

# Who Is Jesus Christ?

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Luke 3: 22.



“He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Peter answered and said, ‘The Christ of God.’” Luke 9: 20



# I. Introduction

The most important of all questions helps us to position ourselves in the search of a meaningful life and in the preparation for God's kingdom.

The answer to the question 'Who is Jesus Christ' will determine our eternal destiny.





"Simon Peter does not say, "Scribes and Pharisees, rulers and people, are all perplexed; and shall we, unlettered fishermen, presume to decide?" But feeling the light of his Master's glory shining in his soul, he breaks forth – not in a tame, prosaic acknowledgment, "I believe that Thou art," &c. but in the language of adoration, such as one uses in worship, "Thou Art the Christ..." He first owns Him the promised Messiah." Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary



“Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God’: a short, but a very full confession of faith, containing the following articles: as that there is a God, that there is but one God; that he is the living God, has life in himself, is the fountain of life to others... that Jesus is the Christ, the Christ of God, the true Messiah, that was promised by God, prophesied of by all the prophets, from the beginning of the world, and expected by the people of God: a character that includes all his offices, of prophet, priest, and king, to which he is anointed by God; and that this Messiah was not a mere man, but a divine person, the Son of God; not by creation, as angels and men are, nor by adoption, as saints, nor by office, as magistrates, but by nature, being his own Son, his proper Son, the only begotten of the Father, of the same nature with him, being one with him, and equal to him.”

John Gill, 1697 – 1771.

“Christian truth is covered up or forgotten by the church authorities themselves, and their own errors and half-truths are ignored, denied, or even widely disseminated... The unconditionally reliable reality, to which men and women can hold fast for all time and eternity, is not the Bible texts and not the Fathers of the Church, nor the Church’s magisterium, but God himself as he spoke for believers through Jesus Christ. The texts of the Bible, the sayings of the Fathers and church authorities mean to be - with varying degrees of importance - no more and no less than an expression of this belief.

Thus Jesus as God's Christ remains Lord over the Church's authority, over Tradition, and the Scriptures. The Bible itself, however, insofar as it bears witness to Jesus Christ, is the source and measure of faith and theology in the Church. It is Jesus Christ himself who constitutes the spiritual power of Scripture, which can again and again win respect and recognition for itself.”

Hans Kung, "Theology for the Third Millennium", p. 62-63:

“Notwithstanding the faith of many had utterly failed, and the power of the priests and rulers was mighty against them, the brave disciple thus boldly declared his belief. Jesus saw, in this acknowledgment, the living principle that would animate the hearts of his believers in coming ages. It is the mysterious working of God’s Spirit upon the human heart, that elevates the humblest mind to a knowledge above all earthly wisdom, an acquaintance with the sacred truths of God. Ah, indeed, “blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee.” Ellen G. White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 272.





"It is as if God the Father is saying to us: "Since I have told you everything in My Word, who is My Son, I have no other words that can at present say anything or reveal anything to you beyond this. Fix your eyes on Him alone, for in Him I have told you all, revealed all, and in Him you will find more than you desire or ask. If you fix your eyes on Him, you will find everything, for He is My whole word and My reply, He is My whole vision and My whole revelation."

Anthony M. Coniaris





# II. Context



The analysis of the Gospel of Luke Structure shows the capacity of the author to collect the texts and to arrange them to highlight the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Everything is leaning toward the crucifixion and the victory over death.



