

Thinking Rightly – Session 4

Countryside Bible Church

Thinking Rightly Series

- **Session 1** – Apologetics and Apologetical Methods (9th Sept)
- **Session 2** – Truth and Why It Matters (16th Sept)
- **Session 3** – Evidence for Existence of God (23rd Sept)
- **Session 4** – **Jesus Christ (30th Sept)**
- **Session 5** – Evil and Suffering (7th Oct)
- **Session 6** – Evidence for the Resurrection (14th Oct)

Goal of the Series

“Glorify God by being
equipped to defend the
Biblical Faith”

“The heavens are telling of the
glory of God; And their expanse
is declaring the work of His
hands.”

Psalm 19:1

Outline

1. False Ideas about Jesus Christ
2. Thinking Rightly about Jesus Christ
 1. Non Biblical Sources on Jesus Christ
 2. The Bible on Jesus Christ
3. Application

Outline

1. **False Ideas about Jesus Christ**
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False Ideas and Responses

1. He did not exist
 - ✓ Response: Biblical and Non Biblical Sources
2. Spiritual but not Physical (Gnosticism)
 - ✓ Response: John 1:14, 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and Heb. 2:17-18
3. Physical but not Spiritual (Ebionites)
 - ✓ Response: John 1:1; Rev. 21:6
4. A Good Man, Nothing More
 - ✓ Repeated absolute claims about himself, does not leave you with that option ('I am's' in John)

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. (Contd..)

(Contd..) You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

- C.S Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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Non Biblical Sources

- ✓ Josephus the Jewish Historian (37 – 100 AD)

“At this time [the time of Pilate] there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. *They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.*”

- Flavius Josephus (37-100 AD), Book 18, Ch. 3. Sec. 3

Non Biblical Sources

- ✓ Josephus the Jewish Historian (37 – 100 AD)
- ✓ Other sources
 - ✓ Pliny the Younger (112) , Tacitus (115),
Suetonius (120), Lucian of Samosata (170),
Celsus (175) , Mara bar Serapion (73).

Non-Biblical Sources on Jesus...1/3

- i. Jesus lived during time of Tiberius Caesar.
- ii. He lived a virtuous life.
- iii. He was a wonder-worker.
- iv. He had a brother named James.

Non-Biblical Sources on Jesus...2/3

- v. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
- vi. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- vii. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
- viii. Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.

Non-Biblical Sources on Jesus...3/3

- ix. His disciples believed he rose from the dead.
- x. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
- xi. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
- xii. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.

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The Bible on Jesus

A. The Biblical Testimony of Jesus Christ

- ✓ Where and how he was born (Matt. 1 and Luke 1 and 2)
- ✓ Very little information about his growing up years (John 20:31 and Luke 2:40,52)
- ✓ What he said / proclaimed (Matthew 3:2; 4:17 and Mark 1:15)
- ✓ What he did

The Bible on Jesus

B. What others said about Jesus Christ

- ✓ Baby (Luke 1:41; Luke 2:25-40)
- ✓ 12 Year Old (Luke 2:47)
- ✓ Adult (John 1:32-36; Matt. 16:13-17; Matt. 27:54; Acts 2:22-24,36; 22:6-8)

The Bible on Jesus

C. What Jesus Christ claimed about himself

- ✓ The Son of God (John 10:36, 11:4)
- ✓ The Son of Man (Matt 16:13; Mk 14:62)
(The phrase "Son of Man" is actually a messianic title from Daniel 7:13)
- ✓ Giver of eternal life (Jn 10:28)
- ✓ One with the Father (Jn 10:30)
- ✓ One who forgives sin (Mk 2:10)

The Bible on Jesus

C. What Jesus Christ claimed about himself

- ✓ The bread of life (Jn 6:35)
- ✓ The good shepherd (Jn 10:11)
- ✓ The true vine (Jn 15:1)
- ✓ The great "I Am" (Jn 8:58)
- ✓ The giver of living water (Jn 4:10)
- ✓ The light of the World (Jn 8:12)
- ✓ The future Judge (Jn 5:22-23)

The Bible on Jesus

C. What Jesus Christ claimed about himself

- ✓ The lamb of God (Jn 1:36)
- ✓ The baptizer in the Holy Spirit (Lk 3:16)
- ✓ The door of salvation (Jn 10:9)
- ✓ The Savior (Jn 3:14-16)
- ✓ The Messiah (Jn 4:26)
- ✓ The Healer (Lk 18:42)

“He [Jesus] is, in fact, the only way by which men and women may come to the Father; there is no other way. If this seems offensively exclusive, let it be borne in mind that the one who makes this claim is the incarnate Word, the revealer of the Father. If God has no avenue of communication with mankind apart from his Word ... mankind has no avenue of approach to God apart from that same Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us in order to supply such an avenue of approach.”

F.F. Bruce, The Gospel of John [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983] 298)

The Bible on Jesus

C. What Jesus Christ claimed about himself (John 14:6)

1. The Way
2. The Truth
3. The Life

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Application

- ✓ Fully commit your life to Christ
- ✓ Resolve to communicate Christ to others

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For Next Week...

Read

Acts 18:23 – 21:16

Memorize

John 14:6 & Col. 1:9