

The King and His Kingdom!

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

- Revelation 19:11-16

There is only one King over the earth

LISTEN TO THE REASONS TO BELIEVE VIDEO HERE

With so many voices in the world it is truly difficult to focus. Jesus Christ is unique among the voices. I would like to help you to consider Christ for yourself, independent from any religious atmosphere or pressure. I would like to present to you what the Bible teaches about Christ. Please take this opportunity to consider the claims of Christ firsthand. If you find them to be untrue or impossible to believe, then you have the peace of mind to know you have considered Christ for yourself. We stake far too much on far too little if we stop short of considering Christ beyond our culture's oversimplified and under-investigated conclusions.

Jesus claimed to be the Savior of the World. Read John 4:26

If you take the time to read about this woman at the well, you will find that Jesus is not interested in promoting religion. He is interested in providing a quality relationship. Do you know that God can be known personally? Jesus claims to be the Messiah (Savior). That means that God thinks that you and I need to be delivered from something. Do you find it hard to believe that mankind needs to be saved from ourselves? Jesus was very specific in John 8:21-24. If we don't see our need for a Savior we will die, eternally separated from God.

Jesus claimed to be God. Read John 8:58

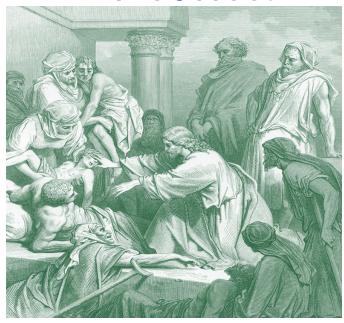
Is it really so hard to believe that there is a God? Jesus believed it. Why? Because He had experienced the Father firsthand. He had 100% authority to speak on the subject. Why do we insist on speaking with such authority about things which we cannot see? This is why it is so important to examine the Scriptures personally. Jesus Christ made some pretty amazing claims...and history backs Him up!

Jesus came to help the blind and the hungry.

Read Luke 4:18-19

If you can admit that you have insufficient insight to walk through life or find eternal life, you are not far from the kingdom Jesus was preaching. In John 8:12 Jesus states that He is the light of the world. Can you admit that you are blind when it come to pleasing God? In John 6:35 Jesus claims to be the Bread of Life. If you can admit that the food this world has to offer is insufficient to sustain you, you are close to Christ's kingdom.

Who is Jesus?



Jesus claimed to hold the keys to eternal life. Read John 12:25,26

Do you truly believe that "what you see is all you get?" Do you believe deep in your heart that your 50-90 years on this earth (if you live that long) are all that there is? Jesus speaks with transcending perspective. He says that after our physical death, there will be entrance into the eternal presence of God. Apart from trusting Christ this meeting will be as unpleasant as anything any human will have ever encountered.

Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life. Read John 14:6

This is where many people stumble. We all want to think that what we are grasping for is the essence of life. We all want to believe that we understand the truth about reality. We all want to believe that everything will work out in the end. Jesus' claims are clear... there is only one way: His way. There is only one truth: His truth. There is only one option for eternal life spent with God: His life... the eternal life that only the Son of God can give!

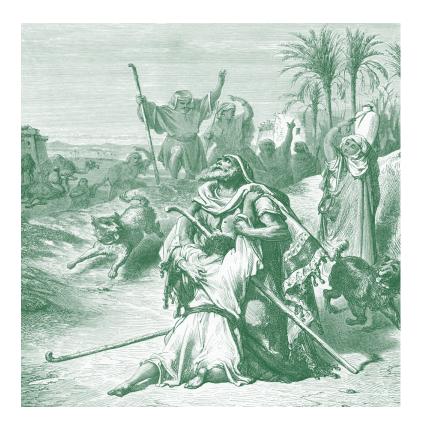
Jesus wants to rescue you.

He claims to have the authority
1) to define your plight
2) to provide your escape
3) to allow you to live forever
He offers this gift to anyone who will call upon His name!
John 1:12,13

If, as you have considered these claims, you find you have the strength to believe, read on. If you think the decision will wait, read James 4:14.

If you think this is foolishness, may God be merciful to your soul.

What are your objections to Jesus? Are you prepared to acknowlege His kingship over your soul?



Becoming a Christ-follower

How does a person become a Christian? What is a Christian? The word literally means "little Christ." The first followers of Jesus were called Christians because they embraced all that their Master taught. Jesus claimed not only to be the Savior of the world, but the Judge of the world as well. According to Jesus' teaching He is standing before the door of our hearts.

"I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9

You and I are outside the door. That means we need to gain access. Do you believe you have a need for God? Read Matthew 4:17; Romans 3:10-12; and Ephesians 2:1-10. In order to receive the good news, we must first examine the credibility of the bad news.

