now, or bow later, but everyone will bow to His authority. To truly see Jesus as the King is to submit to His will.

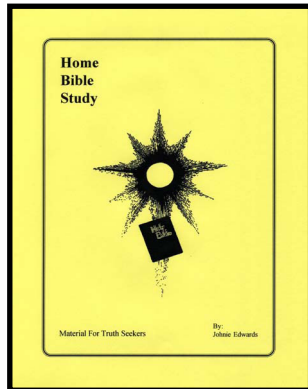
4) **WILL EXECUTE JUDGMENT.** The apostle wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). The standard of Judgment will be His word (Jn. 12:48). At the Judgment, the King will hand out either reward or punishment. Are you ready to meet the King?

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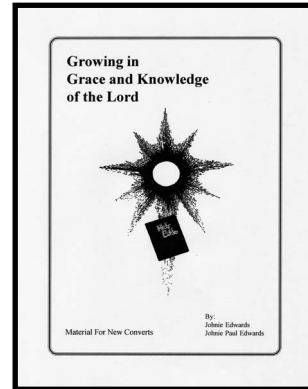
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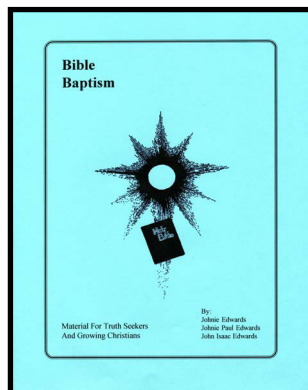
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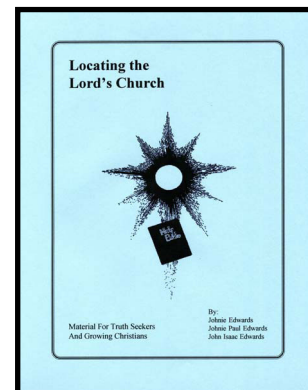
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JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

David McPherson

From the Gospel of John, it is written, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (Jn. 10:11-14). What a tremendous privilege it is to be among the Lord’s sheepfold—A place of comfort, nurture, and protection. May we appreciate the blessings that come with Jesus as the good shepherd.

1) THE GOOD SHEPHERD GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (Jn. 10:11). In God’s love for mankind, He allowed His Son to die so that we might live (Jn. 3:16). Jesus is the propitiation, the atoning sacrifice, for the sins of the world (Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10). His love and friendship are clearly seen in His willingness to thus die. Truly, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13). Jesus, the good shepherd is faithful. His selflessness sees the “wolf” from afar and readily stands guard providing a means of safety and escape from death. Unlike the “hireling,” the good shepherd will never forsake the sheep. He is ever present, as the ultimate sacrifice, giving hope and victory to the flock of God.

2) THE GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS HIS SHEEP. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep...” (Jn. 10:14). Men often delight in being known by prominent individuals. The humble servant seeking heaven delights in being known

of God. Certainly, “The Lord knoweth them that are his” (2 Tim. 2:19). Jesus not only knows who we are, but more than that He is acquainted with our wants, our dangers, our needs. With a tender regard and special care Jesus knows His sheep. Being known of the Lord is reserved for the sheep. Jesus foretold the sad state of those (not His sheep) who fail to respect His authority saying, “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mt. 7:23). May we be about the Lord’s will that He will surely “know” us.

3) THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS KNOWN OF HIS SHEEP. This “knowing” between the shepherd and His sheep is mutual. Just as the Lord knows those who are His, so He is known of them. Obedient sheep—God’s children—discern the Lord and are concerned with His ways. True sheep “hear His voice” (Jn. 10:3) and heed His instruction. The good shepherd has sounded forth His invitation (Mt. 11:28-30), and the sheep have accepted it. How willingly all men should line up and follow after Christ! His commandments are not grievous (1Jn. 5:3); His yoke and burden are easy and light (Mt. 11:30). Eternally, those who have known the Lord will be glad they did.

