

Who is the real Jesus?

“THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD”

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- Most of us have a religious history, raised in some kind of a religious upbringing.
- Many have a resistant to religion because it has left them filling empty, with a gaping hole in their soul, leaving them feeling worst off then when they found 'religion'; they came to what they thought was the answer and found nothing was there.
- I, too, in my teens and twenties, questioned things I had been taught in church.
- Jesus did not come to earth to start a 'religion'. He did not die a painful death (of His own choice) on the cross to start a religion/denomination. The only thing that was worth His suffering . . . people! You!
- **Romans 1:16 (NKJV)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
- This statement Paul made is loaded with power IF we understand it.
- Gospel – good news; not condemning, or mean-spirited.
- You need to admit you are nothing and have no way of helping yourself; you are not good enough, can't give enough, do enough good works. Even if you were Mother Teresa, without her faith in Christ she would not have been good enough to rescue herself out of the hopelessness and despair of life.
- You have no ability to save yourself.
- Without Christ we will die in our sins.
- God did not create you to leave you. He is the very breath you breathe. If He left you today, the 'air' you breathe would go with Him.
- God holds all things together through Jesus Christ.
- Even when you curse and use the name of Jesus, He has given you the very breathe to speak that curse.
- What kind of loving God would create you, then allow you to curse Him, without immediately cutting your breathe off before you speak the curse?
- He allows you to curse Him, and even then gives you the next breath you breathe. What kind of God is this?
- God made you and therefore has the right to tell you what to do.
- When you buy a car, you look at the handbook for the car because they know a lot more about how the car works than you do.
- The Bible is the handbook of God, regarding your mind, body, emotions, relationships, and your very soul.
- God knows a lot more about how your life is to be lived than you do; He's your designer, and your life will be peaceful, filled with joy, and fulfilling if you live it by the way GOD has designed it to be.
- Your flesh is crazy. It will tell you to do things that can actually destroy you. Just because it feels right doesn't make it right. How can you trust your flesh?
- A man came to Pastor and told him he was divorcing his wife of 20+ years because he had reconnected with a high school sweetheart. He felt they were soul mates. They were Christians and had prayed about it and felt God would understand.
- It can 'feel' right, but years down the road you will look back, feeling empty, realizing the mistake you have made.
- When you follow your 'desires' you begin to lose respect for yourself, not trusting yourself or God anymore.
- Often your problem with trusting God is not about God, but because you have rejected His plan for your life and gone your own way, loosing respect for yourself. Not trusting ourselves leads to not trusting God.
- You are a 'mess' without Jesus.
- Jesus, who was sinless, and the Son of God, came to take all our shame, and guilt.
- It's called a 'mystery', because you can't grasp fully how it works.
- When Jesus died for you, you were there with Him on the cross. When He was raised from the dead, you were raised with Him. You need to believe this, and cast your life fully upon Jesus.

- **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- You have been crucified with Christ, never the less you live. Because you have put your faith in Christ it's not you that any longer lives, but it's Christ inside of you!
- You have His wisdom and ability inside of you! Religion does not teach you this.
- Jesus Christ has already paid the price for you, giving you the fullness of His life.
- You may have been burnt by religion. Give Jesus the opportunity to show you who He is. Search for Him. You can know Him for yourself.
- This is the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the most exciting news in the world!
- Do you know this Jesus, or are you going your own way, trusting in yourself?