

# Who Is This

JESUS



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*Who Is This Jesus*

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Text by Author Craig Madill

Cover design and interior layout by Anita Madill

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Published in the United States of America

ISBN: 979-8-218-45814-0

Non-Fictional / Christian Living

## INTRODUCTION

Who is this Jesus? Some say, “a good man,” “a prophet,” some will not acknowledge Him at all and there are those who claim He never even existed, a fictional character. The Christian community, both past and present, agree that Jesus is the Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was born of a virgin, hung on a cross until He was dead, was buried in a tomb, rose to life again, ascended again into heaven and is alive today, seated at the right hand of the Father.

That is the Christian belief in a nutshell. The real, and only relevant question for you is, who do you say He is? You may not recognize it as such right now, but there is not a weightier subject with which you must deal. There is too much hanging in the balance to simply ignore this subject.

The goal in writing this is to provide you with the information necessary to make an informed decision about Jesus Christ, who He was, who He is, and what He is to you. I pray the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened, that you would have an open heart and mind, and honestly seek the truth as you read through this. Amen.

My hope and prayer is that by the end of this book you will have come to realize your need for a Savior and invite Jesus into your heart, becoming a child of the Most High God.

The decision to follow Jesus is only the beginning. As Christians we ask Jesus to have Lordship over our lives. We give His Word, the Bible, authority over our lives and we adjust our lives to come into alignment with His Scriptures.

The Bible tells us to study to show ourselves approved and that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

I have been serving God for nearly forty years. What I have come to understand is, the more I learn, the more I realize how little I know.

As I mentioned on the back of the book, serving God is a never-ending journey of discovery and it starts with your “yes.”

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Was Jesus A Fictional Character?**

Talking to His disciples, Jesus asked them who people were saying He was. In their answer to Him they told Him that some said John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Then Jesus gets personal, looks at them and asks, “But who do you say that I am?”

That is where the rubber meets the road. It is not what others think of Jesus, but who do you say that He is? There is not a more important question for which you, or I, or anyone else must give an answer.

In today’s world people do not say He is John the Baptist or Elijah. Christians will call Him their Savior, or Lord, or God. Others will call Him a good man, a good teacher, a wise man, or a prophet; Still others may refuse to acknowledge Him at all, and some will say He never existed.

As a Christian I understand calling Jesus my Lord, Savior, or God; the only other group I understand from the list are those who refuse to even acknowledge Jesus Christ. I am speaking of the Jewish people who practice orthodox Judaism, and they are still looking for their Christ or Messiah.

The Jewish people had been looking for their Messiah for many years when Jesus was born in approximately 5-3 BC. They were looking for a military figure, probably from a prominent family; not a baby born out of wedlock, to a poor unknown family. Joseph and Mary were engaged, or as the Bible says, “betrothed,” but not fully married. The Jews expected the Messiah to be a powerful military man who would deliver them from Roman oppression.

If the Jewish people would have looked at their own history, they would have realized that God rarely did things as they expected Him to. They put God in a box, and when things did not happen as they thought they would, they refused to see. Some accepted Him, of course, but many did not and have not to this day. They believe in the same God in which we Christians believe. Christianity sprang forth from Judaism; the only difference between Christianity and Judaism is Jesus Christ.

I do not understand however, how someone can say that Jesus was a “good man,” “good teacher,” or a “prophet,” and not accept Him as the Son of God, God in the flesh or as their Savior.

Jesus Christ referred to His deity on numerous occasions. He gave us many, “I Am” statements, which goes



back to Moses at the burning bush when God identified Himself as “I am who I am.” Jesus also said, “Before Abraham was, I Am.” To read all His claims to deity and not accept Him as your Savior but accept Him as a “good man” or a “good teacher” does not work. He was and is who He said He is, or He is a liar and a lunatic, and not worthy of our time. In truth, I think people do not understand what they are saying when they strip Him of His deity and yet call Him a “good man.”

I have the most difficulty understanding how someone will say that Jesus Christ never existed. Those who say that Jesus never existed are in the minority. Most scholars, Christian or not, acknowledge that Jesus did live, and He also was crucified.

In one of the articles I read, the author, who was of the mind that Jesus never existed, wondered why there were not any coins with His inscription. Jesus never claimed to be an earthly king; He said plainly, “My kingdom is not of this world.” The author of the article was looking for evidence of Christ’s stamp on the world, but he completely overlooks the obvious, the Church. Following that train of thought, twelve guys made up this character, called Him Jesus and then were willing to die for this fictional character. Makes sense to me. Not to mention the impact this small group of believers had

on their world, and their message is still impacting the world today.