Too many recite the 23rd Psalm as a lie. They claim, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” having never submitted to Him. The Lord will only lead and provide for those who will follow and receive. For those faithful few who do, what a blessing from God to have Jesus as the good shepherd!

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JESUS IS THE MESSIAH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jerry Fite

Was the Spirit-led Simeon mistaken when, in his anticipation to see the Lord's Christ, he blessed God over the infant Jesus claiming his eyes had now seen the One who would be light to the Gentiles and glory to Israel (Lk. 2:26, 32)? Jews today must say yes, for they do not believe Jesus was the promised "anointed" of God, the Messiah, the Christ. Yet, when we examine the Old Testament prophecies promising the future appearance of "the anointed one," we see perfect fulfillment in Jesus.

1) THE ANOINTED KING WOULD BE GOD'S SON. Among all the Kings of the earth, God's anointed would reign in Zion. But this "anointed one" would be distinguished as "God's son" (Ps. 2:2, 6-7). God points out Jesus as "my beloved Son" on two occasions from Heaven (Mt. 3:17; 17:5). Then, He places His unique fingerprint on His Messiah by raising Jesus from the dead, thus fulfilling the promise, "this day have I begotten thee" (Ps. 2:7, Acts 13:33).

2) THE ANOINTED RULER WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM. This little city is important because it was from whence the promised ruler would come. "But thou Bethlehem Ephrathah...out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2). The Jewish Scribes knew "the Christ" would be born in Bethlehem (Mt. 2:4-6). Jesus was born in the right town to qualify as the Messiah of the Old Testament (Mt. 2:1, Jn. 7:41-42).

3) THE ANOINTED ONE WOULD BE BOTH KING AND PRIEST. The One who would rule in the midst of his enemies (Ps. 110:2) would also be priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4). Anointing initiated men into the office of

king and priest in the Old Testament (1 Sam. 10:1; 16:13; Lev. 8:30). So, the office in which the Messiah or the anointed one would serve would certainly come from at least one of these two offices. But Jesus fulfills the special predictions of the Messiah perfectly for He is both king and priest, after the order of Melchizedek who was both king and priest (Heb. 5:5-10; 7:1).

4) THE ANOINTED KING WOULD ENTER JERUSALEM HUMBLY. The prophet Zechariah predicted that humility would be exemplified in a very specific way in the Messiah: "thy king cometh unto thee; he is... lowly, and riding upon an ass even upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zech. 9:9-10). Jesus entered Jerusalem accompanied with praises recognizing him as "the son of David" while riding on the colt of an ass, fulfilling this Old Testament prediction of humility (Mt. 21:1-10). Jesus fulfills this prophecy perfectly when the "salvation" he possesses and the "peace" he speaks to all nations is salvation from sin and spiritual reconciliation with God. The salvation may not have come in the anticipated form of deliverance from all oppressive governmental rule, but "salvation" and "peace" came none the less through the "just" and "lowly" King Jesus.

5) DESOLATION IS CONNECTED WITH THE ANOINTED ONE BEING CUT OFF. Daniel promised that desolation would come to the city and sanctuary (Dan. 9:24-27). Predicted "desolation" came upon Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70 (Mt. 23:38; 24:1-21), after "the anointed one" Jesus was "cut off" just as Daniel prophesied.

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JESUS IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Larry R. Ping II

God and Christ desire the company of all in heaven. After all, God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). They are interested in seeing you and me both saved. John penned that “the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 Jn. 4:14). Let us look for lessons in the statement that Jesus is the Savior of the World. We learn that:

1) THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST WAS VERY VALUABLE. In times past, Gentiles were “without Christ...aliens...strangers...without God” (Eph. 2:12). The blood sacrifice of the Son of God made it possible for the whole world, past and present (Heb. 9:15), to draw nigh to God (Eph. 2:13) and seek salvation from sins.

2) GOD AND CHRIST ARE NOT RESPECTERS OF PERSONS. Peter clearly indicated this in Acts 10:34 when he said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” That Jesus is the Savior of the world indicates that any man or woman who has reached an accountable age has salvation available to them, based upon their willingness to obey (Heb. 5:8-9). The Father and Son could care less what color your skin is, how big your house is, how much money is in your account, or that you are the most popular fellow in your neighborhood. John the revelator said, “And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17).

