

## WHO IS JESUS?

### Colossians 1:15-23

**Introduction:** We think it a bit curious that Jesus asked His disciples "Who do you say that I am?" It would seem that they would know by then after being with Him for a while, yet we could ask ourselves that same question, "Who is Jesus to you?"

Every generation has faced that question and as in the days of Jesus, so it has been with every generation, people have their own ideas. Sadly, the Jews, Jesus' own people, still think that He was just another prophet, not the promised Messiah. Thus it has been and will continue to be until Jesus returns, people have their own opinions as to who Jesus is/was.

All of our world has heard of Jesus and has defined Him in ways that are totally incorrect and in contrast as to who the Bible has revealed Him to be, the Son of God. So, according to the Bible, who really is Jesus?

#### **I. Jesus is the Perfect and Complete Revelation of God to Man (v15)**

1. Jesus is more than a great teacher who had exceptionally deep insight into God.
  - Jesus is the image of the invisible God. The unique and perfect revelation of the only God.
2. Jesus is the only person who can say that He is the express image of God and if you see Him you see God. (Mohammed, Buddah, Socrates, Confucius)
3. Jesus was never regarded by those around Him as a mere moral teacher for they knew He was more.
  - He produced hatred, terror, adoration, never mild approval for it was either total adoration or total alienation/hatred.

#### **II. Jesus is the Rightful Ruler of the Entire Universe (vv15-17)**

1. Jesus is not the first created being (says Jehovah Witnesses) but is the first born in that He is heir, the one given the right to rule (right of the first born son).
2. Jesus is the rightful ruler of the entire universe.
  - He predates it, and He brought it into being. Scientists agree that "something" started the universe and what we have now. They only guess, speculate, but we know, it was Jesus.
3. Jesus holds all things together and there is coming a day when Jesus will release His hold and the universe will be destroyed and after that Jesus will speak into existence a new universe.

#### **III. Jesus is the Sole Deliverer of the Entire Universe (vv18-20)**

1. He not only created the universe, maintains the universe and will eventually replace the universe, but Jesus is the sole Deliverer of the entire universe.

2. The universe, although keeping some of its original glory is in a horrible state, broken, in ruins, far from what it was when Jesus created it. People are capable of greatness but are also capable of incredible evil, just take a look at man's history.
  - Nature, while still proclaiming God's glory, does not work properly and is littered with death, disease and disaster.
  - Even in the supernatural realm of heaven, there are fallen beings who are filled with evil.
3. How can this broken universe be healed? How can it be brought back to it's original glory and harmony with it's creator?
  - Only through Jesus, His death and His resurrection for they have started the healing of the entire universe - humanity.
4. The greatest problem of the universe is the fact of actual separation from God because of mankind's sin against Him.
  - Only what Jesus did can affect and change what mankind has done, and one day everything will be back like it was before sin and evil destroyed it.

#### **IV. Jesus is the Only Solution to Mankind's Deepest Problem (vv21-23)**

1. Jesus is not only the perfect and complete revelation of God and rightful ruler of the entire universe and sole deliverer of the entire universe by He is also the only answer to mankind's deepest problem.
  - We can understand and agree to the first three facts about Jesus and receive absolutely no benefit from this UNLESS we personalize it in our own individual lives.
  - Would you agree that alienation from God and revolt against Him is our deepest problem?
    - Job problems, relational problems, physical problems, etc. are real and important, but are only symptoms of a deeper, root problem in our lives.
  - Do we understand that Jesus has already done everything necessary for us to be restored to a proper relationship with God and given a permanent right standing with Him just as we are?
2. Have we/you put our/your personal trust in what Jesus has done to reconcile us/you to God? It is up to each individual to do so.
  - God has given us the freedom and responsibility to choose for or against His solution.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. So, now the same question Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" is now asked of you. Who is Jesus to you?
2. Where are you going to go to find out about this Jesus?
3. God's Word, the Bible, reveals exactly Who Jesus is. Go there and find out for yourself.
4. Jesus is God in the flesh and He came to make it possible for us to have eternal life as a child of God. He is the only way, believe in Him and we shall have eternal life.