

JESUS CHRIST: FOUR QUESTIONS

JESUS CHRIST: WHO IS HE?



This is a most important question. Jesus once asked His disciples this question, *"Who do men say that I am?"* They offered a variety of answers, but only one proved to be right. *"Some say that You are a prophet,"* was one of the suggestions. *"Some say that You are John the Baptist come back from the dead,"* was another. *"But who do YOU say that I am?"* the Lord pressed them. And it was only when Simon Peter said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* that the Lord pronounced that to be the right answer that He was looking for in His question.

Now, "the Christ" simply means the Anointed One, or the appointed One. So when the Bible speaks of our Lord Jesus as being "the Christ," then it is pointing us to the fact that He is the One whom God appointed to come into this world for a certain purpose. That purpose, of course, was to save men and women from their sins, and only Jesus can do this, because He is the only One appointed for that task.

Simon Peter also said that Jesus was the "Christ, the Son of the living God." He wasn't only God's appointed One. He was also God's Son who had come to this earth. Indeed, if we read our Bibles aright, we will see that He was not only the Son of God, but He was, in reality, God the Son. He was God the Son who had "become man" for that purpose of saving men and women from their sin. While He lived in this world, He was obedient to everything that God the Father had appointed Him to do. He would often say, *"I do always those things that please Him,"* or, *"I came to do the will of Him that sent me."*

When we think of **WHO** Jesus is, then, we should think of Him as the Son of God Who "humbled Himself" and came into this world of ours as a man for God's appointed purpose.

JESUS CHRIST: WHAT DID HE DO?

He came to save men and women from their sins. The Bible puts it like this: *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."* He came to save sinners; He came to save men and women from their sins.

But *how did He do this? How did he save men and women from their sins?*" The short answer to that is in two parts: first of all, how He lived in the world, and secondly, how He died on the Cross.

When Christ lived in this world for that given period of time, He lived a perfect life. Even His enemies had to admit that they could find no fault in Him. The Bible says that He was *"holy, harmless and undefiled"* and that He was *"separate from sinners"*. What Christ did in His life in this world was this --- He kept the whole of the Law of God (the Ten Commandments) perfectly. That was something that none of us could ever do, or can ever do. What we needed therefore, was One to do it for us - a Substitute who would keep God's law for us. That's what Jesus was appointed to do, and that's what He did in His life in this world.

The other part of what He did was to die on the Cross! That must seem very strange indeed. If He had lived a perfect life, why should He die the death of a criminal at the end --- for that was what the death of the Cross was? There is only one way to answer that question: not only was Jesus appointed to LIVE for us, as our substitute before God in heaven, but He was also appointed to DIE for us, as our substitute as well.

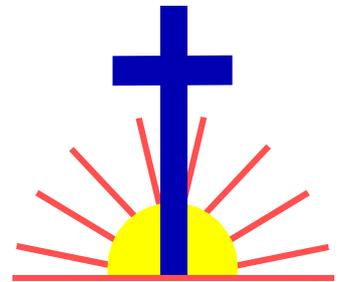
It is of the utmost importance to realise that our failure to keep God's Law carried with it tremendous consequences. Failure to keep God's law is what the Bible simply calls SIN. And that same Bible says, *"The soul who sins shall die."* Not simply with a temporal, physical death, but with an eternal, spiritual death as well. That's why the Bible says, *"It is appointed for men once to die, and after that the judgment."* Because we have failed to keep God's law in our life, we will be called to face God's judgment after our death --- eternal death, eternal separation from God.

When Christ died on the Cross, He was BEARING that judgment of eternal death for all those who would believe on His name. He had LIVED for them before God in a way that they could never live --- keeping the whole Law of God on their behalf. At the end, He then DIED for them, as though He had broken every part of that Law of God from beginning to end. On both counts, Christ acted as a substitute. He was righteous for those who could never be righteous themselves, and He was punished for those who merit only the punishment of God on account of their sin. That was what He was appointed to do, and what He did when He came into this world of ours.

The important question to ask, of course, in the light of that is, "*What does all that mean to me, and how does that all apply to me?*" The answer to that is what the Bible calls the Gospel, the Good News. When you trust in Jesus Christ with all your heart, taking Him as your substitute to live a perfect life for you and to die on the Cross for the punishment of your sins, then you will be saved. The Bible states it simply, "They who believe shall be saved, and they who believe not shall be damned." Christ died that sinners like us might live.

JESUS CHRIST: WHERE IS HE NOW?

When we place a lot of emphasis on the DEATH of Christ, there is always the possibility that some people will imagine that He is still dead! That is of course not true! After Christ had died on the Cross and was buried in the tomb, He was resurrected. Now, nothing can be more important than this!



In the Resurrection of Christ, God was declaring His approval of all that Christ had done as the One who had been appointed to bring salvation to sinners. Christ had lived a perfect life, and He had died a substitutionary death --- He had borne the penalty of men and women's sins. Once He had done that, then His mission to save sinners was complete. All that remained was for God to "*raise him from the dead*", and "*receive him back into the glories of heaven again*". This He did, and now Christ is "*at the right hand of the majesty of God on high*".

There is no more blessed thought to anyone who truly believes in Christ as their Saviour than the realisation that their Saviour is alive for evermore. It assures them of their eternal life in Him. Jesus says, "*Because I live, you shall live also!*" Or, in those well-known words that He spoke, just before He went to the Cross - "*Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid; ye believe in God, believe also in me. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also*".

JESUS CHRIST: WHAT WILL HE DO NEXT?

To those who believe in Him, He will come again and receive them to Himself. That is certainly one of the things that Christ will do next. He is coming back to this world, and when He does so, He will receive to Himself all those who believe in His name. But that is not all that He will do. The "other side" of His coming back to this world is very sobering, indeed for anyone and everyone who does not believe in His name. The Bible puts it very plainly and very solemnly, "*The hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and they shall come forth; they who have done good unto the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.*"

Those words are very plain, are they not? They were spoken by Christ Himself, and they cannot be doubted in any way. Remember, He lived a perfect life, and certainly, He never lied in anything that He said. We should ponder the truth of His words.

My dear friends, don't just put down this tract and go back to your life as before. Come to Jesus. Believe in Him. Call upon Him to have mercy on you, to save you from your sins, to reconcile you to God, to bless you with forgiveness and eternal life. *Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.* If this same Jesus were to ask you the same question today --- "*Whom do you say that I am?*" may you answer, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I believe in You! I love You! I will follow You! Save me today! Save me now!!*"