3) THIS SACRIFICE WAS ALL INCLUSIVE. By this, we mean that it is not necessary that it be performed again (Heb. 9:28). It was an act that had far reaching consequences. It spans from the beginning of time to the end of time. It then is

no wonder that we refer to Christ as the Savior of the world.

4) NOT EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED. Some take statements such as we are studying and apply them incorrectly. The Bible points out that Jesus tasted “death for every man” (Heb. 2:9). Without the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood, there would be no remission of sins, and ALL men would be lost (Mt. 26:28). While this is all true, the One who died for us uttered the words, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (Jn. 15:14). He also noted that only a “few” would find the gate and path that lead to heaven (Mt. 7:13-14). Solace in the fact that Jesus is the Savior of the world does not come by giving thanks, but by yielding obedience to His words (Jn 12:48).

Jesus Christ has done all that He will for you, and is awaiting the call of His Father to return the second time to retrieve the faithful ones (1 Th. 4:16-18). Will you not now render obedience to the Savior of the World?

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JESUS IS THE BREAD AND WATER OF LIFE

Luis A. Barros

Men have always had the necessity of a lot of things, especially how to feed himself and to satisfy his thirst. Jesus clearly said, "...and your heavenly Father knows that you need them" (Mt. 6:33). Even the Lord said to ask the Father "...our daily bread" (Mt 6:11), implicating that He is the provider of all things. But the people worry about the body's food, forgetting the most important food. For this reason, the Lord said, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink..." (Mt. 6:25). And why does the Lord say this? Because "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone..." Man does live on bread BUT not only of bread also from "...every Word that comes from the mouth of GOD" (Mt. 4:4).

1) **JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.** Just as the physical body of man is satisfied by bread, Jesus satisfies man's soul and his food is eternal life. The Lord said clearly, "...the bread of GOD is he WHO comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (Jn. 6:33) and for such declaration the people told him "...from now on give us this bread" (Jn 6:34). And the answer to this diligence Jesus said: WHO is the bread, not WHAT bread, but "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry..." (Jn 6:35). But even like this, the men needed to understand more about the sublimity of this food that Jesus provided. For this reason, the Lord explained, "I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever... This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever" (Jn. 6:48-51; 58). Without a doubt, Jesus is the true bread

that satisfies the soul and gives eternal life. For this reason, we can always say, "...give us this bread."

2) **JESUS IS THE WATER OF LIFE.** In an encounter with a woman from Samaritan city, who was drawing water to satisfy her thirst, Jesus told her, "will you give a drink?" (Jn 4:7). But because there was tension between the Jews and Samaritans, she answered, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (Jn. 4:9). Jesus said to her, "If you knew the gift of GOD and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (Jn 4:10). But the woman, surprised about the Lord's answer and still thinking about the water, said to the Lord, "You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" (Jn. 4:11-12). And to us, this answer is not strange because men sometimes don't understand that the Lord's food is not physical but spiritual. For this reason, even though the woman has in her mind the water from the well, Jesus told her the truth about what she was thinking, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again" (Jn. 4:13). This truth makes it possible for us to understand the sublimity of the water that He provides us. And we can understand the divine answer from the Lord to her and to everyone, "But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn. 4:14). And without a doubt we can say like the woman, "...give me this water."

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JESUS IS OUR JUDGE

Steve Monts

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

One day we will all bow before Jesus and He will decide where we shall spend eternity. Unlike our court systems today, it will not be a long, drawn-out process. It shall be swift. There will not be a jury, as Jesus is our perfect judge. Whatever He judges will be right, perfectly right. And where we end up, there we shall be forever.