## The structure of the Gospel of Luke

In	1: 1 – 4	Search for Authentic Narrative about Jesus
1	1: 5 – 2: 50	Incarnation (Prophecies, John the Baptist and Jesus)
2	2: 50 – 4: 30	Nazareth (Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry in Nazareth)
3	4: 31 – 7 : 50	Capernaum (Headquarters of Jesus for his Ministry in Galilee)
4	8: 1 – 9: 50	Every City and Village
5	9: 51 – 19: 27	Trip to Jerusalem (Jesus' Ministry on the road, Samaria and Judea)
6	19: 28 – 21: 38	Jerusalem (Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission)
7	22: 1 – 23: 56	Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial
8	24: 1 – 24: 53	Jesus' Resurrection, Post-resurrection Teaching, and Ascension

# The Narrative of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts

Jesus' Birth (Decree of Caesar Augustus, Roman Empire)	Jesus in Galilee (Country of Gentiles, with important Jewish presence)	Jesus in Samaria and Judea	Jesus In Jerusalem	Passion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension	Church in Jerusalem	Church in Judea and Samaria	Church among the Gentiles	Church in Rome
Luke 1 - 2	Luke 3 - 9	Luke 10 - 18	Luke 19 - 21	Luke 22 - 24	Acts 1 - 7	Acts 8 - 10	Acts 11 - 26	Acts 27 - 28



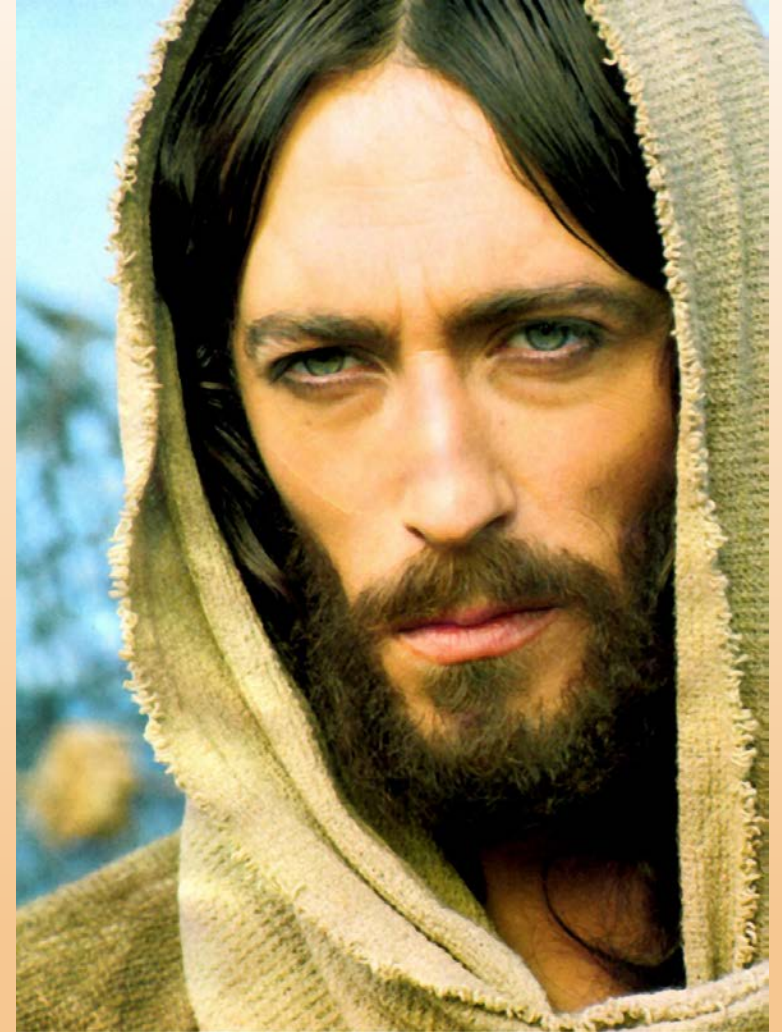
# The structure of the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 8 and 9

8: 1 - 3

Introduction: In every Village

<b>A</b>	8: 4 - 21	Jesus and Teaching about Kingdom
<b>B</b>	8: 22 - 25	Jesus and Nature
<b>C</b>	8: 26 - 56	Jesus and Transformation of those who are sick
<b>D</b>	9: 1 – 6	Jesus and Disciples
<b>X</b>	9: 7 - 22	Jesus and His Identity
<b>D'</b>	9: 23 - 27	Jesus and Disciples
<b>C'</b>	9: 28 - 36	Jesus and Transfiguration
<b>B'</b>	9: 37 - 42	Jesus and Demons
<b>A'</b>	9: 46 - 50	Jesus and Teaching about the members of his Kingdom

# III. The Identity of Jesus



# 1. The nature of Jesus

"Who do you say that I am?"



