



Sunday December 25, 2016
Why Jesus?

In our world today, it is interesting to observe the social, cultural and spiritual environment on matters of faith.

We see huge commercialization, mass marketed spirituality, often tied in with wellness, health and emotional well-being.

We see in some cases, a religious supermarket and even a make-your-own New Age religion being promoted.

We also see moral relativism, a distaste for absolutes (truth, right and wrong) in the name of tolerance, inclusiveness, etc.

Very much like the Renaissance in Europe we still have the skeptics, the agnostics and the atheists who just don't want anything to do with God.

We also have some who are opposers and antagonistic to Jesus Christ and want to erase His memory.

In the midst of all this, the world pauses to celebrate Christmas, which literally, is the birth of Jesus Christ, that took place about 2000 years ago.

But why Jesus?

Why is Jesus relevant or even important?

Why is His mark on human history so indelible?

Why should you give Jesus a fair hearing and serious consideration?

In AD 303, The Roman Emperor, Diocletian (AD 245-312), sought to wipe out any trace of Christianity from the face of the earth. He ordered churches to be burned, Christians to be executed, and the Scriptures to be confiscated and burned. He built a monument with the following inscription "Extincto momene Christianorum" (the name Christian is extinguished). Twenty years later, Diocletian was dead and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

Voltaire (1694-1778), a French writer, essayist and philosopher, boasted in the 1700s that within 100 years, Christianity and the Bible would disappear. But today, the Bible remains as the most read, most published, and most translated book in the world. The Bible continues to transform the lives of people who live by it and continues to shape and influence culture as it has done over Centuries.

So we come back to our question: WHY JESUS?

Why should we, why should you consider Jesus?



We would like to present four reasons why you should consider Jesus, His teachings and His invitation seriously.

#1, JESUS IS REAL

Jesus is real in that His birth, death, burial and resurrection as indisputable facts in history.

The historicity of Christ has been indisputably proven. **Historian Will Durant** has identified at least 19 ancient sources that refer to Jesus Christ as a real person.

A few examples:

- Thallus, a historian wrote in AD 52 about Christ's Crucifixion.
- Cornelius Tacitus called "greatest historian of Ancient Rome", lived around AD 64 -AD 116 confirms that Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate.
- Josephus who was court historian for the Roman emperor wrote in the "*Antiquities of the Jews*" in AD 97, about Jesus as an actual person, a man who lived at that time, was tried by Pilate, was crucified and was seen alive three days later.

Dr. Michael Grant, Cambridge University Professor:

"In recent years, no serious scholar has ventured to postulate the non-history of Jesus."

So when we talk about Jesus we are not talking about a myth, a story, an imaginary figure.

Jesus is real, because He taught truth in love

Most people teach what pleases the masses, what can be marketed well, what they think you like to hear.....but Jesus taught what we needed to hear...He spoke truth that liberates us...

Here are a few of the things He taught:

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:44-45)

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Luke 12:15)



He told us that it will not be easy to follow Him. He told us to take up our cross and follow Him. He told us that we will be hated by all men for His name's sake if we do follow Him. And He left us with the only option of loving people back, even if they hated and persecuted us.

He made some astounding claims. He claimed to be the Light of the World, the Bread of Life, the One who was before Abraham, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the only way to the Father.

Jesus is not fake. He is not a false religious leader who cheats and deceives. He is not a Pretender.

His life and His teachings still impact and transform the lives of millions around the world.

#2, JESUS IS PERSONAL

Jesus is personal in that He came to deal with our personal issues of sin, relationship with God, eternal salvation, meaning and purpose.

He knows our deepest needs:

We are sinners cut off from God. We need a Saviour. He came to be that Savior for each of us.

Jesus gave Himself up on the Cross for each one of us personally. He died for YOU.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

YOU can have your sins forgiven and YOU can become a child of God through faith in Christ.

Jesus brings each of us into a personal knowledge and relationship with God.



God becomes real to us personally. The Bible, God's Word comes alive.

Jesus is personal in that He knows your personal needs and works in you, with you and for you personally.

He feels what we feel when we are tempted. He understands our weaknesses. (Hebrews 2:18, Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus is NOT IMPERSONAL, some form of cold religion, some lifeless set of rituals, customs and traditions, some dogma, creed or rules.

#3, JESUS IS SUPERNATURAL

Jesus is supernatural in that He invades our lives with His power that transforms us, sets us free from the control of sin, bring peace, joy and love, brings healing to our brokenness and makes us channels of His power to others

He makes us new people on the inside - the Bible calls this new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

He imparts to us a new nature - the life and nature of God (2 Peter 1:3).

He empowers us to overcome sin (Romans 6;14).

He empowers us to rule and reign in life (Romans 5:17).

Demons flee at His name (Mark 16:17).

Jesus is NOT some spiritual DIY do-it-yourself if you can, not some self help, self-improvement program. Jesus does in you and me what we cannot do for ourselves.

His power heals. His power delivers. His power restores. His power empowers.

#4, JESUS IS ETERNAL

Jesus is eternal in that He was and is more than just another Man. He was God who came as a Man in search for people who desperately needed Him.

John 1:1,14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

He is seated on the highest throne today.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,



**10 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,
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

He is coming back one day.

Acts 1:11

who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

HIS INVITATION

The Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples to go preach to all the nations this Good News that forgiveness of sins is available in His name to all who would believe. He told them to broadcast to the whole world all that He had taught them and make disciples of all nations.

The Bible's invitation is so clear:

The Bible calls us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to follow Him entirely, to read and live by His teachings, to be His disciples and to do live for Him.

He didn't call us to embrace a religion. He calls us to enter into a real, personal and supernatural relationship with Him that will change our lives here and now and prepare us for an eternity with Him.

WHY JESUS?

Would you consider Jesus?

How will you respond to Him?