You can go online and do your own investigating. I thought at the onset of this writing that I would spend much more time reading and citing non-biblical material. The internet offers a great deal of information concerning the life of Christ; some are believers, some non-believers, and some seem to be without bias. There is Josephus, a Jewish historian who mentions Jesus; Suetonius, a Roman historian mentions Christ, and according to Wikipedia, Tacitus, a Roman Senator, and historian said that “Christians ate the body and drank the blood of their God.”

I find this interesting, and it reminds me of a passage of Scripture from the gospel of John, Chapter 6. Due to the lengthiness of the passage I hesitate to write the entire passage, but I also know, if you are like me you will not bother to look it up. With that being said, I will write it out. To set it up, Jesus and His disciples had just fed five thousand men with five barley loaves and two fish. They had sent the crowd away, and this conversation takes place the next day, but the feeding of the five thousand was still fresh on their minds.

*22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw*

*that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—*

*23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—*

*24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.*

*25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?”*

*26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*

*27 “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”*

- 28 *Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”*
- 29 *Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”*
- 30 *Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?”*
- 31 *“Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*
- 32 *Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.*
- 33 *“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*
- 34 *Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”*
- 35 *And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

36 *“But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.*

37 *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

38 *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

39 *“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.*

40 *“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

41 *The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”*

42 *And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”*

43 *Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves.*

44 *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

45 *“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.*

46 *“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.*

47 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

48 *“I am the bread of life.*

49 *“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*

50 *“This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.*

51 *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*

52 *The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”*

53 *Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*

54 *“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

55 *“For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.*

56 *“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*

57 *“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.*

58 *“This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”*

59 *These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.*

60 *Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”*

- 61 *When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?”*
- 62 *“What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?”*
- 63 *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*
- 64 *“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.*
- 65 *And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”*
- 66 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*
- 67 *Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”*
- 68 *But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*



69 *“Also we have come to believe and know that  
You are the Christ, the Son of the living  
God.” (John 6:22-69, NKJV).*

Jesus is not talking about cannibalism; He is talking about feeding upon His Word. The Bible tells us in John Chapter 1.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and the Word was God. (John  
1:1, NKJV).*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among  
us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of  
the only begotten of the Father, full of grace  
and truth. (John 1:14, NKJV).*

When Jesus talked about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, many turned and walked away. What He said survived and was passed along, which is what I believe Tacitus is referring to; that Christians ate the body and drank the blood of their God.

We know the saying, “you are what you eat.” right? What Jesus is talking about is spiritual food, and the same holds true, “we are what we eat.” Think for a minute about someone, maybe yourself, who is ate up by something, whatever “it” is; it consumes their life, football, fishing, chess, cars, trucks, whatever it is, that is all they want to talk

about. I would call them “ate up.” That is exactly what Jesus is talking about.

At this point I am finished with the non-biblical references to the life of Christ. There is ample evidence to support His life and crucifixion, the fact that His crucifixion is even mentioned speaks volumes considering the number of crucifixions that were performed. The Romans crucified people for five hundred years and I have read, in one year they performed as many as two thousand crucifixions, so the fact they mention the crucifixion of Jesus at all tells me Jesus left a pretty big stamp.

From this point forward we will work through the Bible to learn more about Jesus. Again, the goal in this is to give you the information necessary to make an educated decision about Jesus Christ and whether to accept or reject Him.

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” He is asking you the same question, and it is beginning to stir in your heart and mind. Moving forward, I believe God will open your heart and mind to the truth of His Word, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

Jesus is asking you this question right now; “But who do you say that I am? The Christ or not?” There is no neutrality, it commands an answer.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **Do You Believe In God?**

Do you believe in God? I am a methodical, systematic person, so it seems to me, you must first believe in God before you can put your faith and trust in the Son of God.

People want proof that God exists; something which neither I nor anyone else can provide. If that is your position, my challenge to you would be to prove that He does not exist, which I am confident cannot be done either.

We often think that Christianity, or God, and science are two separate worlds and not compatible, but I think the two are not so far apart. There are many scientists who are Christian; one such scientist came to our church a few years back. I had seen him on the television twenty years prior and was completely intrigued by what he was saying, so to see him in person at the church was a great experience for me.