"Therefore neither would the Lord, nor the Holy Spirit, nor the apostles, have ever named as God, definitely and absolutely, him who was not God, unless he were truly God; nor would they have named any one in his own person Lord, except God the Father ruling over all, and His Son who has received dominion from His Father over all creation, as this passage has it: "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool." Here the [Scripture] represents to us the Father addressing the Son; He who gave Him the inheritance of the heathen, and subjected to Him all His enemies."

Irenaeus, Book 3, ch. 6.

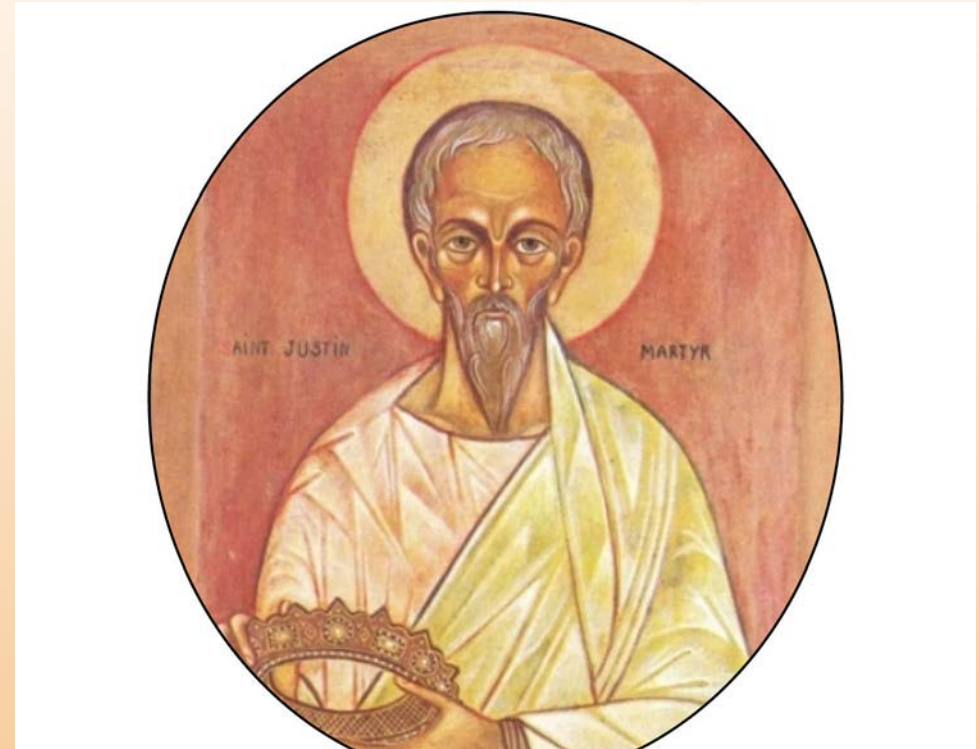


"Jesus saith unto them, Before Abraham was, I Am. Then took they up stones to cast at Him."... Because they had said, "The carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:55), and imagined nothing more concerning Him, He leadeth them by degrees to an exalted notion of Him. Therefore when they heard the words, "Ye know not God," they were not grieved; but when they heard, "before Abraham was, I Am," as though the nobility of their descent were debased, they became furious, and would have stoned Him... But wherefore said He not, "Before Abraham was, I was," instead of "I Am"? As the Father useth this expression, "I Am," so also doth Christ; for it signifieth continuous Being, irrespective of all time. On which account the expression seemed to them to be blasphemous. Now if they could not bear the comparison with Abraham, although this was but a trifling one, had He continually made Himself equal to the Father, would they ever have ceased casting stones at Him?

