

DISC 101 - Who is Jesus Christ? Mat 16:15

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I'd like to thank **Pastor Craig Caster** & *Family Discipleship Ministries*

This message corresponds to **Lesson One**
in his **Discipleship Workbook**

Which you can **find** on our website at **wordbymail.com** (*Homepage*)

After hearing this msg - I encourage you to go thru **Lesson One**
from that **Discipleship Workbook** (*Who is Jesus Christ*)

Since this is **the beginning** of an 8-Part Discipleship Series
based exclusively on the **BIBLE**

I **thought** it's be a **good idea to** first address
the **VALIDITY** of the Bible **Vs's** other Religious Writings

1) Why Should We Believe the Bible?

We have a msg at **W-B-M** by this same name - *You can Get It*

Of the **hundreds of religions** in the world
& the **hundreds of variations** of the hundreds of religions

& with **everyone** you & I both know
constantly coming up with **their own ideas** about God

Why should we believe the Bible?

Why should we choose to believe **the Bible**
over all those **thousands of books**

by all those **thousands of people**
who are all relatively confident - **they are RIGHT**

at least **confident enough** to try to get their books **sold**

Why should we **BYPASS** all those people
& simply **believe exactly** what the Bible says??

Because - pls listen carefully - There is **not** ONE other book
in the **entire history** of the **entire world**

that can **even begin** to come close to the
historical, scientific, & archeological proof
that the **Bible** provides

for 2,000 years The Bible has **stood the test** of a **thousand attacks**
& it has come out **stronger & stronger** after EVERY TEST (& *attack*)

There is **NO OTHER BOOK** in the history of mankind
that can make **the claims** the Bible can make

There is NO **book**, from NO **religion**, & NO other **religious writing**
that can **withstand the tests** the Bible has withstood

& **the enemies** of the Bible
(*all spurred on by the ultimate enemy of God*)

They can make **all their movies** - they can **cast all their doubt**
they can even **deceive the naïve**

But when you **put ALL those enemies** together (& *all those attacks*)

The **Bible comes thru** w/ Miraculous, Supernatural,
Rock Solid **PROOF** - of its absolute Validity

Why ?? - Because God **protects** His Word

Isa 40:8 - ESV

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Mat 24:35 - ESV

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Bible is **supernatural**, **miraculous**, & its **proven far above** every other religious document in the world

The Bible is ONE CONCISE Msg

Miraculously written in **66 different books**,
by **40 different authors**,
over more than **1500 years**

& it is totally **congruent** & **concise** in its **Message**, & **Purpose**

& **Proof** after **Proof** of
Historical, **Scientific**, & **Archeological** finds

All substantiate the fact that **NO OTHER** religious document
can be placed on an **Equal Plane** with the Bible

The accuracy of the Bible in regard to its **Specific**
Historical facts - is **Miraculous**

& there are **over 25,000** documented **archeological** finds in Israel
& **NOT ONE** contradicts the Bible

If you compare the Dead Sea Scroll of ISA - hidden before 70 AD

to the ISA in your Bible today - it differs by only 9 LETTERS
THAT is the miraculous preservation of God's Word

something NO OTHER religious document can come close to claiming

So - when we decide that the Bible is THE authority
to look to in the matters of God

it is NO arbitrary decision !!

There is NO EQUAL to the Bible
in its Creation, in its History, in its Proof against all attacks

& THAT is why we look to the Bible
to answer our questions about GOD

So With that - Let's Pray - & we'll see what the Bible has to say today

2) Who does the Bible say Jesus Christ is?

If you could pull back the VEIL of heaven
do you think it would change your life?

In Isa Ch 6 - God gave Isaiah a GLIMPSE of Heaven

Isa 6:1-5 - ESV → →

Isa 6:1-5 - ESV

1 . . . I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him stood the seraphim . . .

3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; . . . for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

If we "**Saw the Lord**" we would be **UNDONE** - just like Isaiah was

But the Bible **DOES** allow us - to see the **LORD**
& to **KNOW** - Who **Jesus Christ** is

But **so many people** today
have so many **OF THEIR OWN** Answers

To the Question - ***WHO do you say Jesus Christ is***

But that's **No Different** than when **Jesus** walked the earth as a man

In **Mat CH 16** Jesus asked **His disciples**
the **same question** He asks us today

Mat 16:15-17 - ESV

15 He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Why would we be more sure of our **OWN OPINION** - than the
Miraculous, Supernatural, Proven over 2,000 yrs - **Word of God**

Why not just Believe Who GOD says Jesus Christ is?

