

# 21st CENTURY TRUTHS

Volume 1

(Need for Hearing)

Issue 3

## HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT ...?

Have you ever heard anyone say, "Did you hear about what happened to 'Larry'?" Or have you been concentrating on a task and overheard "Have you ever heard the one about...?" If you are like most people, your ears perk up as you listen with anticipation to what will be said next. You purposefully listen to hear the answer to each of these questions. However, do we listen as intently if the question posed is "Have you heard about Jesus?" or "Have you ever heard what one must do to be a faithful servant in Christ's kingdom?"

Our society has been slowly attempting to erode any reference to God, Christ or a divine code of conduct from our daily life. It is evident by society's actions that Christ is becoming a low priority in their lives. It has been suggested the "In God We Trust" should be removed from our money. Courts have upheld removing the "Ten Commandments" and abolishing prayer from our schools. As a result, it is found to be strange when someone openly discusses Christ. We say we are a "Christian society". In order to be a Christian, one must be a follower of Christ but still our society, in its attempts, never wants to hear any reference to Christ. Nevertheless, to be a follower of Christ Jesus, we must first know what He has required through a study of the teaching that He has given us through the Bible.

Most individuals are able to recite John 3:16 in the "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." However, do you realize in order to believe in

Christ, one must hear about Him? How can we hear and learn about Christ if we are too ashamed to even hear any reference to Him?

We have been given several examples in the book of Acts of those who believed and became followers of Christ but only after they had first heard about His life, death and resurrection. In Acts 2:14-36, the Jews heard the teaching of Peter revealing unto them the Old Testament prophesies of Christ which were fulfilled by His resurrection from the dead. The Ethiopian eunuch heard such message of Christ's death and resurrection with the assistance of Philip in Acts 8:27-35. Also, in Acts 0:34-43, Peter taught the same message of Christ's ultimate sacrifice to a man named Cornelius. In each of these examples, the individuals were seeking God's word to "hear" about our Savior. In addition, they heard about the great sacrifice that Christ gave for us before they believed and obeyed.

Do you have a desire to hear the story of Christ and his sacrifice for your sins? It is only after one had heard and understood the good news of God's Word that one can truly believe. Do you have that desire? If you have an appetite to hear more from God's word about our Savior, we warmly invite you to attend one of our worship assemblies or contact us to participate in a Bible correspondence course of individual study.

*Randy M. Meyer*

## JESUS: FICTION, GOOD MAN, OR SON OF GOD?

Please begin by asking yourself: Is my perception of Jesus Christ truly what the Bible actually portrays or is my perception flawed? Do I really know who Jesus Christ was and is today? We will attempt through a study of His word to determine whether or not our perceptions of Jesus Christ are correct or in error.

There are many differing views of Jesus and His life. Jesus has been portrayed by Hollywood as evil, weak and even sinful. He never even existed according to some "religious" organizations. Still others believe He was a good man, but nothing more.

Historically speaking Jesus was a real person. Historical fact of such is found in the writings of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. Josephus wrote a work entitled The Antiquities of the Jews in approximately AD 93, less than sixty years after the death of Jesus. The following is a quotation from his writings in book eighteen, chapter three, part three (as translated by William Winston):

*Now, there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, -a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when*

*Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did no forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named after him, are not extinct at this day.*

As we can see from this factual reference of an outside historical writer, Jesus was a real person that performed many miracles thereby providing irrefutable evidence to men that He was Christ Jesus, the Son of God. In John 14:6, Christ stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me." Jesus points out that all men must go through Him in order to see the Father. Jesus came to this earth for one reason and one reason only. To seek and save the lost (Matt. 18:11). He did not come to establish an earthly kingdom, but to establish His spiritual kingdom (John 18:36). His purpose on this earth was to die, be buried and arise from the grave conquering death and thereby establishing a deathblow to Satan. By conquering death through His resurrection, Jesus has shown us that we have something to look forward to after our physical life is over.

*(Continued on the following page)*

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matt. 7:8 (KJV)

1st Century Truths for the 21st Century

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## ***JESUS: FICTION, GOOD MAN, OR SON OF GOD?***

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If Jesus had not come to this earth, die a sinless man, and then arise from the grave, we would have no hope of heaven. We could simply live our lives as we wish and then die. Nothing more, nothing less. If this were true, we should be out having fun, "living the good life". There are a hundred different pleasures that would make ones body feel wonderful. It is a choice not to partake in those "pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebr. 11:25-26). Reasons to search for eternal pleasures are that Jesus Christ came to earth, lived a sinless life, died as a sacrifice for you and for

me, and that through His resurrection promised there is something awaiting when this life is over. (John 14:1-3).

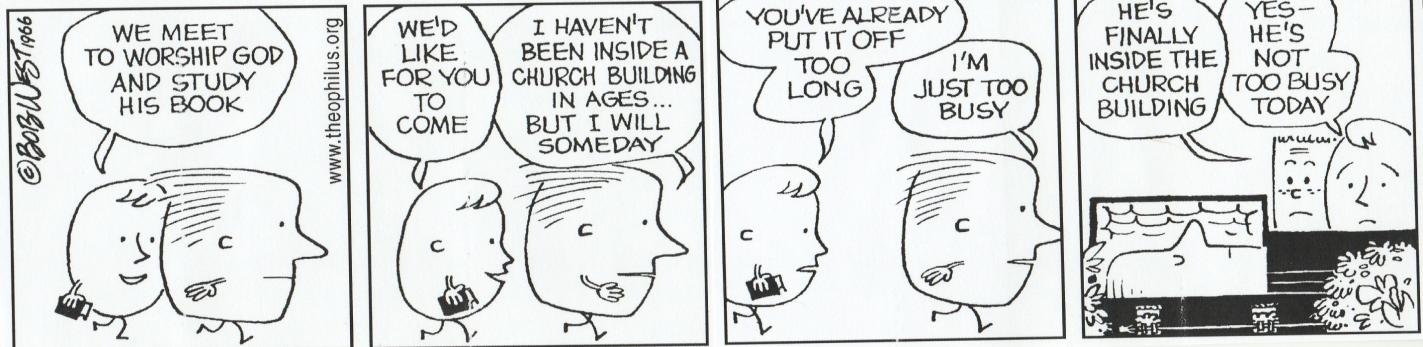
"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit," (I Peter 3:18,

NKJV). We need to realize that Christ came to this earth and died so that we may have an opportunity to enter into heaven. We should not be living our lives to obtain earthly pleasures, but trying to follow and serve the will of God. (John 14:15).

The facts are presented and we each have a choice to make regarding our lives. Do you wish to continue striving, in vain, for earthly pleasures or do you wish to try to obtain something eternal which would make your life more meaningful? Did Christ die for you in vain? We invite you to study with us to learn more about Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for our souls.

*Randy M. Meyer*

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**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY TRUTHS** is published by the Glass Street Church of Christ for the express purpose of holding up the Bible as God's complete word for mankind today, and encouraging people to read and practice a committed faith in it. We would like to welcome you to our services and want you to know that there is a conservative, non-denominational, New Testament church, using God's 1<sup>st</sup> century truths, meeting nearby.

The church meets at its *new* location 1/2 mile east of intersection of Gordon Drive and Stone Avenue (across from Western Iowa Tech.) at 4800 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa. You are invited to visit any of our Bible Studies or worship assemblies. For information, you may write the address listed, email, or call (712) 274-1000.

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