

Who Is Jesus of Nazareth?

ho say ye that I am?" is the question with which Jesus confronted the twelve at Caesarea Philippi. Men and women of our day are no less challenged to answer the same question, a question upon which hangs the very meaning of life itself. Who is this man whose influence has cast itself powerfully across nineteen centuries?

The only Jesus we may know is the one whose story is written in the New Testament by His close companions and disciples. This is the "historical Jesus." If we attack their simple, straightforward accounts as unreliable, we have burned the only bridge by which He may be known. We have also assumed the burden of proving what hoped-for reward could have moved these men who spoke so often of truth to enter into a gigantic hoax, and to sacrifice their lives rather than confess it. We must accept or reject the Jesus of the New Testament simply because there is no evidence or testimony for any other.

The Christ of Prophecy

The best way to get an answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" is to let Jesus speak for Himself. When the Samaritan woman assured Jesus that she knew when the Christ (Messiah) came He would declare all things, He replied, "I that speak unto thee am he" (John 4:25-26). To His disciples just before His ascension, He said, "These are my words which I spoke unto you, while I was with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets and the psalms concerning me... Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again the third day" (Luke 24:44,46). Whatever we may think of it, Jesus clearly claimed to be the promised Christ of all the Old Testament prophecies.

Several hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah declared that the Christ would be descended from Jesse and David (11:1-9; 9:6-7; John 7:42) and be born of a virgin (7:14; Matthew 1:18-23). At the same time the prophet Micah spoke of Bethlehem as His birthplace (5:2; Matthew 2:3-6) . Yet, in spite of His human birth, Isaiah spoke of Him as "the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father" (9:6-7); and Micah said His goings forth were "from everlasting" (5:2).

More than four hundred years before His conception the prophet Zechariah spoke of His entrance into Jerusalem riding on an ass (9:9-10). Isaiah chronicled His suffering and death for the sins of the world long before they occurred and spoke beforehand of His burial with a rich man (53:1-9). David revealed the details of the crucifixion fully one thousand years before it transpired (Psalm 22:1-18), and prophesied

of the resurrection that would follow (Psalm 16:9-10; Acts 2:25-32). A scheming deceiver might have contrived to seemingly fulfill some of the Messianic prophecies, but, however shrewd, no man has control of the circumstances of his birth and death.

The Son of God

Jesus also made a clear claim to being, in a unique way, the Son of Cod. To Nicodemus He spoke of Himself as the "only-begotten Son of God" (John 3:16). He made the same clear assertion to a man he healed of life long blindness (John 9:35-37) and blessed Peter for declaring Him to be "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-17). His other claims reflect His deity indirectly. He claimed to be eternal (John 8:58), sinless (John 8:46), able to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-10) and give life to the dead (John 5:21,28).

No mere man could make such claims as these unless He were mad or an arch-deceiver. If we reject Jesus as God's Son we are compelled to place Him in one of these categories. We are left to decide if we are willing to attribute to insanity or wicked deception the finest hour of human history.

Jesus is also declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). And the evidence for His resurrection is formidable. Both His friends and enemies agree on three facts: He died, was buried, and the tomb was empty. His enemies, unable to produce the body, bribed the sepulchre guards to tell the puerile story that "while we slept" His disciples came and stole the body away. Is it conceivable that men who ran away in fear while Jesus was alive would afterward risk their lives for possession of His corpse? There is only one explanation of the empty tomb which answers to all the facts and explains the testimony of the disciples and their transformation into a joyous, militant band of preachers. Clearly, as they said, He had risen from the dead and they had seen Him!

The Lord of lords

From His position as Christ and Son of God, Jesus claimed supreme power over every person and force in the universe (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20 22). Jesus also claimed that He was the very embodiment of truth and life and the only means of access to God (John 14:6; Matthew 11:27). It should be no surprise then that He demanded from all men a supreme and absolute loyalty (Matthew 10:37-38).

We would do well to ponder carefully the question, "Who is Jesus of Nazareth?" It is not the kind of question we can escape, and it sounds very much like our answer will determine our ultimate destiny (John 8:24).

-Paul Earnhart



What To Expect During Your Visit

A WARM WELCOME

First of all, you can expect a courteous and sincere welcome by our members. There are no "special" pews for anyone, so you may sit wherever you like. Several people will probably come and introduce themselves to you. All visitors are greeted with equal respect and kindness.

SIMPLE, SINCERE WORSHIP

You will notice that our worship is quite simple. This



is because our pattern comes directly from the worship of the first century Christians as recorded in the New Testament. There will be no attempts to entertain or spice up our worship assembly.

Please join us in...

SINGING praises to God;
(Ephesians 5:19; Col. 3:16)
PRAYING to our heavenly Father;
(Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-8)
STUDYING the Bible;
(2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:10-11)

If you are with us on Sunday, the Lord's day, you will observe these other acts of worship...

> THE LORD'S SUPPER served; (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) A COLLECTION (1 Corinthians 16:2)



ORDERLY & UNDERSTANDABLE SERVICE

You will not be confused by many speaking or praying at the same time. All aspects of the service will be conducted in plain, understandable English. Various men will take part in leading the worship and none will speak in languages which cannot be understood or in large theological terms. An orderly service of worship and Bible study will be maintained at all times (1 Corinthians 14:33). The audience, or individuals from it, will not be embarrassed or singled out for any sort of demonstration or testimony. You may quietly observe and study what you see and hear (1 Corinthians 14:40).