The Bible says Jesus Christ is

The **Savior** (the Christ)

The **Son** of the living God,

Seated on the Throne in Heaven at the Right Hand of God

& **not only that** - but the Bible says

Jesus Christ is the **Creator** of all things

Jn 1:3 says - ESV

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

AND - the Bible says that in **Jesus Christ** all things **Hold Together**

Col 1:16-17 says - ESV

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, . . . all things were created through him and for him . . . and in him all things hold together.

The Bible says - Jesus Christ is the **CREATOR** of all things

& **IN HIM** all things **HOLD TOGETHER**

NEXT → →

3) the Bible says - Jesus Christ is also our REDEEMER

2,000 yrs ago **Jesus LEFT** His rightful place
in the **Throne-room** of Heaven, to come to earth

Luk 2:11 says - ESV

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The **Creator** & **Sustainer** of all Creation
Had come to Earth to **REDEEM** mankind

REDEEM means - *"To buy back, to recover by paying ransom, to purchase in order to set free"*

It's a **SLAVERY** term that allowed a person to pay
the **Full Price** required to Purchase a **SLAVE**,
with the **Intention** - of setting that slave **FREE**

& guys - we have become - **SLAVES to SIN**

Psa 14:2-3 - NLT

2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God.

3 But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not a single one!

By **Nature** - & by **Choice** - we are **SLAVES to SIN**

& for God to **REDEEM** us - the **FULL PRICE** had to be paid
to buy us back from our **SIN Master**

Which is why - Mat 20:28 says - ESV

the Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many

How could **Jesus Christ** (Who created us & gave us life)

How could He **REDEEM** us from Sin ??

How could He **PURCHASE** us - in order to set us **FREE** ?

1Pet 1:18-19 - NLT

18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.

19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

THAT'S HOW ! - - He purchased us

by paying the **Full Ransom** owed - ***with His own life***

in fact it was the **only way** to **REDEEM** us

from sin, & **the Judgment** our sin required

Eph 1:7 - NLT

[God] is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Jesus Christ did this - **on THE CROSS**

Death by Crucifixion was reserved for the lowest criminals

it was an **agonizing**, **painfully** slow death

The Bible says Jesus was → →

The Bible says Jesus was

Rejected by His own people

Forsaken by His friends

Condemned by the Religious leaders

Then He

Was **Mocked**

Was **Beaten** with a scourge that would've killed an average man

Had a **crown of thorns** beaten down on his head

& then He was **Spat** upon, **Stripped** naked, & **Humiliated**

Then - **the Creator** of all that had been created

Carried His own cross - & then **willingly** laid upon it

Where He was **nailed alive**, & **hung** for 6 hours

between the **Earth** He created & the **Heavens** He deserved

For the **1st 3 hours** those on Earth **mocked** Him

For the **2nd 3 hours** the Heavens turned **BLACK**

as **Jesus Christ paid** the **full penalty** for our sin
that had **separated** us from God

& the **last words** Jesus spoke on the cross were
IT IS FINISHED !

Jesus Christ had **paid for our Sin** - *in our place*

AND made a way - for us to be **MADE RIGHT** with God

2Cor 5:21 - NLT

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Because of our sin - we owed God a Debt we could not pay

Jesus Christ Paid that debt

so we could be Made Right with God, thru Him

Rom 6:23 - ESV

For the wages of sin is death (that's what Jesus paid for us), *but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (that's what Jesus offers us).

4) The Next Question is - - WHY ?

Why did the Creator & Sustainer of the Universe
Suffer & Die to Redeem us ?

I have to agree with the Psalmist - who asked in

Psa 8:3-4 - ESV

*3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon
and the stars, which you have set in place,
4 what is man that you are mindful of him . . ?*

But as quick as I can ask the question - God answers it Himself
in the most Famous Vs. in the Bible

The answer to the WHY question - is in Jn 3:16

Jn 3:16 - ESV

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

God so loved YOU - that He gave His only Son
so that He could Offer YOU Eternal Life

& **WHERE** were **WE** - when God did this?

Were we showing some **PROMISE** ?

Had we started **CLEANING UP** our lives ?

NO !!

He did it - **when** you & I were **DEAD** in our Sin

The highlights of **Eph 2:1-9** say - **ESV**

you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, . . . But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ . . . For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We are **Saved by God's grace**

Right when we could do **NOTHING** to **earn** it, or **deserve** it

The creator of the universe

came to **earth**

to go to the **cross**

to pay for our **sins**

to offer us **eternal life**

& He did it because he **loves you**

He loves you **individually** - He loves you **personally**

& He wants to have an **eternal relationship** with you

5) What is it that Jesus Christ saves us FROM?

