

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ”

SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe!

John 1:1-4; Matthew 16:13-17

I want to continue our series this morning on “**Why We Believe What We Believe**”. Thus far we have spoken on what we believe about the **Bible – God’s Word**, what we Believe about the **Trinity** and What we Believe about **God our Heavenly Father**. Now this morning we are going to examine the subject of **What We Believe about Our Lord Jesus Christ**.

In Matthew 16 Jesus is going to give a final exam to His disciples as He asked them a particularly important question. Now let’s get the setting for this exam. Jesus and the disciples are about 120 miles from Jerusalem in northern Palestine. We’re closing in on the time when He will go to the Holy City and the cross upon which He will die. But before He does, there’s 2 things He wants His followers to be clear about:

1. Who He is
 2. What He’s going to do
- The disciples have been with Jesus for about 3 years, and now it’s final exam time.

And the most important question that we will ever answer is - **Who is Jesus Christ to You?**

So first we will see...

I. Three Important Questions About Who Is Jesus To You...

1. **This is the PERENNIAL question – Recurrent, perpetual, continuing.** Notice the opinion of the crowd in **V-14** and there are **3 theories**:
 - John the Baptist
 - Elijah
 - Jeremiah
2. A **PERSONAL** Question.
In **V-15** Jesus narrows His focus. Every person must answer this question. The crowd cannot answer it for you. You cannot abstain or opt out from answering...you can delay, but you cannot hide forever, you will answer someday.

There’s only 4 answers really that you can give:

- ⇒ **He’s a legend**
- ⇒ **He was a liar**
- ⇒ **He was a lunatic**
- ⇒ **He is LORD!” - V. 16**

Not only is this question the **perennial** question, and a **personal** question, but thirdly this was a....

3. Providential Question – V-17.

Jesus says, it’s only by the grace, goodness, and guidance of God that any of us can ever come to the place of answering this question correctly. The right answer comes by divine revelation, not by human speculation. Only the Father in heaven can make the truth real in your heart. Look at what **Jesus said in John 6:44**.

Now let me share with you a second main point about Who Is Jesus and there are...

II. Five Tremendous Truths About Who Is The Real Lord Jesus Christ.

These five truths are necessary to believe in order to be saved and become a child of God by faith.

1. **His Virgin Birth – Isa. 7:14, Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 1:26-37.** It is because of the virgin birth that Jesus is the **God-Man** who came to reveal God to us.
2. **His Virtuous Life** – Jesus was God, but He also was a man with a physical body just like you and I have, yet He was sinless in that body. We read of His sinlessness in **Hebrews 4:15-16**.
3. **His Vicarious Death – His death was not for His sins but for our sins, yes, the sins of the world. John 3:16-18.** Paul, a former Pharisee and legalistic Jew said this, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*” **1 Timothy 1:15.**
4. **His Victorious Resurrection** – He vicariously died for the world and was buried in a grave, but after three days He Victoriously arose from the grave.
One of my favorite accounts of the Victorious Resurrection is found in **Luke 24:1-7** and **1 Corinthians 15** the great resurrection chapter.
5. **His Visible Return – Just as Jesus Victoriously arose from the grave and was seen and touched, He is also going to VISIBLELY Return to this earth at what we call the Rapture. Now no man or even the angels know when His is coming back, but He said He would, and God cannot lie. (Matt. 24:36)**
My favorite passage about His Visible Return is found in **Acts 1:9-11 along with 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and John 14:1-6, He said: “I will come again...” V-3.**