

# "I Believe In Jesus"

By David Phillips

## Introduction

1. Today is a day on which many people will give praises to Jesus; people who, on any other day of the year, would not give Him a second thought.
2. Many of these people, there may even be some here, freely say, "I believe in Jesus," but do not fully understand the significance of these words.
3. In this lesson we are going to consider exactly what it is we are admitting to when we say that we believe in Jesus.
  - a. We will consider, first of all, several confessions made about Jesus in the scriptures.
  - b. We will then consider the commitment they require of us.

## Discussion

### I. Jesus: The Historical Man

- A. Before we look to the scriptures we need to understand one very important point concerning our faith in Jesus.
  1. There are many who "believe" in Jesus, but they believe in Him as more of a legend than a truly historical person.
  2. But according to the scriptures, anyone who confesses faith in Christ must be willing to accept the reality that Jesus was as real as you and me and that He did all that the Bible says.
- B. If we say that we believe in Jesus we are saying that we believe that Jesus is a real person.
  1. There are many who "believe" in Jesus, but they believe in Him as more of a legend than a truly historical person.
  2. But according to the scriptures, anyone who confesses faith in Christ must be willing to accept the reality that Jesus was as real as you and me and that He did all that the Bible says.
- C. The Bible is the only source of detail concerning Jesus Christ.
  1. There is mention of Jesus in various secular documents such as the writings of Josephus, various Roman records, etc.
  2. However, for us to know any amount of detail about the life of Jesus we must turn to the scriptures.
  3. If we claim to have faith in Jesus based on what we read in the scriptures then we must be willing to accept all that they teach as truth.
    - a. To deny anything that the scriptures teach concerning Jesus is to deny His existence.
    - b. To affirm anything that the scriptures teach about Jesus is to affirm all that the scriptures teach.
    - c. It is an all-or-nothing proposition. We cannot pick and choose what we will or will not believe.

### II. Jesus as the Son of God:

- A. Confessions of Jesus as the Son of God.
  1. Matt. 16:16: "*Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'*"
  2. Acts 8:37: "*Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'*"
  3. What is the significance of this confession?
  4. What commitment are we making when we make this confession?
- B. The phrase "Son of God" does not mean that Jesus was created by God or that He derived His existence from the Father.
  1. Some will say that they believe Jesus is the Son of God, but that He was created, just as we were.
  2. However, we find in the scriptures that Jesus was not created, but is eternal as God:

- a. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1, 3).*
- b. *“All things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:16).*
- c. If nothing was made without Him, then Jesus could not have been made or created. All things were created by Him and for Him.
3. What, then, are we saying when we proclaim, “Jesus is the Son of God?”
  - a. In John 5:17 Jesus spoke of God as His Father, *“My Father has been working until now...”*
  - b. In John 5:18, when the Jews heard this statement they understood that Jesus was claiming to be equal with the Father, *“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”*
4. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God then you are committing yourself to obeying Him as your God.
  - a. Hebrews 1:8 says of Jesus, *“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”*
  - b. *“And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God’” (John 20:28).*
  - c. What do you say?
5. This was what Peter believed and this was what the Eunuch believed because this is that the scriptures teach. Is this what you believe?

### III. Jesus Is the Christ:

- A. Confessions of Jesus as the Christ:
  1. Acts 2:37: *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*
  2. Many people refer to Jesus as “Jesus Christ” and rightly so.
  3. However, many do not understand what this means; when they confess Jesus as the Christ they do not know what they confess.
- B. Literally, the word “Christ,” means anointed.
  1. Contrary to the belief of some, “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name. It is a description of who He is.
  2. When we call Him Jesus Christ we are confessing that He is anointed of God.
    - a. Kings among God’s people were anointed when they took the throne (1 Sam. 15:1).
    - b. Jesus is the anointed one; ruler over God’s people.
  3. Among the Jews the word Christ was used in the same sense as the word “Messiah,” which means savior.
  4. When we confess Jesus as the Christ we are confessing that He was sent by God to be the Messiah or Savior of the world and King of all.
- C. When we confess that Jesus is the Christ we are confessing that He is more than a good person.
  1. As the Christ He brought salvation to all men.
  2. As the Christ He has the authority as king over all (Matt. 28:18)
  3. Therefore we are proclaiming our willingness to not only obey His gospel for salvation, but to submit our lives to Him as our King.
  4. Is this the faith you have concerning Jesus Christ?

### IV. Jesus Is Lord:

- A. Confessions of Jesus as Lord:
  1. Rom. 10:9: *“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*
  2. Phil 2:10-11: *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

- B. When we call Jesus Lord:
1. There are many who call Jesus "Lord" but do not treat Him as their Lord.
  2. For you see, when we say Jesus is our Lord we are saying that His word is our law and we will obey it with all our effort.
    - a. We are saying that we will serve Him with our lives.
    - b. We are saying that we will devote ourselves to Him.
    - c. But there are many who call Jesus Lord who do not obey Him, who have not given their lives to Him, and who do not serve Him.
  3. Jesus talks about those who call Him "Lord" in Matt. 7:21-23.
    - a. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
    - b. You see, to confess Jesus as my Lord is meaningless unless I totally submit my life to the impulse of His will. No one has accepted Jesus as Lord of His life so long as he disobeys Him.
  4. The confession of Jesus as Lord recognizes His claim over my life.
  5. Is this what you believe concerning Jesus?

### **Conclusion**

1. You may be among those who say "I believe in Jesus." But do you believe in the Jesus of the Bible?
2. If you do, then know this, your faith in Jesus will save you only if you are willing to accept all that the Bible teaches concerning Him, only if you make the effort to come to Jesus as your Savior, and only when you are willing to submit your entire life to Him as your Lord and God.
3. This is the commitment we all make when we say "I believe in Jesus."

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