John Chrysostom, The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers; Volume 14: Homilies On the Gospel of St. John, Homily 55, 375 AD, comparing Ex 3:14 & John 8:58.

“For if you had understood what has been written by the prophets, you would not have denied that He was God, Son of the only, unbegotten, unutterable God.”

Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 126.



"Christianity is not a formula, but the Person of Jesus Himself. Never think that Christianity is a matter of adjusting behavior, but rather, of letting Christ live through us in His strength and power."

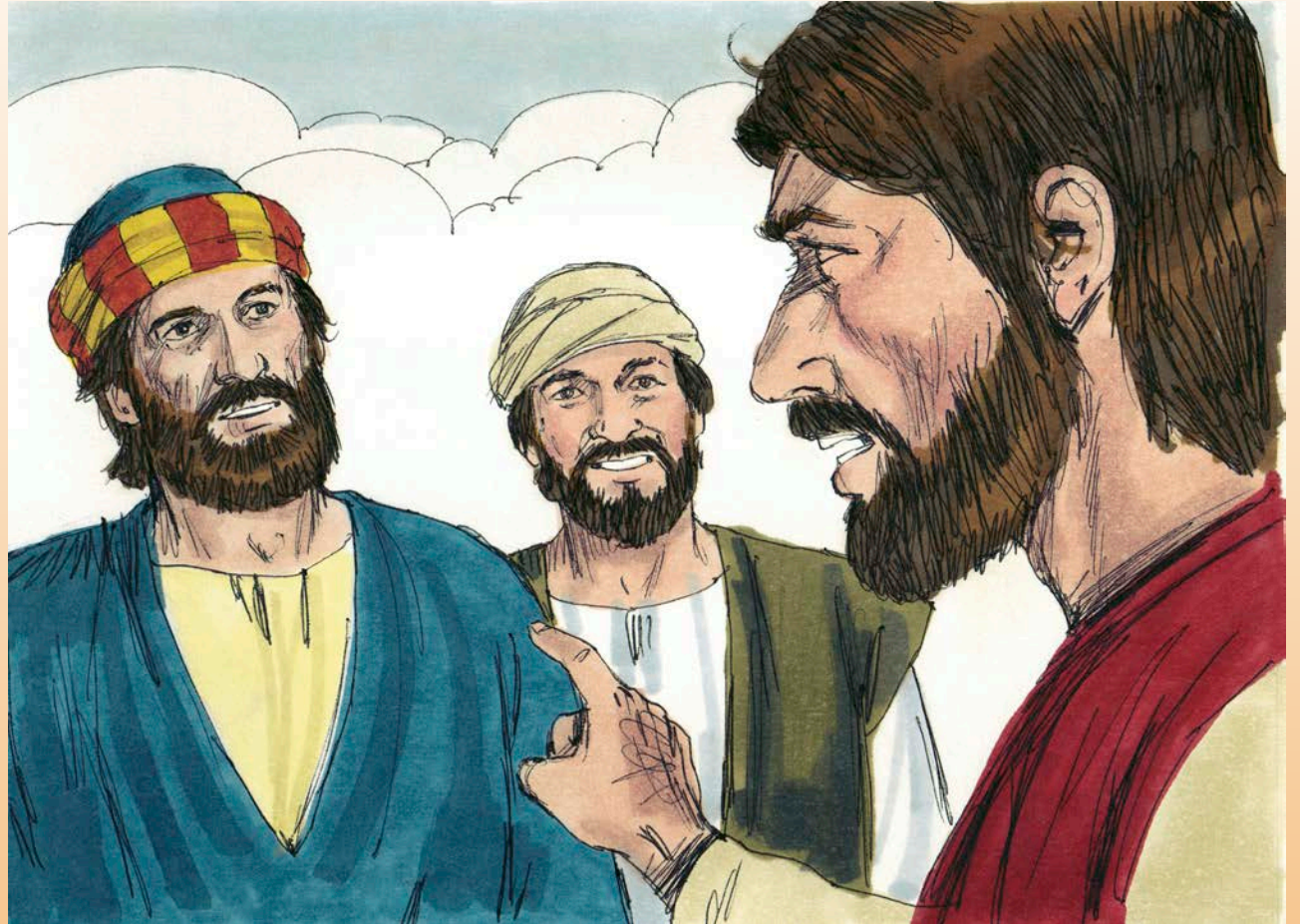
Malcolm Smith





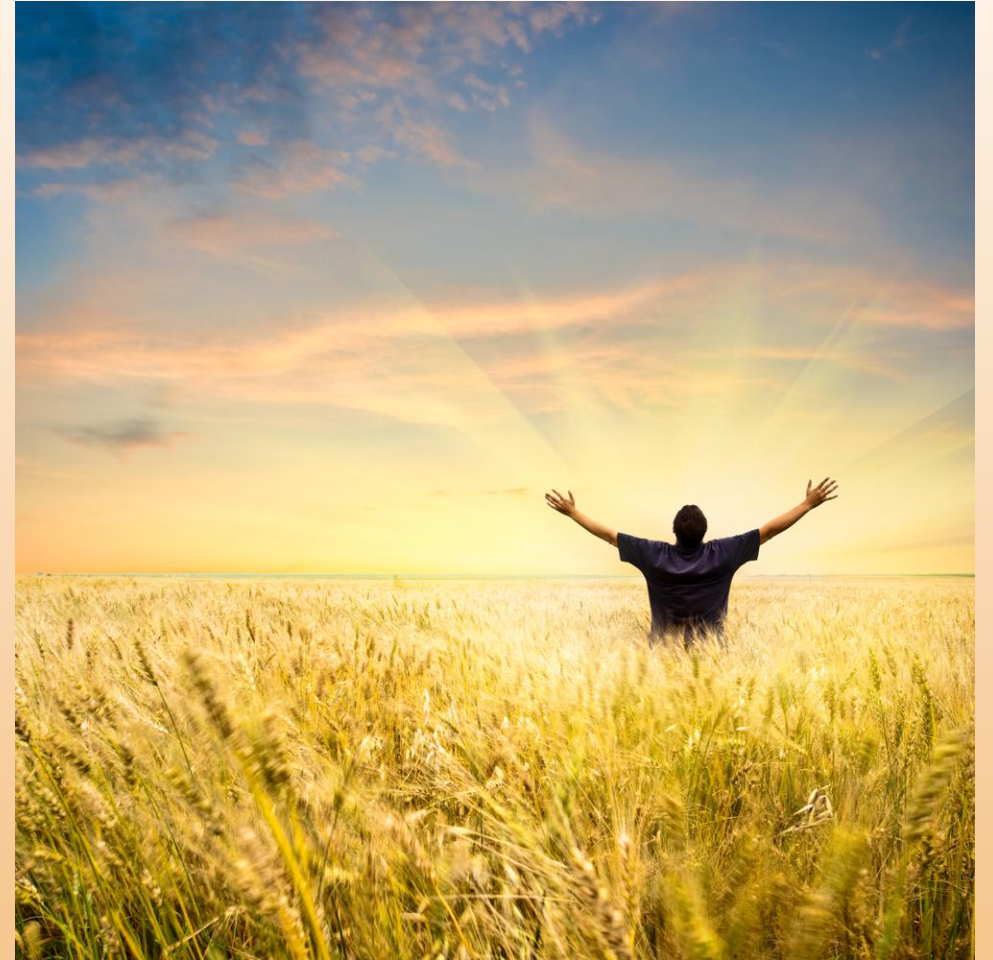
## 2. Peter's Confession of Faith

"Peter answered and said"



