

# What “I” Believe About Jesus

By: Keith Welch

Believing is an essential element in pleasing God. A reading of Hebrews 11:6 reveals, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* Jesus said, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* (Jn. 8:24). What is it that we are to believe? Or more directly – “What I Believe About Jesus.

## I Believe Jesus Is The Son of God

God the Father announced, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matt. 3:17). Jesus was not just another prophet or some very intelligent Jewish philosopher! On a certain occasion *“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt. 16:13-17). My belief in Jesus as the Son of God is established upon the mountain of evidence that confirms Him as the Son of God!

## I Believe Jesus Spoke With Authority

At the beginning of Jesus ministry His audience was able to identify that He spoke in a different manner! When Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount *“...the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”* (Matt. 7:28-29). Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, said to Jesus, *“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”* (Jn. 3:2). The Officers of the Sanhedrin Council said, *“No man ever spoke like this Man!”* (Jn. 7:46). The Jews would have been accustomed to teaching from the Mosaic Law and by the first century the traditions of men (Matt. 15:9). Jesus stood before men and said, *“But I say unto you”* (Matt. 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44; 6:2, 5, 16, 25). Jesus taught in such a fashion because God the Father gave *“...Him authority to execute judgment...”* (Jn. 5:27) and was given *“...authority over all flesh...”* (Jn. 17:2). After His resurrection Jesus declared, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* (Matt. 28:18). Such makes Jesus earth’s greatest teacher!

## I Believe Jesus Was Sinless

A reading of Hebrews 4:15 reveals, *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”* Jesus was tempted by the devil, but never committed sin! Jesus never gave way to the wiles of the devil. This is why Peter could rightly identify Jesus *“...as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* (1 Pet. 1:19). Jesus is worthy to follow and there is none other so worthy of emulation. All would do well to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, *“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”* (1 Pet. 2:22). A reading of 1 John 3:5 reveals, *“And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”*

## **I Believe Jesus Died For All Men**

We do not possess the power or ability to save ourselves by ourselves, separate and apart from God's word! I believe that Jesus died for all men, including myself! The Apostle Paul penned, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7). Jesus death has made salvation available to all men – *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men"* (Titus 2:11). It does not matter who you are and from whence you came, you can be saved through blood of Jesus and your obedience to the Gospel (Matt. 7:21). A reading of Romans 5:6-8 reveals, *"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Jesus bore the penalty of my (our) transgressions!

## **I Believe Jesus Arose From The Dead**

Jesus foretold His resurrection! Jesus said, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up...He was speaking of the temple of His body."* (Jn. 2:19-21). On another occasion Jesus said, *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* (Matt. 12:40). Jesus lifeless body was taken from the cross and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-59). The tomb was then made secure (Matt. 27:60, 64). However, death could not contain our Lord and up from the grave He arose! It was told to the women who came to anoint the body of Jesus, *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen..."* (Lk. 24:5-6).

## **I Believe Jesus Established His Church**

Jesus promised saying, *"...I will build My church..."* (Matt. 16:18). The Lord's church had its beginning in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. This is in fulfillment of Isaiah 2:1-2. The church was spoken of as being in existence in Acts 2:47 which reveals, *"...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* The Lord's church was not found by Alexander Campbell or any other man or woman! The Lord's church, the church that belongs to Christ, the church of Christ was promised and established by Jesus. It no wonder why then Paul could write, *"...The churches of Christ greet you"* (Rom. 16:16).

## **I Believe Jesus Will Come Again**

A reading of Hebrews 9:28 declares, *"so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."* Nowhere in Scripture does it say that Jesus will step foot on this earth again! Matter of fact, there is not going to be an earth to return to when Jesus returns (2 Pet. 3:9-11). As the Apostles witnessed Jesus' ascension to the Father right hand, it was said to them, *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:11). When He returns, He will "deliver up" the kingdom or church to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).

In the word of the Apostle Paul, "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (2 Tim. 1:8).