

Jesus Christ – Son of the Living God

EPHESIANS 2:20

“FOUNDATION – APOSTLES – NEW TESTAMENT, PROPHETS – OLD TESTAMENT – CHIEF STONE”

(The stone that ties – fits everything together)

Jesus Christ – Who Is He?

“Who is Jesus Christ?” JESUS CHRIST IS THE CHIEF – *“THE SON OF GOD”*

You see, there are many Jesus’ proclaimed today.

- There is Jesus the liberator, and Jesus the revolutionary.
- There is Jesus the teacher, and Jesus the example.
- There is Jesus the healer, and Jesus the burden-bearer.
- Homosexuals and adulterers point to “an unconditionally accepting Jesus,” seeking to show that Jesus is on their side.
- Even the demons are willing to accept certain aspects of our Lord’s identity, but *not* His authority.

Is it not very sad? We want to have “Jesus the way we like to think of Him.” We would rather conform Jesus to our views and values than to have Him transform ours.

In his early days as a disciple, Peter believed in Messiah, but he wanted nothing to do with a suffering Savior. The Jewish religious leaders, along with the nation Israel, also looked for the coming “Messiah.” But it was not the Messiah the prophets described. So they rejected the true Jesus, because He was not their kind of Messiah. He was the wrong Jesus, and they liked *their* kind of Messiah better.

Jesus Christ – Son of the Living God (Continued)

In the parable of the soils, two of the soils initially received “Jesus,” but when they learned what kind of “Jesus” He really was, they fell away (see [Matthew 13:5-7](#)). The crowds congregated around Jesus when they thought He came to give them a free meal ([John 6:22-27](#)). But when He began to speak of His death, the crowds vaporized (see [John 6:60-65](#)).

The false teachers speak of “Jesus,” but it is a “Jesus” of their own making, a “Jesus” with whom sinful men feel comfortable and affirmed. They wish to follow and imitate such a person, but they deny the real Jesus, substituting a more palatable Jesus. So it is that false teachers gain a following by tickling the ears of those who will not have the real “Jesus.”

How do false teachers arise? Peter does not tell us exactly, but we can suggest some ways false teachers might arise so that our Lord and Master is denied.

- I. First, they distort the emphasis of Scripture. They emphasize the “acceptable” aspects of our Lord’s nature and mission, while minimizing or denying those aspects of His being and ministry which sinful men find offensive. One can always point to Jesus as “our example” with little chance of being ill-treated for doing so.
- II. Second, false teachers can deny Jesus by narrowing the field of maladies for which the cross of Christ provides the solution. In evangelical circles, the cross is still the solution for our sin and guilt. But it seems to be inadequate for our “addictions,” of which there are many with more being added daily to the list. Many of the problems we once thought were spiritual are now considered psychological, and thus they must be solved by “trained specialists” rather than by simply being cleansed by the total work of our Savior.

Jesus Christ – Son of the Living God (Continued)

The Bible calls addictions “sin,” and our bondage to these sins is only broken through our identification with Christ and His cross (see [Romans 6](#)). A well-known psychiatrist wrote a book entitled, Whatever Happened to Sin? One might just as easily ask, “Whatever happened to the cross?” We sing songs with words like, “The Way of the Cross leads home.” But do we really believe this? If not, the false teachers have already arisen, and we have fallen for their false concepts.

Peter speaks of false teachers, but he is speaking to each of us. He warns those who would become false teachers of the destruction which lies ahead for them ([James 3:1-12](#)). He also warns every Christian to be on the alert, for false teachers will arise. While Christian leaders have a responsibility to guard the flock from false teachers ([Acts 20:28-39](#); [1 Timothy 1:3-11](#); [2 Timothy 2:23-26](#)), this does not absolve us of our personal responsibility to be on guard for false teachers. There is only one way we will be able to spot false teachers: we must be knowledgeable concerning the truth of the Word of God. We dare not become lazy and expect others to do our studying and thinking for us (see [1 John 2:26-27](#)).

- III. Third, also note that the Bible speaks to those who may not truly know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. People may believe that there is a God. Folk may believe in Jesus as a great healer, or a great teacher. But to be saved, one must believe in His atoning work on our behalf on the cross of Calvary. Salvation includes the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living God, the Divine One who became the God in the flesh, the Incarnate One. Individuals must believe that He was and is the God-man who bore the sin penalty for all, and that, as the risen Savior, His resurrection is, for you, life from the dead. Not until you believe in the real Jesus of the Bible will you be saved. May God grant you ears to hear and eyes to see, so that you might turn to Jesus for Salvation.