

Who Is This Jesus?

Ponder: Jesus' true identity

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

Just exactly who is Jesus of Nazareth? That question has prompted controversy from the first century to this present day!

Today, hard-core atheists mock the very idea of His existence. Less radical skeptics acknowledge Him as an historical person, but say He was, at best, just a good man. Many say He was a philosopher with a high moral code, but not a savior whose blood can wash them from their sins. Our Muslim neighbors pay lip service to Him as an inferior prophet, but deny His crucifixion and resurrection.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus' enemies said He was a glutton and a drunkard (Matt. 11:19). They accused him of having a demon and being a Samaritan (John 8:48 – not by race, but they considered Him a wicked sinner to be shunned and avoided. About the kindest thing His enemies would say about Him was that He was "the carpenter" (Matt. 13:55) or "the carpenter's son" (Mk. 6:3). Even that was intended to minimize Him as an insignificant nobody.

Others, however, saw Him as vastly more; and Jesus Himself claimed to be vastly more! His claims, and the adulation of those who believed Him, triggered controversy with His enemies. The entire Gospel of John is packed with it! In chapter one alone, we see Jesus referred to as:

1. The Word (Logos) – the very eternal expression of God, v. 1.
2. God, v. 1
3. Messiah (Christ, anointed one), v. 41.
4. Son of God and King of Israel, v. 49

One powerful proof of Jesus' true identity came from the miracles He performed, seven of which are recorded by John. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

Song: "He Is My Everything, He Is My All"

Prayer: Gracious Father, we gladly acknowledge Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God. Thank You for giving us such a wonderful Savior. In His name, Amen.