

WHO JESUS CHRIST IS

Colossians 1:1-20

Introduction: Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians to combat false teachings about Jesus that were beginning to seep into the Church. There were falsehoods and even outright lies being taught about Jesus and His work. That has not changed through the centuries since Paul. Today there are those who believe and teach that Jesus was just another "one" of many who was a "prophet." If one looked closely around his/her own neighborhood and among friends, there would be those who don't really know who Jesus Christ is. So, just who is Jesus Christ?

1. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God.

- Jesus represents God in every respect.
- Jesus, no matter how His image is presented, is precise and perfect in every way.

2. Jesus Christ is the only exact image of God.

- False teachers in Paul's day as well as today teach that God had many intermediaries and Jesus was not the only one.
- Today there are those who teach and believe that Buddah, Mohammed, self-proclaimed "messiahs," Celtic prophets and others are all like Jesus, intermediaries of God.

3. God is not who/what most people think.

- Jesus came to prove exactly who and what God is.
- God is always near, God is concerned and God is not separated by numerous intermediaries.
- God is reachable immediately by anyone.
- God came to earth and lived among people and was known as Jesus.

4. Jesus Christ often told those around Him that He and God, the Father were the same, One.

- Jesus was born and lived exactly as those around Him.
- Jesus taught that He was going to be killed but was going to rise again on the third day.
- When ascending back to Heaven, Jesus told everyone He would be coming back again but this time in judgment.

5. False teachers then as well as today taught/teach that the human body is evil.

- They believed that the human body needs to be disciplined, controlled, subdued, mastered.
- Others say that it doesn't matter what happens to the human body because it is corrupt anyhow.
- It is no different today for most people think only about their bodies, the flesh and it's satisfaction giving little, if any thought to the spiritual aspects of life.

6. Jesus showed that the body was not evil in itself.

- How could God, holy, perfect in every respect, come in contact with anything evil or corrupt?
 - Yet Jesus, Son of God, was born as every human being has been born and lived in a fleshly human body as every human being has lived.

7. Jesus showed that the body could be honorable before God.

- In His human body, Jesus taught, healed, gave life to the dead and forgave sins.

8. False teachers taught/teach that the way to God was/is through certain knowledge and certain key words.

- There are those who teach and believe the same things as in the days of Paul. One may talk about God, about religion, even talk religiously, but do not actually know God nor His Son, Jesus.
- Words and phrases are repeated, chanted and sung, hoping to bring the presence of God.

9. God does not save nor communicate with any person who goes through rituals and repeats words.

- It is through God's ONLY Son, Jesus, that He saves and communicates.
- Jesus left instructions to ask of the Father (God) in His (Jesus) Name and the Father would hear.
- The only "prayer" of an unbeliever that God hears is the prayer of asking to be "saved." The plea for salvation.

10. Jesus is FIRST over all.

- Jesus is firstborn, above all things.
- Jesus is prior to , superior to, preeminent to and supreme over all things.
- Jesus always has existed, always was, always is, and always will be.
- All things were created by Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Paul answered the critics, the false prophets and all those who didn't understand exactly who Jesus was in his letter to the Colossians.
2. Jesus is God! Jesus is the visible God. Jesus is the visible Creator. Jesus is above all.
3. Jesus is God and He lived and walked among people just like us.
4. Jesus is God and the only way for any human being to talk to God and be a part of God's ONLY family.
5. Jesus is God and is coming as JUDGE of every human being.
6. Satan has and will continue to do everything he possibly can to mislead and keep away every human being he can from the truth and the truth is found in Jesus Christ, God's ONLY begotten Son.
7. Don't be lead astray from God's Word by anybody, no matter how impressive he may be. We have been warned that there will come many "false Christs in the last days" so be on your guard.