To enter through the door you must step through Christ. You can't go over Him (there is no one above Him). You cannot get around Him (there is only one door, one entrance). You must go through Him.

According to Christ, you have come to the crossroad of life and death. If you choose to go forward, life and peace are waiting. If you choose to shrink away, eternal separation from your Creator is assured you. The decision becomes yours alone.

Jesus died to save us. Read Colossians 2:13,14

The first step to enter through the door is to receive the fact that God's Son was given in our place to satisfy God's wrath for sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16). If Jesus had not died, there would be no way to come to God. His purpose in dying was to build a bridge across the chasm of death between God and men.

Jesus was raised from the dead to prepare the way for us. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 12-28.

If Jesus had the authority to raise Himself from the power of sin and death, won't He be able to do the same with those who believe in His name? Entering through the door we believe that upon leaving this life we will stand before God, and, through Christ; eternal life will be ours.

Finally, we must humbly embrace Jesus as our only hope. Only Jesus offers and provides forgiveness for our sins. Through belief in His mission of death and resurrection, we receive entrance through the Door.

How does a person become a Christ Follower?

- 1. Face up to the plight you are in; confess your need for God to God,
- 2. Believe that Christ's death on the cross is sufficient to clear your debt.
- 3. Pray to God to request forgiveness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ... God will listen!

Remember, Jesus claimed to come to save sinners. We will never be good enough. This is exactly the point. Grace is "undeserved favor." This grace is available to anyone who will humble his or her soul before our God and Father.

May you even now find yourself walking through the door!
The choice is yours.
The work is God's.
Ask Him to give you life!

Do you believe you have entered through the Door?

Is Jesus God's Son? Is Jesus God?

God reveals Himself in nature, in His written Word, and in His Son Jesus. Jesus is "the Word come to earth!"

"...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." - John 1:12

Christ invites everyone to examine His works and words. He welcomes scrutiny and dialogue. One commonly verbalized barrier to considering Christ is the criticism of shortcomings of those who call themselves "Christians." It is important to remember that we will be held to Christ's own words, and not by comparisons we make with those around us.

If you have never truly taken the time to Consider Christ for yourself, the following study should be helpful. We offer Biblical references and several questions to stimulate your thinking.

Some hints to get the most from your reading...

As you consider the following passages ask three reflective questions:

- 1. What specific information are these verses communicating?
- 2. What did the words probably mean to those who were originally participating or reading? (each context will tell you who this is)
- 3. What implications do these verses contain for me and the way I believe and live my life?

Use a translation of the Bible you can understand and are comfortable with. The New American Standard and the New International versions of the Bible are a couple of good translations from the original languages.

Meditating on the Scriptures is an engaging process. The above questions will help you go deeper and engage the following pages more fully!



THE WRITTEN WORD: GIVEN TO HIS PEOPLE

Reading One: What are the potential benefits as we search the Word of Christ?
2 Timothy 3:14-17
2 Timothy 2:14-16
Colossians 3:16
Hebrews 4:12
1. What is the value of meditating on the Scriptures?
2. Why is accuracy important when looking for meaning in the Bible?
3. How does the Word of God live inside a person?
4. What can encountering the Word of Christ do for us?
What are your personal commitments to searching the words of Christ? What emphasis do you place on God's Word in your daily life?
Reading Two: How may we respond to Christ as a living person? Revelation 5:9-10 John 9:1-42 Matthew 28:17
What do you think about when the word worship comes to mind?
2. Why is "bending our knee" before Christ necessary?

3. Why does the Bible claim that Christ is deserving of worship?
4. What are the practical benefits for the follower of Christ as he or she follows from the heart?
In what ways can you honor Christ through your life, and what do you consider your personal barriers as you attempt to submit to Christ?
Reading Three: Facing the Example of Christ Hebrews 12:1-2 John 13:12-20
1 Peter 2:18-25
1. Why should we view Christ as our example?
2. What aspects of His example stand out in your mind as you read these and other passages?
3. In what ways does Christ's example transcend mere words?
List several specific ways a man or woman can better follow the example of Christ.

THE LIVING WORD: JESUS

3. What does the Bible mean when it refers to the word believe?
4. What does confession have to do with salvation?
Would you consider faith an easy or difficult issue for you? Do you believe at some point in your life you have received Christ by faith?
Reading Three: Experiencing the Assurance of Christ 1 John 5:13 1 Peter 1:3-9 Philippians 1:3-6 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 10:22-30
Does salvation through Jesus Christ provide benefits only for the future?
2. Who is responsible for ensuring and maintaining our salvation?
3. To what extent can we count on God to complete work that He begins in us?
4. Who or what can take away our relationship with God in Christ Jesus?
In what ways do you find security in God? Just how far does such security influence your life?