This has been several years ago, and the thing that really stuck in my mind about what he said, was what he said at the end of his discourse. He told us how he and his team of scientists, who were also Christian, pored over the scriptures and in the end the only thing that made sense, regarding

creation, time, humankind, etc., was this, and he held up his Bible.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (Psalm 19:1, NKJV).*

All we need to do is look around. Everything about our universe and our bodies point to a creator. I strongly recommend a movie by Del Tackett entitled, “Is Genesis History?.” It is an hour and forty-four minutes long, free, and remarkably interesting.

For most of us, the idea of a creator has been under attack through the public school system for as far back as we can remember. I did not attend a private Christian school or anything like that, so the public school I attended taught the theory of evolution, and as I recall, taught it not as a theory, but more as a matter of fact. At least that was my perception, and as the saying goes, “perception is reality.” The natural consequence to such a teaching is that it creates doubt in the existence of a Creator. Again, if we doubt the existence of a Creator, how then can we put our trust and faith in the Son of that Creator, which we now doubt even exists?

Besides the passage in Psalm 19, the best thing I have to offer as proof for the existence of God, is my life. The Bible tells us we are made overcomers by the blood of the

lamb and the word of our testimonies; well, that is what I have, a testimony. My life was one of addiction, violence, and all kinds of evil. On Labor Day 1986 that all changed; I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and have never been the same. My story is a long one, but I will keep it short and say that God took a guy, that many – myself included – thought would spend the rest of his life in and out of prison and turned his life completely around. I accepted the Lord on Labor Day 1986, got out of prison in January 1987, and have never been back. That is my testimony to the existence and authenticity of God.

The testimonies, which are like mine, are endless. Most of the people I know are much like me in that we resisted God initially, but had to give in, and then wished we had not resisted for so long. I hope to hear a similar testimony from you.



## CHAPTER THREE

### When Did Jesus Come Into Existence?

You may think Jesus came into existence when He was born around 5-3 B.C., but the truth is, Jesus is eternal and has always existed with God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. In the first chapter we looked at the Gospel of John 1:1, which says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” The Bible in Genesis also says,

*Then God said, “Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness;...” (Genesis 1:26a, NKJV).*

I added the emphasis on “us,” and “our” to make the point that Jesus was there from the beginning.

In Colossians, the Apostle Paul, speaking of Christ writes:

*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16, NKJV).*

I write these things to refute the idea which was planted in our minds when we were kids, that we were not created, but evolved from something that crawled up out of the ocean. This is foundational and if the foundation crumbles the whole house collapses. It seems there are some whose sole purpose in life is to prove there is no God, which they cannot do, but the truth is all they have to do is create doubt, the devil will do the rest. Biblical illiteracy is rampant in the world today, and even within the Church; sprinkle in a little doubt and unbelief and we will fall for anything.

We can read in Genesis that God created Adam from the dust of the ground, and Eve He created from one of Adam's ribs. Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden, and everything was perfect until they were disobedient and sinned against God. When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them dominion over the earth.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*



*So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

*(Genesis 1:26-28, NKJV).*

So, God created Adam and Eve and gave them dominion over the earth, but along comes that cunning serpent, or satan; he twists the truth and caters to Eve's flesh by telling her that her eyes would be opened, and she would be like God. Wanting to be like God is what got satan cast out of heaven, now he tempts Eve with the same thing, and she falls for it and convinces Adam to fall for it as well.

This act of disobedience by Adam and Eve was devastating for humanity. The dominion over the earth no longer belongs to man, but to satan. Their sin created separation between man and God, bringing immediate spiritual death and physical death would follow. Because of the sin of Adam, we are all born under sin.

*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22, NKJV).*

From the time of the fall of man, God began to point to a Savior. God, speaking to the serpent says:

*“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15, NKJV).*

The scripture refers to the seed of the woman. Eve listened to the serpent and sinned, but Mary humbly submitted herself to the will of God, and through her act of obedience Jesus Christ was born.

Virtually every book of the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ. In some, it is only a hint, in others there are types and shadows, and others have direct prophecy. There is Moses, Aaron, Melchizedek, the prophets, the Passover, all types, and shadows that point to Christ. Then there are the prophecies which are extremely intricate and accurate, and written centuries before the birth of Christ.