THE BIBLE - OUR GUIDE

If you bring a Bible, or use one provided, you will have our only book of religious authority. We have no creed, manual or catechism which is appealed to as "authority" in religious matters. Repeated references will be made to the Bible



in all sermons and classes. We encourage you to check the references to see that they are correct (Acts 17:11). Please, never take the word of others just because they profess to know what the Bible says. Check it out for yourself.

SALVATION IN CHRIST

You will hear obedience to the will of Christ emphasized as necessary for salvation. One may enter a true relationship with Christ by obedience to God's conditions of salvation. Those conditions can be outlined in five steps. They are: Faith in Christ, as taught in the gospel (Romans 10:17); Repentance of one's past life with a determination to change (2 Peter 3:9); Confession of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Baptism for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38); and Faithfulness unto Christ till death (Revelation 2:10).



AN OPEN INVITATION

Our door is always open to you. You are always welcome to worship and study with us. Bring a friend and your Bible to "search the scriptures" with us. We would like to get to know you and perhaps we could help each other get to heaven. This is a place "where you're always welcome!"

May we all strive to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
(2 Peter 3:18).





Going in Circles? . . . Try Ours for a Change



Remember when you were a child, and you used to spin around and around until you could hardly walk? Your lack of balance would not allow you to walk a straight line if you had too.

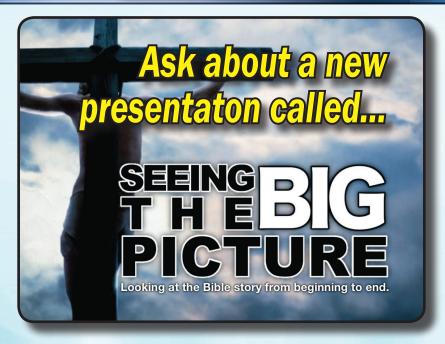
Do you ever feel like your life is just going in circles? Spinning around and around until after awhile it is spinning out of control. Sometimes we would just like to say, "Stop the world. I want off."

If you're going in circles we can help. We can't stop the world from turning but, we can offer a place where the "circles" are those of loving people who want to help you keep your balance and walk the straight and narrow way which leads to life (Matt. 7:14). This is a place "Where You're Always Welcome!"

www.churchofChristinGalena.com



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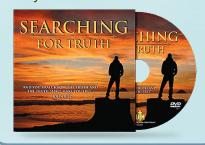
Have you ever wondered if there is real truth out there? Are you searching for truth?

Real, honest, understandable truth can be found in Jesus and His word, the Bible.

Jesus said, "...and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Also Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).

Those words express the reality of truth and the necessity of knowing and following that truth.

If you are interested in the truth that comes directly from God's word and is summed up in Jesus then we have a wonderful gift for you! Just ask us for your FREE copy of a DVD which will help you find the truth of God's will! May God bless your search for truth!





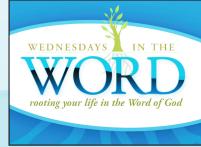














JOIN US IN STUDYING THE WORD!

THIS WEEK

Barker	Dowling	Loughmiller	Mitchell	Scott	Stout
April 9 th	April 16 th	April 23 rd	April 30 th	May 7 th	May 14 th
Farmer Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.



Sunday Morning (04/16)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Luke Dooley Song Leader: Jeff Farmer Lord's Table: Tim Maudlin (Lead)

M. Loughmiller, Donny Sieg, R. Woolbrigt

Sermon: Paul Earnhart **Closing Prayer:** Michael Stout

Sunday PM (04/16)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Bill Buchanan

Song Leader: Jonathan Maudlin Lord's Table: Tim Maudlin (Lead)

M. Loumiller

Sermon: Paul Earnhart Closing Prayer: Jim Hudson

Wednesday (04/12)

Announcements: Michael Stout 1st Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Song Leader: Don Sieg **Invitation:** Kyle Dowling Closing Prayer: Daryn Barker

Sunday Morning (04/23)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Daryn Barker

Song Leader: Dale Woolbright Lord's Table: Keith Keehn (Lead)

D. Culver, Don Sieg, M. Stout

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer **Closing Prayer:** Evan Mitchell

Sunday PM (04/23)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Ryan Woolbright Song Leader: Seth Shaffer

Lord's Table: Keith Keehn (Lead)

D. Culver

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Nick Loughmiller

Wednesday (04/26)

Announcements: Randy Scott

1st Prayer: Jim Hudson

Song Leader: Jonathan Maudlin

Invitation: Dylan Culver

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Shepherds:

Bill Buchanan

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Dale Woolbright

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Deacons:

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Kyle Dowling

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Randy Scott

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Michael Stout

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Evangelist:

Shannon Shaffer

Cell: (615) 289-1721 shafferlifeline@gmail.com





Meeting at 5466 Featheringill Road

Greenville, IN 47124

Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM Bible Classes: 10:00 AM Worship: 3:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

Website http://churchofChrist inGalena.com