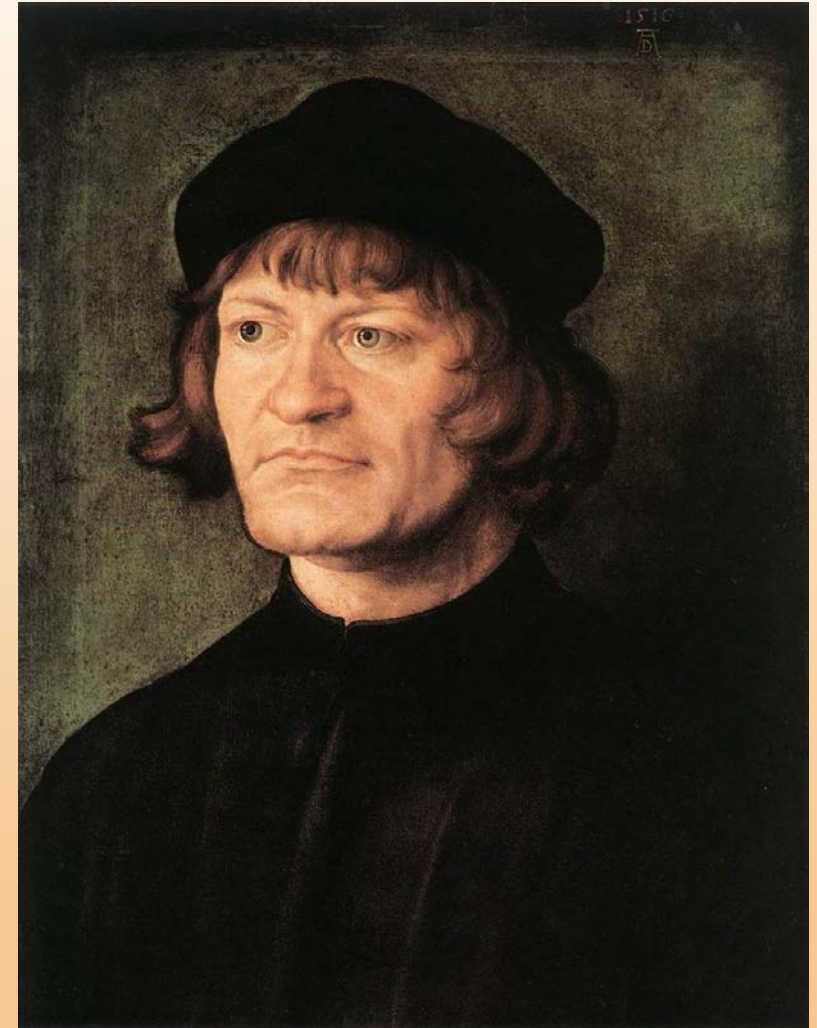


"He that believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ, shall be saved, be his sins never so many; but he that believeth not in the Lord Jesus must be damned, be his sins never so few."  
Phillips Brooks



"For in the faith rests our salvation,  
and in unbelief our damnation; for all  
truth is clear in Him."

Ulrich Zwingli



"The assurance of Heaven is never given to the person. And that's why at the core of the Christian faith is the grace of God. If there's one word I would grab from all of that, it's forgiveness - that you can be forgiven. I can be forgiven, and it is of the grace of God. But once you understand that, I think the ramifications are worldwide."  
Ravi Zacharias



### 3. Jesus as announced Messiah

"The Christ of God"





“Christ’s mission was not understood by the people of His time. The manner of His coming was not in accordance with their expectations. The Lord Jesus was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. Its imposing services were of divine appointment. They were designed to teach the people that at the time appointed One would come to whom those ceremonies pointed. But the Jews had exalted the forms and ceremonies and had lost sight of their object. The traditions, maxims, and enactments of men hid from them the lessons which God intended to convey. These maxims and traditions became an obstacle to their understanding and practice of true religion. And when the Reality came, in the person of Christ, they did not recognize in Him the fulfillment of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. They rejected the antitype, and clung to their types and useless ceremonies. The Son of God had come, but they continued to ask for a sign.”