There are prophecies about Christ being born of a virgin, where He would be born, His family tree, that He would teach with parables, that He would be betrayed, and

crucified, but His bones would not be broken, and that He would be resurrected from the dead.

I have listed eight prophecies, all which Jesus Christ fulfilled. The odds of Him fulfilling these prophecies are astronomical. The list I have provided is only a portion of the prophecies which Jesus Christ has fulfilled. I have a list of forty-five prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The odds of that are incalculable, at least for me. There are a few dealing with end time events that have yet to be fulfilled but given the fact that He has kept His Word on all the others, there is no reason to suspect He will not fulfill the rest of the prophecies.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **What Was Prophesied In The Bible About Jesus?**

The New Testament begins with the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The gospels all tell of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The four accounts are the same, but because they are told from different perspectives, they are different. One of the major differences between the Jews then and us today is that we like every little detail to be spot on accurate. The ancient Jews, however, were not as concerned with the details if the overall story was accurate. Matthew and Luke tell of the birth of Christ and give the genealogy; Mark and John do not. Mark is more concise and to the point; John focuses more on the deity of Christ. By the end of each gospel, they all give an account of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist was a messenger sent to prepare the way of the Lord, as prophesied by Isaiah the prophet in Isaiah 40:3-5, some seven hundred years earlier. Luke records the fulfillment of this prophecy in Luke 3:2-6.

In Genesis 3:15, Moses wrote that He would be born of a woman; Isaiah 7:14 takes it a step farther and says that

the Christ will be born of a virgin, which is fulfilled in Matthew 1:20-23, and Luke 1:26-31.

The prophet Micah prophesied in Micah 5:2 that the messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which was fulfilled in Matthew 2:5-6, and Luke 2:1-7.

In Hosea 11:1 we can read that He will come out of Egypt, which is fulfilled in Matthew 2:14-15. If you read the entire account of the birth of Christ you can see how He ended up there, along with a couple other prophecies which are fulfilled.

I know this gets tedious and for me it is hard to know when it is enough. I do not want to lose you, but I also want you to get it. This stuff is so good and important, and I could fill page after page of prophecy and fulfillment, especially if I write out the scriptures. You get it, there are many prophecies concerning Jesus Christ.

This booklet “Who Is This Jesus,” is not just about the fulfillment of prophecy by Jesus Christ, but more about the person and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The more commonly used version of the birth of Christ is recorded in Luke 1:26-38; the baby was placed inside Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit, thus, making Him the Son of God. By being born of a woman, He was fully man; by being born of the seed of the Holy Spirit, He is fully

God. One of the names used to describe Him is Immanuel, which means, “God with us.” Jesus was God in the flesh.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1, NKJV).*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14, NKJV).*

Due to the fall of man through the sin of Adam, we are all born under sin and in need of a Savior. Therefore, Jesus could not be born of the seed of man, if He were, He would also have been in need of a Savior. Because He was born of the seed of God, He was the perfect sacrifice, “without blemish,” as the Word says. But because He was born of a woman and fully man, He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way, as we are, yet without sin.

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15, NKJV).*

Jesus began His earthly ministry when He was approximately thirty years old, and for the next three to

three-and-a-half years went about doing good, performing miracles, and teaching about the kingdom of God. The last two verses of the Gospel of John reads,

*This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.*

*And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

*Amen. (John 21:24-25, NKJV).*

Jesus did miracles everywhere He went. That is why so many people followed Him. The people loved Him, but did the Church? Not so much, especially the Church leaders. They saw Jesus as a threat to their way of life. The people were following Him and praising Him, and when Jesus talked to them, He told them the truth, no sugar. Matthew 7:29 says that Jesus taught as one having authority. He told the Church leaders they were hypocrites, whitewashed tombs that looked good on the outside but inside were full of dead men's bones. Here is the thing, Jesus did not judge, but neither did He pull punches. Those same religious leaders who were always plotting against Him, trying to trap Him, or scheming how they could kill Him, had they come to Him in



sincerity as Nicodemus did, He would have had a conversation and explained things to them.

Here is another example of the heart of Jesus. He had a disciple by the name of Judas Iscariot, he was one of the twelve and had been with Jesus for His entire ministry. This is the disciple who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, but he was also a thief. He handled the money and helped himself to it. Jesus knew this, and He also knew who it was who would betray Him. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. In so doing He was teaching them about being servant leaders and serving others. He washed the feet of Judas, the one who would betray Him, as well. How many of us could do something like that? Jesus knew what had to happen, and a little later He told Judas to go do what he had to do.

