

Title:

I BELIEVE THAT
JESUS IS THE CHRIST.

Text: Matthew 16:13-18

Subject: *The Person and Work of Christ*

Date: Sunday Morning — January 14, 2018

Readings: *Matthew 16:1-28*

(Matthew 16:1-28) “The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. (2) He answered and said unto them, **When it is evening, ye say, *It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.*** (3) **And in the morning, *It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times?*** (4) **A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.** And he left them, and departed. (5) And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

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(6) Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.** (7) And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread. (8) *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, **O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?** (9) **Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? (10) Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? (11) How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? (12) Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

(13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

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(14) And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. (15) He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (20) Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

(21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and

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be raised again the third day. (22) Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. (23) But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

(24) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (25) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (26) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (27) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (28) Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.”**

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INTRODUCTION

I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST. —

That is the title of my message. That is my subject.

— **I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST,**

not a Christ, but the Christ, the very Christ of God.

My conviction concerning him is so thorough and

complete that I rest my soul upon him alone. I trust

Jesus Christ alone for my everlasting salvation and

my total acceptance with God (1 Corinthians 1:30;

Colossians 2:9-10).

(1 Corinthians 1:30) “Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

(Colossians 2:9) “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”

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OUTWARDLY

Outwardly, to the human eye, to all natural appearance and reason, he seemed to be an ordinary man, as he walked through this world.

They called him “*The Nazarene*” and “*The Carpenter.*” Many even called him an evil man, a glutton and a winebibber. **Isaiah** told us that when he came into the world he would have no impressive form or comeliness to attract us to him, “*no beauty that we should desire him.*” He said, “*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*”

- He was born into a poor, unknown, insignificant family.
- Because there was no room for him in the inn, he was laid in a stable’s manger.
- To escape the wrath of Herod, he was carried into Egypt, as the Scriptures said he must be.

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- He grew up in a small, out of the way town called Nazareth, and worked as a carpenter.
- He began preaching when he was about thirty years old; but his ministry was attended by no one but a few poor, uneducated fishermen and insignificant women.
- Everything he taught about himself, God, sin, righteousness, redemption, and salvation was rejected by all the religious leaders of the day.
- Finally, even popular opinion turned against him and the Lord of Glory was crucified like a common criminal upon a Roman cross.
- When he died, he was taken down from the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb.

NO ORDINARY MAN

The religious people and the rest of the world thought they were through with this man called Jesus. And, if he had only been an ordinary man, they would have been through with him. **But this Man was no ordinary man. This Man was and is the Christ of God, the Son of the living God!** After

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three days, the Father raised him up from the grave, seated him upon his own right hand, and declared him to be both Lord and Christ.

That is what Peter confessed in Matthew 16; and that is what all who are born of God know and confess (Matthew 16:13-18; 1 John 5:1; 1 John 2:22; 4:1-3).

(Matthew 16:13-18) “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** (14) And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. (15) He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** (18) And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my**

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church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

(1 John 5:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

(1 John 2:22) “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”

(1 John 4:1-3) “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

I believe that Jesus is the Christ. Do you? —

“*What think ye of Christ?*” Who is he? What did he

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do? Why did he do it? Where is he now? What is he doing? Simple as those questions are, they are the most important, most crucial questions you will ever face. Let me show you from the Scriptures what I believe about Jesus of Nazareth.

Proposition: Jesus is the Christ of God, the Messiah, the Redeemer, the King, the Savior promised, prophesied, and portrayed in all the Old Testament Scriptures.

THE CHRIST

1st — As indicated by the title of my message, **I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.**

Throughout the Old Testament, from Adam to Malachi, there was the promise of a man who would be God's Messiah, one who would come to the earth to redeem and save his people. He is called the Seed of woman, the Seed of Abraham, the Son of David, a Prophet like Moses, a Priest like Melchisedec, and the King of Glory. — *“To him give all the prophets witness”* (Acts 10:43).

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- This is what Peter declares in our text. — *“Thou art the Christ!”*
- This what is all the people were asking the Pharisees. — *“Is not this the Christ?”* (John 4:29).
- This was the public claim of our Lord himself. — *“I am he”* (John 8:24; 13:19).

GOD HIMSELF

2nd — **I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is himself very God of very God, the second Person of the holy Trinity, in all things equal with the Father and the Spirit** (1 John 5:7).

(1 John 5:7) “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

Yes, he is a Man, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; but this Man is God. He is the God-man. *“In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily!”*

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This is what all the Old Testament prophecies teach us (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Psalm 45:1-9).

(Isaiah 7:14) “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

(Isaiah 9:6) “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

(Psalm 45:1-9) “My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer. (2) Thou art fairer than the children of men: **grace is poured into thy lips**: therefore God hath blessed thee forever. (3) Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. (4) And in thy majesty

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ride prosperously because of truth and meekness *and* righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. (5) Thine arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; *whereby* the people fall under thee. (6) **Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.** (7) **Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.** (8) **All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.** (9) Kings' daughters *were* among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.”

This is what all the New Testament writers declare as well (John 1:1-3, 14, 18; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:1-3, 8; 1 John 5:7).

(John 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3)

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All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.’

(John 1:14) “And the Word was made 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.”

(John 1:18) “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”

(Romans 9:5) “Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.”

(Hebrews 1:1-3) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person,

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and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

(Hebrews 1:8) “But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

(1 John 5:7) “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

- None but God could bring everlasting righteousness.
- None but God could satisfy justice.
- None but God could put away sin.
- None but God can forgive sin.

