

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: What think ye of Christ?

Various answers abound regarding what men think of Jesus of Nazareth. Many are convinced that Jesus was a good, moral man, but nothing more than that. Others believe him to be a great teacher of philosophy and morality, but elevate him no more than this. Still others hold him to be a liar and a fraud, a man of questionable character and severely misguided perceptions of himself. With the proliferation of supposed new “evidence,” which supposedly sheds light on the life of Jesus outside of the Gospel accounts, the masses are being led to believe all sorts of lies and innuendos regarding Jesus Christ. Just who is this Jesus, and how should I view him?

Jesus stated, “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24). You will notice that the word “*he*” in the verse is italicized, indicating that it was supplied by the translators, and not found in the original text. Words are often put in our English translations to help complete the thought from the original languages. However, in this instance, the word not only does not complete the thought, it gets in the way of a proper understanding of what Jesus was saying. Jesus was equating himself to the great “I Am” of the Old Testament, a designation God used for Himself (Exodus 3:14). It is not enough to think of Jesus as a good, moral man, though he certainly was such (Acts 10:38). It is not enough to think of Jesus as a great teacher, though he is the Master Teacher (John 7:46; Matthew 7:28-29). It is not enough to think of Jesus as a great prophet of God, though he is “that prophet” of whom the Old Testament prophesied (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; John 6:14). None of these in and of themselves will suffice as the correct view or understanding of Jesus. If we fail to recognize him as the Son of God, the God-man (1 Timothy 2:5), we will remain lost in our sins.

It matters greatly how we view Jesus of Nazareth. If we cannot believe the claims of Jesus to be the Son of God, and the evidences to support such, then we cannot trust anything the Bible has to say, nor lay hold on any of its promises!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.