

## Who is the Real Jesus?

### ► Intro:

#### - Matt. 16:13-17

- Jesus asked disciple, “Who do the people say the Son of Man is?”
  - some people said: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, one of the prophets
- Jesus asked: “But who do you say that I am?”
  - Peter confessed: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

#### - Who is the real Jesus?

- University church summer series: “Defending the Faith”
- this lesson: Who is the Real Jesus? – defending the faith regarding Jesus

### Different fundamental beliefs regarding Jesus – this lesson, 3 major

#### - many ideas about who the “real” Jesus is

- video clip: “Jesus Revealed” National Geographic, TV

#### - Jesus warns that many people will claim to be the Christ

- Matt. 24:5 many will say, “I am the Christ,” and mislead people
- Matt. 24:23 some will say, “Behold, here is the Christ,” or “There He is,”
- Matt. 24:23b Jesus commands us not to believe them

#### - today, Jesus is different from religion to religion

- some, we can’t know the real Jesus of the 1<sup>st</sup> century
- some, Jesus was just a good man and a teacher
- some, just a prophet or sage, nothing more
- some, one of many Aeons as believed by Gnostics (New Age)
- some, created being, but not divine (deity)
- some, God – Christ, Son of God – divine, deity
- Satan has done a good job confusing the world. . . .

#### - our task, answer the question, Who is the real Jesus?

- from the Bible, the truth, not from secular writings of man, often flawed
- if you believe the Bible, you will believe in the “real” Jesus

## How can we answer the question, “Who is the real Jesus?”

- **illus.: who is Allan McNabb**

- **designations (attributes):** husband, father, grandfather, preacher, volunteer, etc.

- **joke:** handsome, smart, good looking, strong, built, etc.

➤ **9 - many of the designations ascribed to Jesus (not all) – take many sermons to cover all**

- **review PP: not say every one, but take audience through the list**

- I Am (John 8:58), Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4), Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18), Mighty God (Isa. 9:6), Eternal Father (Is. 9:6), Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13), Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24), Holy One (Acts 3:14), Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
- Creator (John 1:3)
- Word (John 1:1), Word of God (Rev. 19:13), Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), Light of the World (John 8:12),
- Truth (John 1:14; 14:6), True Bread (John 6:32), True Light (John 1:9), True Vine (John 15:1), Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11), Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5), Faithful and True Witness (Rev. 3:14), Apostle and High Priest of our Confession (Heb. 3:1)
- Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14), Immanuel (Mt. 1:23), Son of David (Lk. 18:39), Son of Man (Mt. 8:20), Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32), Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)
- Lamb (Rev. 13:8), Lamb of God (John 1:29), Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19), Passover (lamb) (1 Cor. 5)
- Lord (2 Pet. 2:20), Lord of All (Acts 10:36), Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8), Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16), Ruler of God’s Creation (Rev. 3:14), Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5), Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15), Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)
- Savior (2 Pet. 2:20)
- Propitiation, Atoning Sacrifice (1 John 2:2), Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
- Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4), Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20), Living One (Rev. 1:18), Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4), Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
- Christ (1 John 2:22), Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69), Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30), Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5), Firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15)
- Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), Author of Life (Acts 3:15), Author and Perfector of Faith (Heb. 12:2), Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4), Way (John 14:6), Gate (John 10:9), Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14), Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
- Advocate (1 John 2:1), Wonderful Counselor (Is. 9:6), The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
- Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23), Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15), Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6), Chief Cornerstone (Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:7), Husband of the church (2 Cor. 11:2), Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15)
- Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14), Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30) - cf. Pope
- King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16), King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3), King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17), King of Israel (John 1:49), King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
- Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13), First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13), Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)
- Bread of God (John 6:33), Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48),
- Hope (1 Tim. 1:1), Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
- Judge (Acts 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:7), Amen (Rev. 3:14), Lion (Rev. 5:5), Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48), Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), Prophet (Acts 3:22), Rabbi (Mt. 26:25), Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5), Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1), Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)

- **What does it do for us to review who Jesus is?**

- **feelings:** excitement, awe, wonderment, gratitude, thanksgiving, confidence

- **commitment:** love, obedience, fervent zeal

- **dedication:** obey at any cost

- **remainder of lesson:** review few designations of Jesus ascribed in God’s word

- **not get into the details of the Scriptures** as much as in the past, **but stress the application**

- **The real Jesus is God and Lord and King** – attribute setting the real Jesus apart the most
  - the real Jesus is God
    - **Jn. 1:1** Jesus is God – divine, Deity
      - **the definite article**, not translated into English, communicates that Jesus is divine (deity), in perfect fellowship with Jehovah, though a separate person
      - **Jesus not just a good man – He is God**
    - **Phil. 2:6-7** Jesus, equal to God (Father) – **not grasped but emptied self**, earth, preach, cross
      - **Jesus not just a prophet or sage – He is equal to God the Father**
    - **Col. 2:9** in Jesus, the fullness (*pleroma*) of Deity dwells in bodily form
      - **Jesus not one of many Aeons sent from God (Gnostic)** to show man how to come into contact with the fullness of God (*pleroma*), **Jesus is the *pleroma***
- - as God, the real Jesus is Lord – **Lord**: signifies having power or authority (Vine's)
  - **Acts 2:36** God made Jesus both Lord and Christ
    - **Rom. 1:4** Jesus is Lord, declared by God to be His Son, **with power by the resurrection**
    - **Acts 10:36** Jesus is Lord of all
    - **1 Pet. 3:15** our job is to **sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts**
- - as God, the real Jesus is King – **King**: the chief authority over a country and people (dictionary.com)
  - **1 Tim. 6:15b** Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords
  - **Rev. 5:10** Jesus has **made us a kingdom and priests to God**, and we **reign with Him on earth**