After supper Jesus and His disciples went to the garden to pray. Jesus shows His humanity in that He asks the Father if there is any other way and to let this cup pass Him by. He knew what was coming, yet He says to the Father, not My will but Yours be done. There was no other perfect sacrifice for our sin, it had to be Jesus. We do not understand the brutality of what He endured, but He did and willingly walked right into it.

Jesus Christ was beaten beyond recognition, crucified until He was dead, taken down, buried, and the tomb was sealed, and guards were posted. Thankfully, that is not the end of the story.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### What Does The Bible Say About The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead?

In this section we will consider the most important aspect of Christian belief, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is fundamental to Christianity. The Bible has a lot to say about His resurrection, but the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth sums it up for us:

*Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we*

*have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19, NKJV).*

Not only is the resurrection of Jesus central to Christianity, but it is also what sets it apart from other world religions. The leaders of other religions are dead; Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, and the list goes on, they are all dead, but Jesus Christ is alive.

Prove it, you say. Obviously, I have never seen Jesus Christ in the flesh, nor do I know anyone who has, but what we can do is consider the evidence we have.

The Apostle Paul, for one example, was a pharisee, well-educated and very zealous for the Church. That is, the Church who was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

*And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. (Galatians 1:14, NKJV).*

Those are the Apostle Paul's own words describing himself. He had Christians beaten, thrown into prison and on at least one occasion stoned to death. After encountering the risen Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus he began to preach Jesus Christ. The encounter he had with Jesus

changed his life and countless number of lives through his ministry forever.

*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, NKJV).*

Notice that Paul, twice, uses the phrase, “according to scriptures,” pointing once again to the fulfillment of prophecy.

The Apostle Paul suffered greatly for Christ and ultimately was executed for his belief in Jesus Christ. He was persecuting the Christians with the approval of the Church, and by becoming a follower of Christ there was a target on his back, and he became one of the persecuted. You have to ask, why would he do that?

Jesus told His disciples that they would suffer for His name's sake, and they did. Some, if not all, were martyred for their confession of faith in Jesus Christ. They knew Jesus; they were with Him preaching and ministering for three or more years. The point I am making is not that they saw the resurrected Lord, but that they would know if it was all a ruse. Would they really allow themselves to be beaten, tortured, and killed for something they knew was not real? Would you?

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **The Blood Of Jesus Took Away Our Sins**

The book of, “The Acts of the Apostles,” is the first book following the Four Gospels. In Acts Chapter 1 it has been approximately forty days since the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus and His disciples are standing on, “the mount called Olivet.” He instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and then He ascended into heaven.

Earlier in this book I quoted from Hebrews 4:15, which refers to Jesus as our High Priest. In the Old Testament, under the law, the Jewish people would bring their sacrifices to the High Priest, who would first have to offer sacrifices for his own sin, and then would perform the sacrifices for the people. They would bring the best of their herds to be sacrificed. This is something they did year after year. They did this because it is what God commanded; the Bible says that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Also, in Hebrews 10:4 we read that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away our sins.

The blood of animals was a covering, a temporary atonement for sin, but it did not take away the sin.

*And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:11-14, NKJV).*

*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:11-14, NKJV).*



Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for us and presented His blood as an atonement or payment for our sins. His blood is not a covering for our sins, His blood takes away our sins. It is a matter of believing and receiving it, by faith. I will not even try to convince you that I understand everything about it. Not even close. This is where faith comes into play. The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace, through faith. I cannot pretend to understand the shedding of blood and all the sacrifices, except to say that I am not God and cannot understand the gravity of sin. It is obviously much greater than our view of sin in our culture today. It is serious enough that He sent Jesus to be tortured and killed for us. I am thinking we should take it a little more seriously, as well.

Jesus ascended back to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He is our High Priest forever. When we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, Jesus takes our petitions to the Father and the Father always hears and answers Jesus.

Remember the question Jesus asked His disciples, “who do you say that I am”? He is asking you right now, **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?**

Our pastor at church said something today, and as soon as he said it, I knew I would use it. He said, there is a

question we ask ourselves that keeps us from moving forward with God, “What If?” What if I fail; What if people think I am crazy; and on and on. You may be asking the same thing about what you have just read, “What if it is not true?” I will respond by asking you, “What if it is true?” Why not take a look at both sides of the question.

