

September 19

John 17:3 (NIV) [Jesus said,] ³ **Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**

The Council of Nicea met in AD 325 by order of Roman Emperor Constantine to determine the true nature of Jesus Christ. Was He more human than God? Was He created or born? After much discussion and debate, the council concluded that Jesus was “from the substance of the Father, God from God, Light from Light....” Centuries later in 1985 a group of 50 biblical scholars and 100 laymen formed the Jesus Seminar to address similar issues. The members used colored beads to “vote” on the historical accuracy of Jesus’ words and deeds. Did He say or do that? Did He probably? Did He not? Wanting to reconstruct the life of the historical Jesus, the Jesus Seminar remained active into early 21st century.

As I read about the Jesus Seminar, I wondered why they had to continue meeting for over 20 years. If, in their wisdom, they could define the “historical Jesus,” they should have only needed to meet once. These are examples of man’s attempt to know about Jesus. They seek to determine the truth concerning Him and to define Him in terms we understand as if He were a “dead” historical figure like Abraham Lincoln. Imagine a seminar of pots gathering together to determine the nature of the potter. Jesus clearly states that eternal life is KNOWING Him and, thus, knowing God. Knowing ABOUT Him is never enough. Jesus is not an historical figure to be debated, discussed, and revised. He is the living Son of the God of Creation Who lives in us through the Holy Spirit. If we want to know about Him, we enter into a relationship with Him. We spend time with Him. We ask Him. If we want to know Who He is, then we turn to His Word for He tells us. When we accept that gift of faith and reach out to Jesus, we will not find an historical figure from the past; instead, we will find the living Savior, a compassionate friend, a mighty warrior, and the King of kings. If we want to know Him, all we have to do is seek Him.