Illustration: Thomas — “*My Lord and my God!*”

LAST ADAM

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3rd — **I believe that Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God, is the second man, the last Adam** (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49).

(1 Corinthians 15:21-22) “For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

(1 Corinthians 15:45-49) “And so it is written, **The first man Adam** was made a living soul; **the last Adam** *was made* a quickening spirit. (46) Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. (47) **The first man** *is* of the earth, earthy: **the second man** *is* the Lord from heaven. (48) As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. (49) And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

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The teaching of the Scriptures with regard to Christ's being the federal head and representative of God's elect is plain and clear (Romans 5:12,18,19). — **God deals with all men by just two men, the first man and the second man, the first Adam and the last Adam.**

(Romans 5:12-21) “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (13) (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. (14) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. (15) But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. (16) And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is*

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of many offences unto justification. (17) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) (18) Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. (19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (20) Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: (21) That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This is not a fine, insignificant point of theological orthodoxy. This is vital.

- If we deny our fall and ruin by Adam, we must deny righteousness, redemption, and salvation by Christ.

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- If we deny salvation by Christ alone, we must deny our fall in Adam.
- They stand or fall together.

The Scriptures reveal three great acts of imputation by our God.

- Adam's sin was imputed to all men, because in Adam we sinned (Romans 5:12).
- The sins of God's elect were imputed to Christ because he was made sin for us (Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians. 5:21).
- Christ's righteousness is imputed to all who believe on him as their Savior and Lord because in him we fulfilled all righteousness (Romans 4:21-5:1; 5:19).

SOVEREIGN LORD

4th — **I believe that this Man who is God, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, holds the fate and eternal destiny of all men in his hands. He is the sovereign Lord of all** (Matthew 28:18; John 3:35; 5:21; 17:2; Romans 14:9; Philippians 2:9-11).

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- He has mercy on whom he will have mercy.
- He saves whom he will save.
- Salvation is his prerogative, not yours!

(Romans 14:9) “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”

(Philippians 2:9-11) “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; (11) And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Somewhere along the road this religious generation has gotten everything turned around. The great question and concern is not “What will you do with Christ,” but “What will Christ do with you.” **Anyone who knows who Christ is knows that mercy, grace, salvation, and eternal life are his**

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prerogative. — “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean” (Matthew 8:2). We would be wise to recognize this and cry with the hymn writer,

“Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry:
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by!”

WORTHY OF HONOR

5th — **I believe that all praise, honor, glory, and pre-eminence has been given to, and rightly belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.** He alone is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory as God our Savior (Colossians 1:18-19; John 5:23; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 1:5-6; 4:11; 5:9-14).

(Revelation 1:5-6) “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

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(Revelation 4:11) “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

(Revelation 5:9-14) “And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy** to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain,** and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;** (10) And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests:** and we shall reign on the earth. (11) And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (12) Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (13) And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are

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in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

(14) And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

- He is the Lord our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6).
- He is the Lord our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- He is the Lord our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
- He is the Lord our God (1 Timothy 3:16).

ALL WHO BELIEVE

6th — **I believe that all (Jew or Gentile, Male or Female, Young or Old, Rich or Poor) who hear his voice of mercy, his word of grace and life in the gospel and believe in their hearts that Jesus is the Christ have eternal life** (John 5:1).

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(1 John 5:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

- If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, **you have already passed from death unto life and shall not come into condemnation** (John 5:24; Romans 8:1-4).
- If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, you are **free from the curse, penalty, condemnation, and dominion of the law** (Galatians 3:13; Romans 10:4).
- If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, **you have already been judged in Christ, punished in Christ, and raised up to glory in Christ**, for you lived, died, and rose again with him (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:4-6).

“I am not skilled to understand
What God hath willed, what God hath planned.
I only know at His right hand
Is one who is my Savior.”

I take Him at His word indeed,

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(Christ died for sinners, this I read.),
For in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior.”

COMING AGAIN

7th — **I believe that, at the hour appointed by God before the world began, Jesus Christ shall come again** (Revelation 1:7).

(Revelation 1:7) “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

At the hour appointed by God we shall die. — “*It is appointed unto men once to die!*” God has set the bounds of your habitation and mine. At the appointed hour and by the appointed means you and I will leave this world. You must soon die; and I must soon die. **But that is not the end. Christ is coming again.**

- Everyone shall hear his voice (John 5:28).

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- There shall be a resurrection of the dead (John 5:29).
- Every eye shall see him (Revelation 1:7).
- This same Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of the living God, shall judge us all in strict justice (John 5:22; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15).
- Every one of us will spend eternity either in the bliss of his presence in heaven or in the terror of his wrath in hell.
- Every believer shall be gloriously transformed into the very likeness of the Son of God, perfectly conformed to his image (1 John 3:2).
- Every unbeliever shall be forever damned, forever tormented, and forever lost!

APPLICATION

How can I persuade you now to be reconciled to God? How can I persuade you to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? May God the Holy Spirit now give you life and faith in him. — *“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”* (2 Corinthians

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5:1-21). Here are **FOUR THINGS** that ought to persuade you to come to Christ right now.

- The Immortality of Your Soul (vv. 1-9).
- The Certainty and Strictness of Divine Judgment (vv. 10-11).
- The Love of God in Christ (vv. 12-16).
- The Accomplishments of Christ (vv. 17-21).

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

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Amen!