In the first scenario you have determined this to be true and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior; from this day forward, you begin to live your life, to the best of your ability, by the Word of God, until the day you die. Upon your death you realize that it is not true and there is nothing but the grave after this life. What have you lost? You lived a life of honesty and integrity. You loved people and treated them with respect. You were generous with your resources and gave to the needy and were concerned with the well-being of others, so what have you really lost?

In the next scenario, you reject it all; you say in your heart there is no God, and I will live my life on my terms, and this you do until you die. Once dead you come to the realization that it is all true. There is a God and a Savior, and a heaven and a hell, except that now it is too late. All the friends, and parties, and money mean nothing now.

What if it is all true? What then have you lost?

If you have been reading this and by now you are saying to yourself that you know it is the truth, you are already saved. You may be asking yourself, “saved from what”? Let us look at the most well-known verse in the Bible, John 3:16, but we will also include verses 17 and 18 as well.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*  
*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18, NKJV).*

As Christians we are saved from condemnation to everlasting or eternal life. The best description of heaven is found in Revelation, Chapters 21 and 22. Also, in Chapter 21 hell is described as the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. We do not use the word brimstone much today, but we have all heard a preacher described as a fire and brimstone preacher. Brimstone is more commonly known to

us as sulfur. Have you ever had a match head stuck to your finger after you struck it? It burns a little spot on your finger, and it does not feel very good, does it? Imagine being thrown into a lake burning with sulfur, only it never kills you.

There are many descriptions of hell throughout the Bible, none are good. Thankfully, the Bible is also clear about how to avoid spending eternity in hell.

*“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*(Romans 10:8-9, NKJV).*

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20, NKJV).*

Pray and ask Jesus into your heart and then begin to tell others about Him. I was somewhat of a closet Christian for a while and until I began to open up and talk about my faith, I did not experience much growth. Of course, it is important to become a part of a Bible believing, Bible

preaching church. If you would like to contact our ministry, we will try to assist you in finding a good church home for you.

It might be possible that you are reading this, and in your heart, you know it is the truth, but you are just not ready to give up your way of living, you are just not ready. I have been there and done that. Fortunately, I had the opportunity and accepted Jesus as my Savior in 1986. I could have accepted Him earlier but did not and in 1985 I was involved in an accident. I was on a compact tractor with a belly mower, putting along the shoulder of the road, when this car hit me from behind doing approximately 45 miles per hour. I flew through the air about thirty feet or so and landed on my head. I was beaten up and I still have neck issues today from it, but the point is this...If he would have been traveling a little faster, or had been in a pickup, I probably would not have been alive by Labor Day 1986. Something to think about, the drawing you are sensing right now may never come around again. Jesus said,

*“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; ...” (John 6:44, NKJV).*

That feeling you have in your heart telling you, this is the truth, is the Father drawing you. It is up to you to respond

to Him or not, but the Bible says that today is the day of Salvation. Do not harden your heart.

Lastly, in your mind you do not buy any of this and it is all hogwash to you. Listen, that is your choice and I respect it, and I appreciate you taking the time to read this. I hope you will give it some thought over the next days, weeks, months, or years. It took me years. The only regret I have is that I did not do it sooner. The Bible tells us in Philippians that every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Notice it says, “Every knee” and “Every tongue,” not just Christians. I prefer to bow my knee in honor and praise, rather than bowing and begging for mercy and another chance. The Bible gives us ample warning as to the fate of those who reject His salvation. He lays everything out for us in His Word, the Bible, all we have to do is follow it. Just trying to give you a heads up, a fair warning. As a final warning I will say, if you have read this, when you stand before the Lord, as we all will, you are now without excuse.

May God bless you and keep you and may He make His face to shine upon you. Amen.

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Follow the Cloud Ministries is committed to the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the development of people through discipleship, and the manifestation of the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways.

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*As Americans we hear the name of Jesus bounced around. Some are in all seriousness calling upon His name, others mockingly use His name, and some use His name as a curse word, but have you ever truly considered who Jesus Christ was and is?*

*More important than the question, is your answer to the question, “Who is this Jesus”?*

*A Good Teacher      A Good Man  
A Prophet      God      The Son of God*

*Our prayer for you is that this small book will mark the beginning of your never-ending investigative journey in your search for Jesus. Be blessed and enjoy.*



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