

JESUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN AROUND

John 1:1-5, 10-14

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: People are always looking for the better, the best things in life and have looked everywhere and tried everything but there is one source that is the ultimate, and only source for true happiness and blessings and that is Jesus Christ. Some mistakenly think that Jesus got started in the Christmas Story, but Jesus has always been around. If Jesus is the ultimate source of joy, happiness and blessings, how does a person go about finding Him today?

I. JESUS CAN BE FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Old Testament has many things to say about Jesus:
 - Jesus pointed it out a couple of times - Luke 24:27, 44-47
 - Even though the Old Testament was completed hundreds of years before Jesus appeared it spoke about Jesus - 2 Timothy 3:14-15
2. Jesus is seen through Old Testament prophecy:
 - Isaiah wrote much about the coming Messiah, Jesus:
 - About His birth - Isaiah 7:14
 - About His suffering - Isaiah 53:4-6
 - About His sovereignty - Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Isaiah was commonly called "The Messianic Prophet" because of his many prophecies of the coming of the Messiah - Jesus.
 - There were other prophets than Isaiah who wrote about the coming Messiah - Jesus, totaling more than 300 prophecies about Jesus/Messiah in the Old Testament - Galatians 3:24-25

II. JESUS CAN BE FOUND IN THE GOSPELS

1. There are four accounts with a common goal:
 - There are four accounts of the life of Jesus:
 - Matthew emphasizes the "teachings" of Jesus.
 - Mark emphasizes the "miracles" of Jesus.
 - Luke emphasizes the "humanity" of Jesus.
 - John stresses the "divinity" of Jesus.
 - The goal of all four is best expressed by John and that is to create faith - John 20:30-31
 - To see Jesus through the eyes of fulfillment as He fulfilled prophecy.
2. The four accounts revealed what Jesus actually taught:
 - One can never know Jesus until he/she has read the four gospels carefully.
 - What the four gospels reveal about Jesus is far different than what is imagined today about Jesus.
 - Many think that when they die they will automatically go to heaven but Jesus taught that most will not - Matthew 7:13-14
 - Many are going to be surprised at the Judgment Day - Matthew 7:21-23
 - Many think that simply "believing" in Jesus is all that is required to be a follower of Jesus:
 - Jesus taught self-denial - Luke 9:23-25
 - Jesus expected His disciples to "observe all things" - Matthew 28:18-20
 - The Jesus "proclaimed" today by many is NOT the same Jesus presented in the four gospels.

III. JESUS CAN BE FOUND IN ACTS AND THE EPISTLES (LETTERS) OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Finding Jesus in the book of Acts:

- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:4
- The Holy Spirit comes:
 - The Holy Spirit guides the apostles and the early church in its formation - Acts 13:2, 4
 - The Holy Spirit guided the early Apostles and the early church into all truth - Acts 15:28
 - The Holy Spirit revealed things Jesus taught but was never recorded in the four gospels - Acts 20:35

2. Finding Jesus in the Epistles (Letters):

- The words of the Apostles in the letters (epistles) were to be received as if Jesus spoke them himself.
 - As Paul wrote to the Corinthians - 1 Corinthians 14:37
 - and to the Thessalonians - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- Jesus said it should be - John 13:20
- The Holy Spirit did guide the Apostles into all the truth - John 16:13
 - The teachings of Jesus and all about Jesus are finally completely and fully revealed.
 - There is no more revelation about Jesus needed:
 - Today all one needs to live a godly life has been provided - 2 Peter 1:2-3
 - Today one has all that he/she needs to be complete - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Angels from heaven could not give some new doctrine today - Galatians 1:8-9
- What is left for the believer today is to simply remain true to what has already been revealed once and for all - Jude 3
- All a person needs to know to follow Jesus is in the New Testament so one needs to learn it and then live it! No other revelation is needed.

IV. JESUS CAN BE FOUND IN BEING OBEDIENT

1. Jesus emphasized obedience:

- One must abide by His word to be His disciple - John 8:31-32
- Jesus abides with the believer as he/she keeps His commandments - John 14:21, 23
- This is how one knows for sure if he/she truly knows Jesus and that is to be obedient - 1 John 2:3-5

CONCLUSION:

1. In Jesus one finds:

- a better life, forgiveness for his/her sins, reconciliation with God, the Father, the privilege of being in the Lord's Church (not some denomination) and the assurance of eternal life.

2. If YOU have truly found Jesus, are you obedient, paying attention to His teachings, accepting His authority, being careful to observe all things He commands?

3. Jesus is not somebody new, getting started at the Christmas story but was involved in the creation of the world. Let Jesus be YOUR way to everything that is good.