1) JUDGED BY DEEDS. We are told what will be judged, our deeds done in the body (2 Cor. 5:10). Many religious people tell us it does not matter what we do only what we believe. Yet the Bible says we will receive the things done in the body. That sounds like they do matter. Jesus says in Revelation 22:12, “And behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.” We will be judged based on our own work. Not our parent’s work, not our preacher’s work, not our church’s work, but our own work.

2) STANDARD OF JUDGMENT. Further, we know the standard that Jesus our judge shall use. It is His word. Jesus said, “The word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48). In Revelation 20:12, we see the books shall be opened. One we know is the Book of Life. The others are not mentioned by name, but what else could they be than the books of the Bible? How else could Jesus’ word judge us? John says, “And the dead were judged according to their works,

by the things which were written in the books” (Rev. 20:12).

3) SENTENCE OF CONDEMNATION. Many do not picture Jesus being able to condemn anyone. Yet in the Bible many times He spoke words of condemnation. “But I say to you it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment than for you!” (Mt. 11:22). “And I will declare to them I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Mt. 7:23). “Then He will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Mt. 25:41). And again, “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?” (Mt. 23:33). Do not think that Jesus will be a pushover on that day. He is not some cosmic grandfather who will pretend there could never be faults in his grandchildren! Having said all that though, Jesus does want us to be saved. He wants to pass good judgment on all, but they must submit to His terms. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...” (Mt. 11:29). We must take His yoke, do His work, learn from His word, repent when we fail, and be faithful till death (Rev. 2:10). Then He will save on that great day. Are we ready for Jesus to sentence us? What will that sentence be?

Franklin, KY

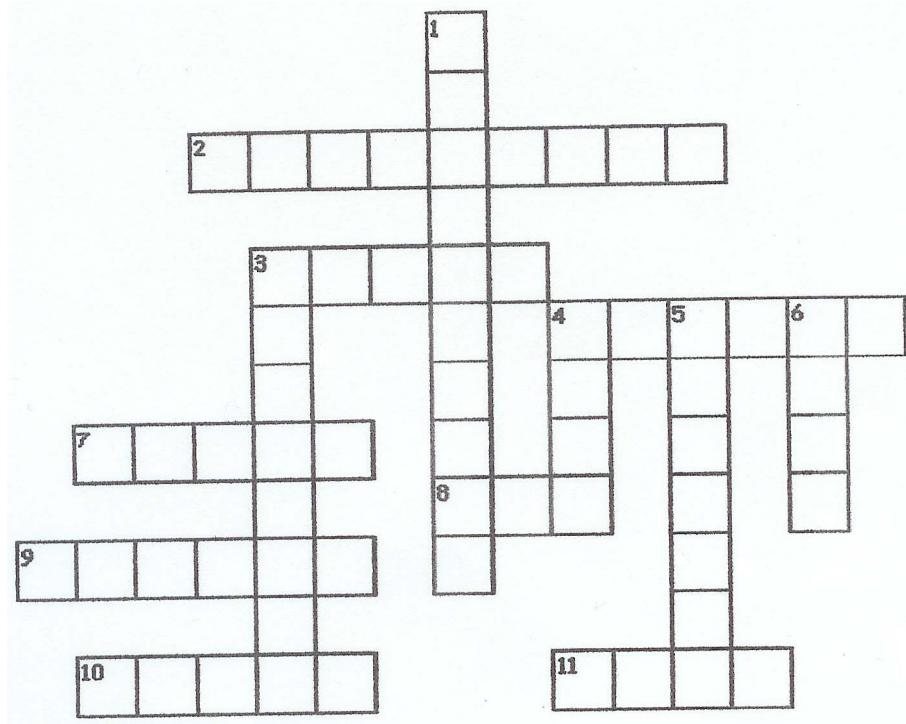
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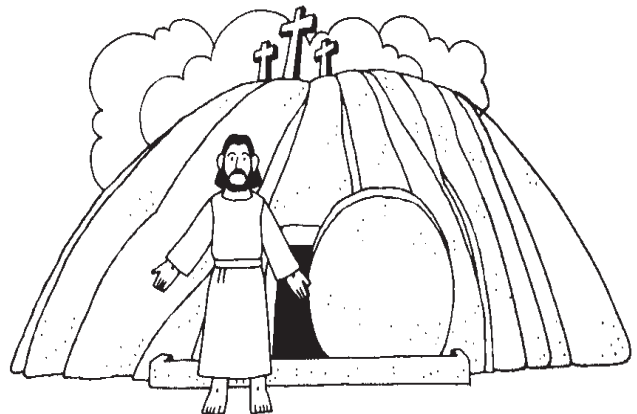