Jesus Christ saves us FROM God's "JUDGMENT
that MUST fall upon sin

God CANNOT overlook sin - otherwise He could not be God

God MUST Judge sin

But because of His Great Love for us
God has made a way for us to CHOOSE

whether to have Judgment for our sin
Fall on US, or Fall on Jesus Christ in our place

Rom 5:8-9 - NLT

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

THAT is God's Grace

Never something we could EARN - or DESERVE

What we EARN is DEATH

What we are GIVEN in Jesus Christ - is Eternal Life

Again - Rom 6:23 - ESV

For the wages of sin is death (that's what we earn), *but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (that's what Jesus offers).

6) Is Jesus really the ONLY way for man to be Saved?

Really - Come on

Can't we just ***"Be a Good Person"*** & get to heaven ?
Won't God accept us if we just live ***"a pretty good life"*** ?

Remember - we already established

The Miraculous - Beyond Comparison
Stand alone **Validity of the Bible**

So - Here's **how the Bible** answers that question

Acts 4:12 - ESV

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Jn 14:6 - Jesus said Himself - ESV

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1Jn 5:12 - ESV

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Here's the **problem** with all those **MAN-MADE** ways to God

It's our **SIN** that separates us from God

& there is **NO** other religious **idea**, **opinion**, or **writing**

that **Substitutes** God Himself (in human form)

to pay the **FULL PENALTY** of your sin - **IN YOUR PLACE**

There is **NO OTHER** Payment
sufficient to meet God's **PERFECT HOLINESS!**

& so - there is **no other way** for you to be **saved**
from the **Judgment** required upon your sin

Except by Receiving the **FULL PAYMENT**
Jesus Christ paid for you - **in your place**

& **if** you **reject** Christ - then your **only other option**
is to **pay** the Full **Penalty** for your sin - **YOURSELF**

which **the Bible** says - is **eternal separation** from God
in the place we call, HELL

So the only question left is

7) How can I receive this Salvation ?

There's a **couple things** we've got to **make clear** first

1) The Gift of Salvation is Freely offered to ALL

Rom 10:13 - ESV

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

1Tim 2:4 - ESV

[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

That includes YOU today,

no matter who you **are**,

where you've **been**,

what you've **done** - God wants you to be saved **TODAY**

2) Salvation comes BY FAITH ALONE (you can't earn it)

Gal 2:16 - NLT

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law.

Rom 5:1 - ESV

Therefore, since we have been justified (made right with God) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So - 1) Salvation is for ALL who would receive it

2) Salvation is BY FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE

& so here are the basic steps the Bible addresses for salvation

1) CONFESS - agree with God that you are a sinner

2) REPENT - turn from your sin

3) BELIEVE - that Jesus Christ died for your sins

4) RECEIVE - Jesus Christ as the LORD of your Life

Confess - Repent - Believe - Receive

In Mk 1:15 Jesus said - ESV

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

I pray that time - for each of you - is NOW!

Rom 10:9-10 - ESV

9 . . . if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Jn 1:12 - ESV

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Now is the time - Today is the day - for you to;

Confess to God, you are a Sinner

Repent of your sins

Believe that Jesus Christ Died to pay for your sin

Receive Jesus Christ as your LORD

& I want to **give you a chance** to do exactly that - **right now**

& when you do

You will become a **Child of God**

Your sins will be **Paid For** by Jesus Christ

You will be put in **Right Standing** with God

& God will reserve for you - **Eternal Life in Heaven** with Him

& here's how I'm going to ask you to do it;

Confess to God, you are a Sinner

Repent of your sins

Believe that Jesus Christ Died to pay for your sin

Receive Jesus Christ as your LORD

Let's Pray

Praise the Lord !

In Luk 15:10 - Jesus said - NLT

. . . there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.

Luk 10:20 - ESV

. . . rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

If you just put your **FAITH** in Jesus Christ
& made Him your **LORD**

Then **God's Angels** are **REJOICING** - & ***you should be TOO***
there is now - a **place reserved** in Heaven for you

HOWEVER - pls listen carefully

Making **Jesus** your Lord is not ***"Say a Quick Prayer
& then you go back to living however you want"***

This is **THE BEGINNING** - of the **Greatest Life** possible
& the **Greatest Eternity** you could ever imagine

But that **Great life** - & that **Great Eternity**
come from **ABIDING** (remaining) in Christ

Jesus said in - Jn 15:4 - ESV

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

The **GREATNESS** of the Christian life
comes from **ABIDING** in Christ

But learning to **ABIDE** in Christ
takes **Time** - & it takes **Effort**

It takes becoming a **DAILY DISCIPLE** (follower) of Christ

Go to our Website - at **wordbymail.com**
& click on the **Discipleship Workbook Link** (homepage)

& go thru **LESSON ONE** - *Who is Jesus Christ ?*
that lesson goes with this msg

Again - I want to thank **Family Discipleship Ministries**
for providing that **Discipleship Workbook**

Let's Pray