

The Real Jesus

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. —Matthew 16:16

Who is Jesus? Observing the ways He is portrayed these days, it's almost impossible to recognise Him as the Jesus of the Bible. Some groups add to what the Bible says about Him, while others diminish Him to simple humanity, claiming that He was merely a wise teacher or a master moralist. Some would like to make Him disappear altogether.

But this is nothing new. It's been happening for nearly 2,000 years. This reminds me of Thomas Jefferson, who was a US president. He went through the New Testament Gospels with scissors and cut out all references to Jesus' deity and the supernatural. This is known as *The Jefferson Bible*. Even recently, people have approached the Gospels in similar ways.

When Jesus asked His 12 disciples what people were saying about who He was, some answers were Elijah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist, but these answers were all inadequate. Peter was correct when he said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).



Don't be deceived by fuzzy, watered down, or false descriptions of Jesus that you read, see, or hear about. Stick to the Bible. When people try to minimise His identity, tell them in no uncertain terms who the real Jesus is! —

*All glory to Jesus, begotten of God,
The great I AM is He;
Creator, sustainer—but wonder of all,
The Lamb of Calvary!*

—Peterson © 1957 Singpiration, Inc.

To know Jesus is to know God.

Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Light Bulb Moment

(Mark 8:22-23) "Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. {23} So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town."

(Matthew 11:21) "... Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

(Mark 8:23-27) "So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. {24} And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."

{25} Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. {26} Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

{27} Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; ..."



[PTO for Photo of "Gates of Hell"]



Gates of Hell near Caesarea Philippi

Matthew 16:13-19. This passage of Scripture makes three comments about Peter's flash of inspiration/ his light bulb moment:

1. The ultimate light bulb moment grasps who _____, verses 13-17

(John 10:17) "... I lay down My life that I may take it again."

(John 1:41) "He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ)."

(Matthew 11:5-6) "'The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. {6} "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.'"

(John 1:49) "Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'"

(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."

(1 Corinthians 2:10) "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. ..."

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(2 Corinthians 5:21) "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(Romans 10:13) "For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'"



In Christ he is a new creation

(John 1:14) "... we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

2. Such light bulb moments build the _____, verse 18

(Psalms 118:22) "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone."

(Matthew 21:42) "... "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. ...?"

(Acts 4:10-12) "'let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. {11} "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' {12} "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.'"

(Matthew 7:21) "'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven,"

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(1 Peter 2:4-6) "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, {5} you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. {6} Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone,



elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.'"

3. Such light bulb moments result in further _____, verse 19

(Titus 3:5) "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"

(Acts 2:41) "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

(Acts 8:14) "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,"

(Acts 8:17) "Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

(Acts 10:44) "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those