Across

2. City of Jesus' birth (Mt. 2:1)
3. Denied Jesus three times (Mt. 26:75)
4. Husband of Jesus' mother (Mt. 1:18)
7. Man who betrayed Jesus (Mt. 26:47)
8. Jesus is God's _____ (Mt. 3:17)
9. Jesus was here when He was twelve (Lk. 2:46)
10. The day of the week Jesus arose (Mt. 28:1)
11. Jesus' mother (Mt. 1:18)

Down

1. Where Jesus was tempted (Mt. 4:1)
3. One way Jesus taught (Mt. 13:3)
4. Man who baptized Jesus (Mt. 3:13)
5. Jesus is man's _____ (Mt. 1:21)
6. Jesus taught the disciples to _____ (Lk. 11:1)



**"Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).**

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

Johnie Edwards

Having learned from this special issue of *Back To Basics* who Jesus is, it is in order to ask: “What will you do with Jesus?” In the finality of things, so far as each of us is concerned, what we do or fail to do with the Lord will determine our eternal destiny! We read, in Matthew 27, the account of Jesus before Pilate. There was a “custom” of releasing one prisoner to the Jews at “the Passover” (Jn. 18:39). They could have released Jesus, but they chose, “Barabbas, a robber” (Jn. 18:39-40). The question then posed by Pilate was, “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?” (Mt. 27:22). We take a look.

1) WHAT SOME DID WITH JESUS IN THE PAST. *The apostle Peter denied him.* As “Peter sat without the palace: a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest” (Mt. 26:69-70). After denying Jesus three times, just as Jesus had said, “the cock crew” (Mt. 26:34, 74-75). *Judas betrayed Him.* It is reported, “...Judas, one of the twelve... said, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus and said, Hail master; and kissed him” (Mt. 26:47-49). For “thirty pieces of silver,” Jesus was betrayed into the hands of sinful men (Mt. 26:14-16). *Many disciples walked no more with Him.* After some hard teaching, “...many of his disciples walked no more with him” (Jn. 6:64-66). This is when Peter asked, “To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68). *The mob mocked Him.* This mocking is seen when the mob “scourged him, clothed him with purple, platted a crown of thorns put on his head, a salute: Hail, King of the Jews, smote him on the head with a reed, did spit upon him and

worshipped him...” (Mk. 15:15-20). *The Jews crucified Him.* The crew then cried out, “Let Him be crucified” (Mt. 27:22).

2) WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH JESUS?

Every responsible person has to deal with this question. The Scriptures afford us with a number of things we can do with Jesus. *We can hear Him.* God said at the transfiguration, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him” (Mt. 17:5). In order to have faith, we must hear His word (Rom. 10:17). We can hear His word by reading it, or by listening to it being taught. The first words of the first gospel sermon were, “Ye men of Israel, hear these words...” (Acts 2:22). While discussing the importance of *faith in Christ*, Jesus said, “...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24). *We can turn to Him in repentance.* Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of life (Mt. 21:28-29). And God “commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). *You can and must confess the Sonship of Jesus.* In fact, Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 10:32). A Scriptural example of this being done is found when the eunuch confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8: 37). *Baptism into Him* is essential to being saved (Gal. 3:27) as one “gladly receives His word” (Acts 2:41). If you’ve “fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4) by failing to “continue into the faith” (Col. 1:23), then you can *return to Him* as “the Shepherd and Bishop of your soul” (1 Pet. 2:25), through repentance, confession and prayer (Acts 8:13-22; 1 Jn. 1:9). The question now comes to you: What will you do with Jesus?

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