Ellen G. White, Christ Object Lessons, p. 34.

"I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are very wise and very beautiful; but I never read in either of them: 'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden.'"

Augustine



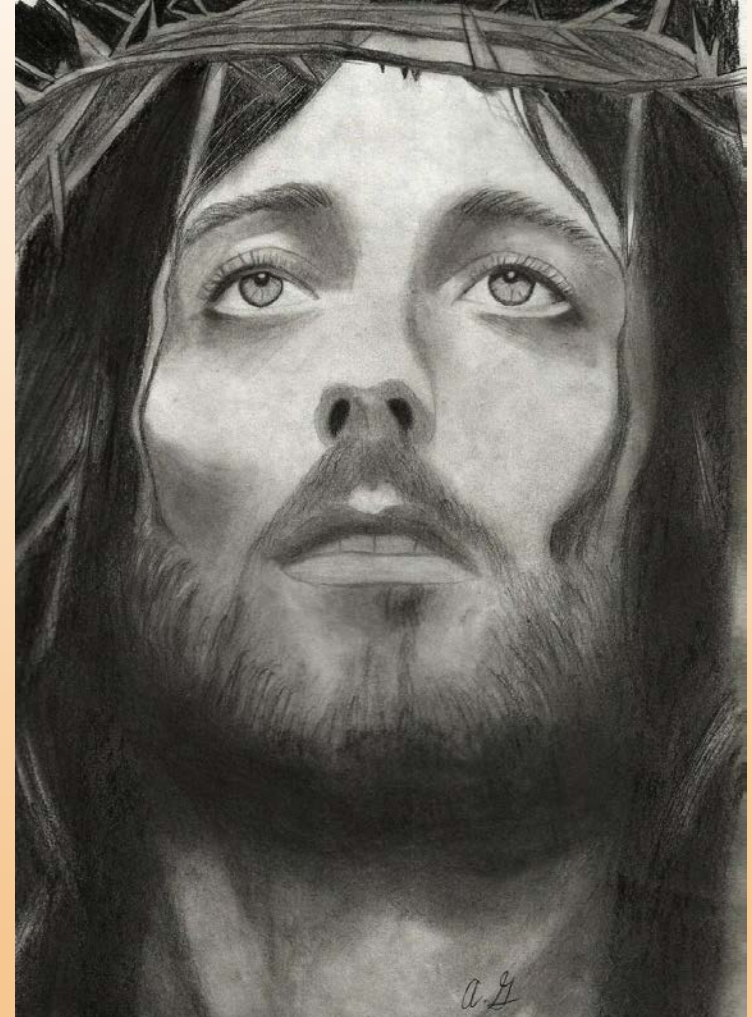
"The message of  
Christ is not  
Christianity. The  
message of Christ is  
Christ."

Gary Amirault



"I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history."

