

KNOW WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS

Matthew 16:13–17; Hebrews 1:1–4

I. Introduction-

- Today we continue our Know What You Believe series... by looking at what we believe about Jesus.
- At one point in His ministry... Jesus asked His disciples this question ... *“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”* (Matthew 16:13).
- The disciples replied with the favorable and flattering opinions they had heard about Jesus... *“Some say you are the return of John the Baptist... or a prophet like Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”*
- The disciples did not mention any of the negative opinions about Jesus they had heard ...even though what people were saying about Jesus was mixed.
- Today... people still have different opinions about Jesus:
 - Some doubt that He was a real person... they doubt He ever existed... some say He was a myth... a legend... or a fraud.
 - Others accept that Jesus lived... and they agree He was an influential man of history... a great teacher ... a great man... the founder of a great religion.
 - But that is as far as they are willing to go...they believe He was just a man ... not God as Christians claim.
- After hearing what the disciples had to say... Jesus made the question personal ... *“But who do you say that I am?”* (Matthew 16:15)
- Peter responded with timeless truth... *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* (Matthew 16:16)
- That’s my conviction too... I believe Jesus is God...the Son of God... the second person of the trinity.

- Who came to earth... lived a perfect life... died a sacrificial death for all of us... and rose from the grave to make our salvation from sin... a lost life... and a lost eternity... possible.
- What a person believes about Jesus means everything... it defines the course and the quality of their life in this world... and it determines their eternal destiny.
- Today as we continue our study of Know What We Believe... I ask you the question Jesus asked... *Who do YOU say Jesus is?*
- The book of Hebrews... gives us one of the clearest and richest portraits of who Jesus is... let's explore it together.

II. Jesus Is God's Final Revelation of Himself

- The writer of Hebrews declares that everything in the Old Testament... points forward to... and find its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- The key to understanding the Old Testament... is to understand that ultimately everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus.
- The Bible is about Jesus... if you want to know who God is... if you want to know what God is like... look to Jesus... Jesus is God's final revelation of Himself.
- No additional revelation of God is needed or is coming... Jesus is enough.

III. Jesus Is the Agent of Creation

- *Hebrews 1:2* declares that God made the worlds through His Son... through Jesus.
- *John 1:3*... "All things were made through Him."... *Colossians 1:16*: "For by Him all things were created..."
- Jesus... the second person of the Trinity... was the active agent in creation.

IV. Jesus Is the Sustainer of Creation

- *Hebrews 1:3* says that Jesus... “*upholds all things by the word of His power.*”
- *Colossians 1:17* says... “*In Him all things hold together.*”
- Why does the universe operate in order... and not in chaos? ... because Jesus is the power that holds all things together.
- The stars don’t collide... the moon doesn’t fall... and the oceans stay within their bounds...because of the controlling and sustaining power of Jesus.

V. Jesus Is God

- *Hebrews 1:3* describes Jesus as... “*the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.*”
- That is a biblical way of saying... that Jesus is God.
- Jesus didn’t cease to be God when He took on human flesh... for a while when He was on earth... the divine glory of Jesus was cloaked in humanity.
- There was one occasion when the divine glory of Jesus shone through His humanity... that was on the Mount of Transfiguration... when Jesus allowed His disciples to see a portion of His divine radiance.
- *Matthew 17:2* says that when Jesus did that... “*His face shone like the sun...*”
- How powerful is the divine glory of Jesus? ... Revelation 21:23 says that in the New Heaven and Earth... the glory of Jesus will illuminate the universe.
- The Bible says like a lightning bolt that knocks out the power in a storm... when Jesus comes again... the power of His glory will knock out the power of all creation.
- ***Matthew 24:29-30 (NKJV)*** “*Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the*

earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

VI. Jesus Is the One Who Can Forgive and Cleanse

- *Hebrews 1:3* says that Jesus... “purged” our sins... the word translated purge means to make clean.
- Sin pollutes us... sin makes us dirty and unclean... guilty... and unworthy to be accepted by a holy God.
- Only one person can purge our sins... and make us clean and acceptable to God... and that is Jesus.
- On the cross... Jesus He took our filth and evil upon His sinless self... and He bore the penalty we deserved.
- When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior ... He washes us and makes us clean before God... *“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”*
- There is only one who can cleanse us of sin... and make us clean and right before a holy God... and that is Jesus.

VII. Conclusion

- So... Who is Jesus?
 - He is the final revelation of God.
 - He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
 - He is God.
 - He is our Savior and Redeemer.

Illustration... “Whoever chooses my son... gets it all.”

Two thousand years ago, God offered His Son.... And He still asks: *“Who will take My Son?”*... If you choose Jesus...you get it all...*1 John 5:12*: “He who has the Son has life...”

Closing Prayer

Father God,

We stand before the question Jesus asked long ago: “*Who do you say that I am?*”
And today, we acknowledge with hearts full of faith and hope:

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Thank You for revealing Yourself through Jesus—Your final Word, our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Friend.

Lord, for every person here who’s wrestling with doubt, searching for identity, or longing for a fresh start...

May today be the moment they answer You with full surrender and say today, “*You are my Lord.*”

Wash us clean, set us free, hold us close, and give us boldness to live for You.

We thank You for the promise of eternal life—for whoever chooses the Son... gets it all.

In Jesus’ mighty and saving name we pray,

Amen.



Altar Call

If you’re here today and you’ve never truly answered the question, “*Who is Jesus to me?*”—now is the time.

This isn’t just about religion or tradition. It’s about eternity. It’s about knowing hope, peace, and purpose through Jesus Christ.

Maybe you’ve known *about* Him—but never really known *Him*.

He’s not just a good teacher. He’s the Son of God. The Savior of your soul.

And He’s asking today: *Will you take My Son?*

Because when you choose the Son... *you get it all.*

Come forward now if you’d like to respond, pray, or recommit. We’re ready to walk this journey with you—and Jesus is ready to meet you right here.