

You Owe it to Yourself To Carefully Consider Him!

"I have looked into religions, and I have given up my search for the unknown!"

"I'm not a hypocrite; I don't need a crutch!"

"The church, worship, and stained glass windows are good for some, but..."

Perhaps you, like I, have had similar thoughts as the ones above. However, one day I considered this unique person, Jesus of Nazareth, and found myself asking hard questions: Who is Jesus Christ? Why did He come to Earth? Where is He now? Will He return to earth again as He said?

For consideration: If God would reveal Himself as a man, what would you expect Him to be like?

- Have an undeniable supernatural entrance into this world?
- Live a life of perfect sinlessness?
- Be the Master of every situation?

- Speak with ultimate authority?
- Satisfy the spiritual hunger of man?
- Demonstrate His power over death?
- Manifest supernatural evidence that He is worthy of worship?
- Leave an indelible influence on the course of history?

Have you considered that Jesus Christ is a person of history? He changed our calendar, the dating of history, and the course of history. His life is validated by historians:

● *Tacitus*, in *Book XV*, Ch. 44, writing in A.D. 114, tells us that the founder of the Christian religion, Jesus Christ, was put to death by Pontius Pilate in the reign of the Roman Emperor, Tiberius.

● *Pliny, the Younger*, in his letter to Trajan, A.D. 111, inquired how he should respond to Christians, because they sang hymns to Christ "*as to a god.*"

● *Josephus*, the Jewish historian, in A.D. 90, wrote a short biographical sketch of Jesus, who is called Christ, *Antiquities*, Book XVIII.

- *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th Edition, Vol. 10, gives 10 pages to tell about Jesus and never hints that He did not exist. This is more space than is given to Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, or Napoleon Bonaparte.

- In **Philip Schaff's** *History of the Christian Church*, Vol 1, pages 104-105, he wrote of Jesus Christ: "*He rose above the prejudices of party and sect, above superstitions of his age and nation, addressed the naked heart of man, and touched the quick of the conscience.*"

- The **Apostle John** penned, in A.D. 90, these words: "*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his son.*" I John 5:10

Have you considered that His life has no parallel?

- He controlled the elements of nature: muzzled the wind, walked on water and raised the dead to life again

- He never wrote a book, and yet the libraries of the world are filled with volumes written about Him.

- He never wrote a song, and yet He is the theme of more songs than we can count.

- He never matriculated through a university, and yet more students have enrolled in higher education to study His life than that of any other personage.

- He had no credentials except His own perfect life and works.

- The famous essay, One Solitary Life, states: "*All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.*"

Have you considered that His life was a paradox?

- He was the Bread of Life, and yet, He began His ministry hungering.

- He was the Water of Life and ended His life thirsting.

- He hungered as a man and fed the multitude as God.
- He was weary, and yet is our Rest.
- He wept, and yet, dries our tears.
- He paid taxes, and yet, He is a King.
- He was called a devil, but He cast out demons.
- He was sold for 30 pieces of silver, and yet, in His death, He redeemed us.
- He was a lamb led to the slaughter, and yet, He is the Good Shepherd.
- He gave His life by dying on a cross, and at the same time, He destroyed him who has the power of death.
- He is the "*Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.*"

Have you considered that His life, death, and resurrection were foretold in the Old Testament?

- In the Old Testament, there are more than three-hundred prophecies to Israel of the coming Messiah. Jesus Christ fulfilled every prophesy.

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- Consider also, for every prophecy concerning His first coming, there are eight prophecies in the Bible for His second coming: "*...This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come...as ye have seen him go into Heaven.*"

Acts 1:11b

Have you considered what He claimed of Himself?

- John 5:18, "*Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*"
- John 5:23-24, "*That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.*"

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- John 8:58, *"Jesus said unto them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.'"*
- John 10:30-33, *"I and my Father are one.' Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works have I shown you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?' The Jews answered him saying, 'For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, maketh thyself God.'"*
- John 11:25-26, *"Jesus said unto her, 'I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.'"*
- John 14:6, *"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'"*
- John 14:9, *"Jesus saith unto him, 'Have I been so long time with you,*

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and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

Have you considered what those who were close to Him have said of Him?

- Judas, Matthew 27:4a, *"...I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood..."*
- Pilate, Luke 23:14, *"...I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man..."*
- Centurion, Luke 23:47, *"...Certainly this was a righteous man."*
- Thomas, John 20:28, *"...My Lord and my God."*
- Peter, I Peter 2:22, *"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."*
- John, I John 5:20, *"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even*

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in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

- Those who were closest to Him in His life, and in His death, declared His innocence, His righteousness, and His deity.

Have YOU considered your options?

Suppose you lived and died without ever receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Having left this world, you knocked at the door of Heaven, and the Lord asked, *"Why should I let you into Heaven?"*

- What claim would you make on the celestial Heaven?
- What good works would you offer to Him that would qualify you for that perfect dwelling place?
- Unequivocal facts:
 1. There is absolutely no better place than Heaven!
 2. There is absolutely no worse place than Hell!
 3. There is absolutely no other

way to get to Heaven except by faith alone in Jesus Christ!

Perhaps you think there is the option to wait until a more convenient time. That is most dangerous, because we have no promise of tomorrow. Your apparent neutrality is really rejection of the Saviour. Jesus said, *"He that*
Yes, there is another option, and that is
to believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:18

consider and receive His offer of free salvation to you. The facts are very simply stated in God's Word, the Bible:

1. You have an appointment! *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."*

Hebrews 9:27

2. You are guilty! *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,"* Romans 3:23

3. **There is a penalty for sin!** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 6:23

4. **But the penalty has been paid in full!** *"But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."* Romans 5:8-9

5. **The Saviour awaits your invitation!** *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* John 1:12

6. **Salvation involves a decision!** *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* Romans 10:9

Friend, no matter how dark your past life may be, and no matter how bleak your present circumstances are,

be assured that God specializes in changing lives, and He has a wonderful plan for your life!

Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died in YOUR place on that cross for YOUR sins. He arose bodily from the grave, ascended back to Heaven where, today, He is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

As you consider Him, you owe it to yourself to invite Him into your heart right now and allow Him first place in YOUR life. You can pray to Him, for He stands at your heart's door and waits to be invited in. Ask Him today, **Now that you have invited Christ**

"Lord Jesus, I know You love me because You died on the cross for my sins. I confess I am a sinner and cannot save myself. Thank You, Lord, for paying my debt of sin so that I may have eternal life. I do now, by faith, trust You, Lord Jesus, and I receive You as my personal Savior. Please come into my heart and change my life. In Jesus' name. Amen."

into your life today, the Bible promises that you now have eternal life. "And

Now that you have prayed and invited

this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:11-13

Christ into your life to be your Savior, we want to help you grow in your new relationship. I suggest that you begin a twenty-one day journey by reading through the Gospel of St. John, one chapter a day for the next three weeks. **The promises of God's Word are our authority.** We now live by faith based on the trustworthiness of God and His infallible Word, the Bible. I would encourage you to let us know of your

decision, for that would be encouraging to us. You can contact us by phone, e-mail, or through our website.



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