

So what's the truth about Jesus? This is what He said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). What did His closest friends say about Him? When Jesus' disciple Thomas saw Him after the resurrection, he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). The disciple Matthew reported on the meaning of one of Jesus' many other names: "They will call Him Immanuel--which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23). The apostle Paul declared this about Jesus: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:15-16). Jesus' disciple John recognized Him as the Creator: "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3).

When you believe about Jesus what He said about Himself and what His friends said about Him, the question asked at the beginning sounds like this: "Why do you Christians believe that God is the only way to God?" Then, of course, the question answers itself: Believing in Jesus means believing in God. There can be no other way. --DO

REFLECTION

- Have I placed my faith in Christianity or in the Christ of Christianity?
- Do I really believe Jesus Christ is God? Why?
- How can I let people know that faith in anything other than Jesus Christ will save no one?

Faith is only as good as its object.



Pastor: Wayne Robilliard Ph: 4758 8778.

0404 804 778

Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

www.mountainsbaptist.org.au

4wayner@tpg.com.au

Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

Jesus: The Only Way

Has anyone ever asked you a question like this: "Why do you Christians believe that Jesus is the only way to God?" That question comes out of a mindset which claims that one individual's belief is as valid as any other person's belief--that our beliefs can be as individual as our different personalities and still be valid. This viewpoint maintains, "If what you believe gives you hope and comfort in this troubled world, that's what's important."

Of course, the irrationality of that logic is obvious. For instance, if you believed that the "destroying angel" mushroom you were about to eat was a harmless button

mushroom, your belief would kill you. Gaining comfort from what you believe does not come from your belief; it is the result of the truthfulness of what you believe.



Meat Immanuel.



(1 Corinthians 2:14) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The Book of Immanuel (Isaiah 7-10) makes many prophetic statements about the coming Messiah to warm the hearts of those who know Him. Today we consider the first two:

1. The Messiah would be “_____”, Isaiah 7:3-7, 10-17

(Isaiah 7:15) *By the time this child is old enough to eat curds and honey, he will know enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong.* [paraphrase]

(Matthew 1:23) ""Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us.""

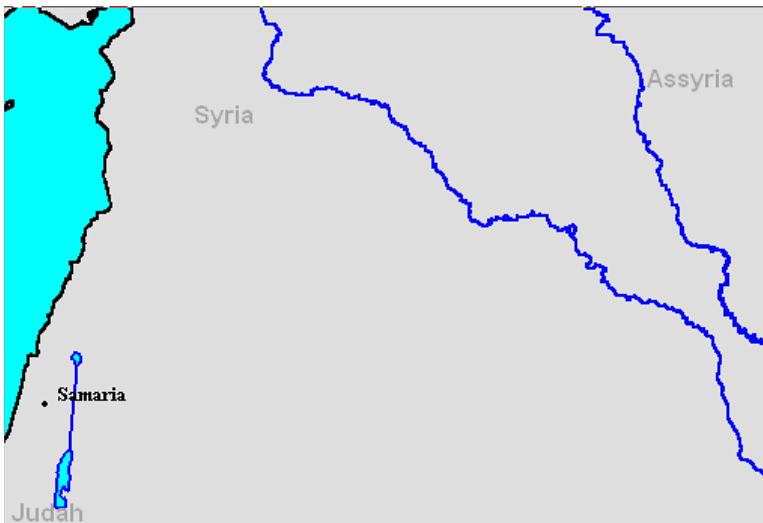
(John 1:1) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(John 1:14) "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."

2. The Messiah would be _____ - _____, Isaiah 8:14-15, 9:1-2, 6-7

(Romans 9:32-33) "Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. {33} As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.""

(1 Peter 2:7-8) "Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,



"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," {8} and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."

(Matthew 4:15-17)

""The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: {16} The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." {17} From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""

(Exodus 15:11) ""Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

(Psalms 119:129) "Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them."

(Psalms 147:4-5) "He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. {5} Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."

(Romans 11:33-34) "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! {34} "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?""

(Matthew 13:54) ".. He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

(Matthew 7:29) "for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

(John 2:25) "and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man."

(Luke 4:22) "So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. ..

(Colossians 2:3) "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

(Proverbs 2:1-11) "My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, {2} So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; {3} Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, {4} If you seek her as for hidden treasures; {5} Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. {6} For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; {7} He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; {8} He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. {9} Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. {10} When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, {11} Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,"



(Psalms 119:11) "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!"

(1 Peter 5:7) "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."