

Jesus Christ: The One and Only (Part 3)

1 Timothy 3:16

Introduction:

1. If somebody asked you this question, how would you answer? “If you were to die today, do you know 100% for sure that you would go to heaven?”
2. If your answer is “Yes,” what if they asked this next? “Why do you know you will go heaven?” How would you answer this? If you were to stand before God, and if He were to ask you why He should allow you into heaven for eternity, how would you answer this?
3. Would you say, “I joined the church. I was baptized. I kept the 10 Commandments. I never did anything too bad. I was better than most.”?
4. None of those answers are going to work. Why is this? Because none of these things can wash away our sin. At the end of the day, no matter how many churches we joined, or how many ponds we were baptized in, we have all sinned, and God cannot allow that sin to go unpunished.
5. When we stand before God, the issue will be very simple. The issue will be what you have done with God’s provision for sin – Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is truth, He is life. vs. 16
6. The entire divine gospel plan revolves around the person of Jesus Christ. What a person believes about Jesus Christ is the difference between eternal life or eternal judgment. This is why, as a church, we have a mission to proclaim Jesus Christ.

“...preached unto the Gentiles...”

1. As we said, our mission is to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ. If a church’s message does not center in Jesus Christ, then it is not of God.
2. Go to the index of your Bible, please, and notice what four books begin the New Testament. What book comes after Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (which explain the life and ministry of Christ)? It is called “The Acts of the Apostles.”
3. Apostles were men who had actually seen Jesus Christ in His resurrected body. They were eye-witnesses of the risen Christ. When we read about their lives in the book of Acts, what is the recurring theme? They proclaimed Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus told them, “*Ye shall be witnesses unto me,*” and they took this command very seriously.
 - Their main business was preaching Christ. Acts 2:36, 4:10-11, 33; 5:42, 8:5, 9:20
4. During Christ’s earthly ministry, the proclaiming of Christ was only within the confines of the nation of Israel. Israel was God’s chosen nation, and Christ was sent to them. The prophetic plan was for Israel to be converted to Christ, and their sins would be remitted, their earthly kingdom established by Christ, and from them blessing would proceed forth to the Gentile nations.
5. But after Christ’s resurrection and ascension, Israel, as a nation, rejected Jesus Christ, their Messiah. What would happen to the earth? Israel was to be the source of blessing, but they were in unbelief. They rejected their Messiah - their King.

- It was revealed progressively throughout the book of Acts that Christ's work was not simply for Israel, but it was for all nations.
 - **Illustration:** We have a new walkway at CrossRoads. When it is lightning, hailing, and pouring down rain, you can enjoy its shelter so you can get safely into the church. But what if you go to enter the walkway, and you're told that you cannot use it? Only certain people can use it!
 - In the same way, people need to find shelter from the wrath of God against sin. Satan wants people to think that Christ's work wasn't for them. But God made it known that Christ's work was for every individual on this earth – every nation, every culture, every tongue, every person!
6. We read of Christ being preached in Samaria, and then Peter was commissioned to go to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius. Cornelius and all his Gentile friends got saved that day. Peter said, *"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of nations..."*
 - Later, Peter said that God is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9
 7. This opened the door for the mighty Gentile ministry of the apostle Paul. When Paul was saved, it was made clear from the beginning that his ministry would be to preach Christ to the Gentiles. Acts 26:17-18
 8. God would give to the world a grace period in which the good news of Christ would be proclaimed to all nations. Any individual on the earth could be saved from their sins by simple faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13
 9. Gentiles would not have to go through Israel or through Israel's laws or rituals. Salvation would be sent out to the world on an absolutely equal basis through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Acts 13:38-39
 - This wonderful period of grace was kept secret until revealed to Paul.
 10. It is the apostle Paul that was given the office of Gentile apostleship, and it was Paul that carried the message of Christ to Gentile lands in the book of Acts.
 11. Paul established churches throughout all three provinces of the Roman Empire. These churches were founded and established on the truth of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2