- - **God allows each person to either receive Jesus as God and Lord and King, or reject Him.**
  - **illus.: parable of the landowner (tell story): Matt. 21:33-39, 40-41, 42** reject king's son, kill him, punished, Christ
  
- - **illus.: Oprah Winfrey, TV show**, one mistake people make is thinking there's only one way to God
  - **she uses her TV show to teach religion**, as a disciple of Eckhart Tolle, promoting a religion founded on Gnostic, New Age principles, where all religions are accepted
    - **in a piece by Joe Scarborough on MSNBC**, it was reported that **33%** of Americans listen to Oprah as their spiritual advisor over their preacher
  - **Oprah teaches that there are many paths** to "what you call God"
    - **there couldn't possible be just one way** to God, because of people who live in remote portions of the earth who have never heard of Jesus
  - **in a New Earth web classes, she taught** from Tolle's book:
    - "**Awareness is the power** that is concealed within the present moment. . . . **The ultimate purpose** of human existence, which is to say, your purpose, is to **bring that power into the world.**"
    - **Rom. 1:16** gospel is power of God unto salvation – brought into world by Jesus
    - **1 Th. 2:13** God's word performs it's work in those who believe
    - **1 Cor. 1:18** word of the cross is foolishness to those perishing, but the power of God to those being saved
  - **warning:** this is representative of the newest religious movements
    - emerging church movement ("Christian" churches) / emerging consciousness movement (New Age)
    - feelings over truth (Bible) – experience over reason
  
- **As Christians we receive Jesus as God and Lord and King!**
  - **Jn 1:1-13** Jesus
    - **Jn. 1:1-2** we receive Him as **God**
    - **Jn. 1:3** we receive Him as our **creator**
    - **Jn. 1:4-9** we receive Him as the **Light** – not the light of Gnostic religion, but the true light
    - **Jn. 1:12-13** therefore we are born of God, because we obey
      - **Jn. 3:5** born of water and Spirit
      - **Heb. 5:9** obedient to Jesus, the source of eternal salvation
  - **illus:** as Christians we receive Jesus for who He truly is – God, Lord, King – **obey**
    - **song #179: Lead Me To Calvary**
      - King of my life, I crown thee now, Thine shall the glory be;
      - Lest I forget Thy thorn-crown'd brow, Lead me to Calvary.

➤ **The real Jesus is our Savior and Head**

- many different saviors in world religions

- Buddah, Allah, Aeon, Seth, Hiram Abiff, Mother Earth, man himself

- the real Jesus is our Savior – **Savior: deliverer, protector (Vine's)**

- **Tit. 2:13** Jesus is our God and Savior – delivered and protector

- **Col. 1:13-14** God transfers us into the kingdom of Christ, wherein we're saved

- **Eph. 2:5** God makes us alive together with Christ

- **Eph. 2:6** God seats us in the heavenly places in Christ

- **Eph. 2:7** God shows us the surpassing riches of His grace in Christ

- as Christians, we are waiting for our Savior to come, and take us to heaven

- **Phil. 3:20-21** we eagerly wait for a Savior, Jesus, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power

- **illus.: end of time**

- **1 Th. 4:14-17; 2 Th. 1:6-10** coming of Jesus, reunion and heaven, retribution with flaming fire

- those who expect Buddah or Allah or Mother Earth to save them

- those who expect Jesus to save them

- believing in the right Savior is imperative

➤ - the real Jesus is head of the church

- **Eph. 5:22-24** Jesus head of the body, church (**Eph. 1:22-23**), subject

- as Christians, we are members of Christ's body

- **Eph. 1:23** Jesus' body is the church, the *pleroma* (fullness) of God, the only place man can find spiritual fulfillment (enlightenment, light, peace, joy, contentment, strength)

- **Col. 1:19** Father's good pleasure, all the fullness (*pleroma*) to dwell in Christ – cf. Gnostic

- **Col. 2:9** in Christ all the fullness (*pleroma*) of Deity dwells in bodily form – cf. Gnostic

- **Eph. 3:14-21** we are strengthened with all power, as members of Christ's church, fullness of God

- vs. 19 fullness (*pleroma*)

- conclude by reading this prayer

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- the most important thing you can do is receive Jesus as your God, Lord, King, Savior, and Head

- you'll obey Him, at any and every cost, and faithfully serve Him as a Christian

- then He'll strengthen you, as a member of His body, to the eternal glory of our Father

- spiritual life: enlightened, peaceful, joyful, content, strengthened

- inv.: if you're not a Christian