H.G. Wells





# V. Conclusion

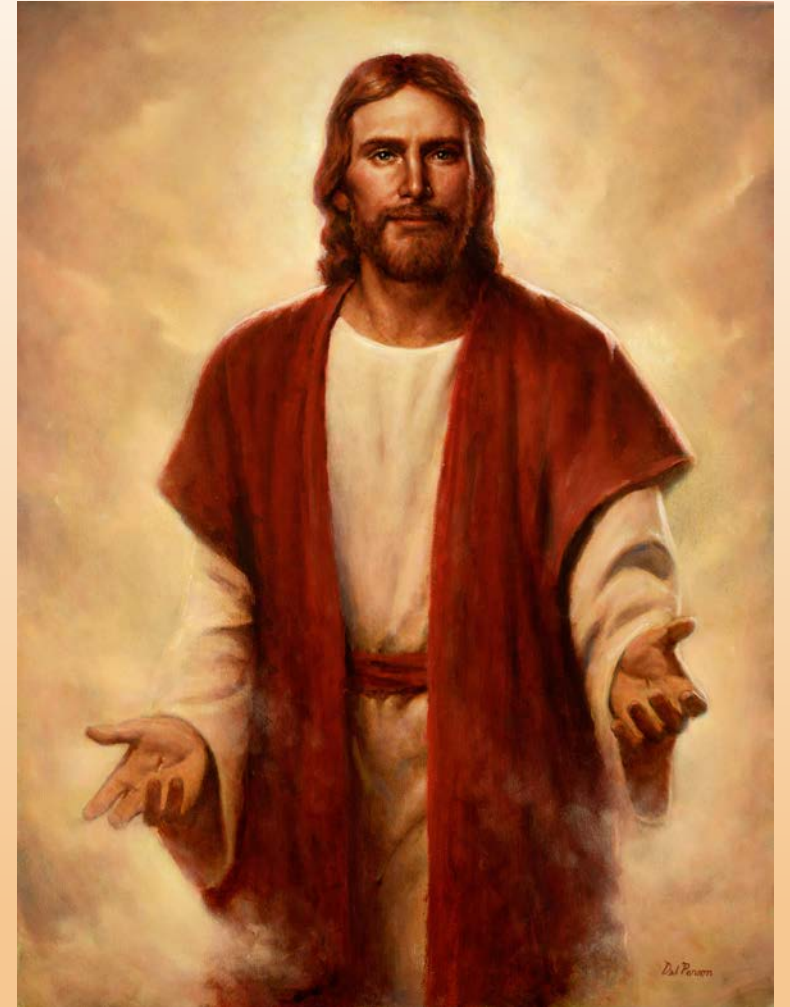


“If you have eternal life at all, it simply means that you have the Son, Jesus Christ NOW! Eternal life is not a peculiar feeling inside! It is not your ultimate destination, to which you will go when you are dead. If you are born again, eternal life is that quality of life that you possess right now, at this very moment, in your own physical body, with your own two feet on the ground, and in the world TODAY! And where does this life come from? Of Him! He is that life! So if you have eternal life, it means that you have Somebody, Jesus Christ, and the life that you possess is of Him.”

W. Ian Thomas



"The son of God became a man to enable  
men to become the sons of God."  
C.S. Lewis quotes



"The very first step is to try to forget about the self altogether. C.S. Lewis says elsewhere that that's the very definition of humility. Humility does not mean to have a low view of your self. It means to have no view of yourself. Having a low view of yourself is miserable – psychologists know that. And that's also the solution to the problem of introspection. If I ask myself, how am I doing, I come out with one of three answers: well, terribly, or so-so. If I say I'm doing well, I'm a proud, self-righteous, arrogant, self-satisfied, priggish Pharisee; if I say I'm doing lousy, I'm a miserable worm with a guilt complex and I need some psychiatry; and if I say I'm sort of fair to midland then I'm dull, wishy-washy, Charlie Brown. So what's the solution? Don't look at yourself. Take your temperature when you're sick, otherwise look at other people and God. They're much more interesting. The first step is to try to forget about yourself altogether. Your real self, your new self, will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come only when you're looking for Him."

Peter Kreeft



“The truth which Peter had confessed is the foundation of the believer’s faith. It is that which Christ Himself has declared to be eternal life. But the possession of this knowledge was no ground for self-glorification. Through no wisdom or goodness of his own had it been revealed to Peter. Never can humanity, of itself, attain to a knowledge of the divine. “It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?” Job 11:8. Only the spirit of adoption can reveal to us the deep things of God, which “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man.” Ellen G. White, Desire of Ages, p. 412.

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