

Jesus is

With this simple statement, the Apostle John delivers to us the gospel message which shook the world in his generation; “Jesus is the Christ.” These four words are the only hope to save America and the world around us today. Jesus told us, however, that these words can only be received and understood by revelation. When Peter said to Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* Matthew 16:16, Jesus said to him, as I paraphrase, *“You are blessed, Peter! The Father in Heaven has revealed this to you! This revelation of who I am is the rock I will build my church upon, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Every Jew in Jerusalem and in all of Judea had heard of the coming of “The Christ” for their entire lifetime. It was preached almost every Sabbath Day in the Synagogues, and they even knew by the scriptures of the prophet Daniel the exact year that He would appear. The Jews dearly loved the thought of seeing “the Christ,” their Messiah. They knew by heart the prophecy of His appearing. He would *“...finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness...”* Daniel 9:24, among other things. It is true they did not know how He would do these things, but the prospect of “freedom” from the tyranny of Rome was enough to excite the entire nation, and this was the year for Him to appear.

“The people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;” Luke 3:15

Consider the promise: He would *“make an end of sins”* and *“bring in everlasting righteousness.”* Look at it again: *“No more sinning”* 1 John 3:5-6 but *“righteousness, peace, and joy”* Romans 14:17. There would be no more “struggle” to stop sinning, because the same one who died on the cross to *“take away our sin”* John 1:29, is the same one who said to us *“Come to me, and I will give you rest”* Matthew 11:28. Our glorious rest is not “in sin,” but rather “from sin.” Sin has no more dominion over those who believe *“Jesus is the Christ”* with a clear understanding of what Christ came into the world to do. Those who continue in sin and say, “grace abounds” Romans

6:1-2, are ignorant of who Christ is and what He came into the world to do. They teach the people, “We are all sinners, who must sin every day,” absolutely blinded to the fact if this is so, they are also lost and perishing with the world around them. How do I know this? Because Christ came into the world to make an end of sins, and *“Jesus is the Christ.”*

The religious leaders of Israel so hated Jesus of Nazareth that they sought to destroy anyone who believed *“Jesus is the Christ.”* These four words meant something in that day, and those who dared to speak them publicly sometimes forfeited their own lives on this earth. The reality of these four words was such, however, that everyone who believed them was instantly transformed. Consider Saul of Tarsus for a moment. He was born a Jew, *“...circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee”* Philippians 3:5. Saul had everything going for him. He said he *“profited above others in the Jews religion”* Galatians 1:14. It is in the next verse in Philippians that we find a great contradiction; *“Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”* Philippians 3:6. This is the equivalent of a person who professes to know Christ, but also professes to “be a sinner who sins every day.”

Saul of Tarsus, one who was *“blameless”* under the Law of Moses, was filled with hatred for Jesus of Nazareth and for everyone who trusted in Him. Here again is the contradiction; Saul loved “the Christ,” and longed for His appearing, while at the same time he hated Jesus. The “power” of *“Jesus is the Christ”* was proven while Saul was on a journey to Damascus with authority from the high priest to arrest the Christians, and bring them to Jerusalem to stand trial for heresy. He was so filled with hatred for the disciples of Jesus that he *“breathed out threatening’s and slaughter against them”* Acts 9:1. Saul of Tarsus was a murderer. The record of what happened next is best given by the scriptures:

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who

the Christ

art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:3-6

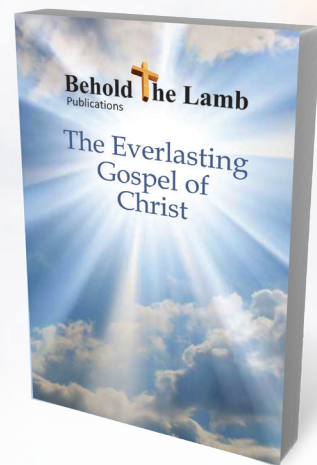
It takes less than thirty seconds to read the account, and that's how long it took to transform Saul of Tarsus from a "Jesus hater" to a "Jesus lover." He heard the voice from heaven, "Why persecutest thou me?" He questioned, "Who are you, Lord?" Saul knew it was the Lord, but he did not know who "the Lord" was. The answer came, "I am Jesus..." It blasted into his innermost being like a foghorn, and instantly Saul of Tarsus knew that "**Jesus is the Christ.**" In that same instant, everything he would later preach as "*the revelation of Jesus Christ*" was fulfilled in him as he lay on the Damascus road. His "*old man*" was crucified, and buried with Christ. A "*new man*" was quickened with Christ. The Apostle John would later say "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*" I John 5:1. When Saul of Tarsus stood to his feet that day, he was a new man, a child of God, "washed, sanctified, and justified" I Corinthians 6:11, and no longer a sinner. Christ was now living in him. He stood up with a commission from Jesus Christ. Saul had asked "*What will you have me to do?*" The answer came immediately...

*"...rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee **for this purpose**, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:16-18*

Within thirty seconds Saul of Tarsus was transformed from a "*wretched old man*" Romans 7:24 into a child of God with a "purpose." We must understand that true Christianity is not a "philosophy of religion." If we reduce it to a philosophy,

it is the weakest of all religions, but true Christianity is not a "religion;" it is "life," and Christ is our life Galatians 2:20. Christ is not a sinner, and those who "*abide in Him do not commit sin*" I John 3:5-6. This is an absolute truth of the gospel of Christ, which we must preach if we are to see the people "saved from sin." Our nation is held in the balances with no possible political answer. The future, whether good or evil, is in the hands of the church. What will we do with it?

In the great awakening of the 18th century, Jonathan Edwards preached the message "*Sinners in the hands of an angry God*" with such power and conviction that grown men fell into the aisles crying, "*My God Mister Edwards, what can we do?*" A hundred years later in the second "great awakening," Charles Surgeon preached a message titled "*Turn or Burn*," which pointed the sinner to Jesus Christ as the only one who could "turn them" from their sin. This also is the message we must preach today. In closing this message, I want to send you my free book which is offered below...



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