TITLE: Developing A Biblical World-view of Jesus.

TEXT: Lk. 2: 44-51; Mt. 16:13-18; Ephe. 2:19-22;

Jn. 14:1-6, 10:30-31; Is. 64:6; Acts 4:12; Ro. 10:9-10, 1:16

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to discuss what is probably our most important thing to come to a Biblical worldview on and that is coming to a Biblical world-view of Jesus Christ.

Almost everyone has an opinion of Jesus. Who Jesus is, what His purpose was, what He was and is all about.

There are many differing opinions about Jesus in our world today. But that is not something new. There were many differing opinions about just who Jesus was when Jesus was alive here on this earth.

It is a question that many who lived in His day asked.

His disciples, his friends, his enemies, even His earthly parents had their questions about just who this child, who had such an unusual birth was, what He was really all about.

We have an account in Scripture when Jesus was just 12 years old and His parents, Mary & Joseph, had taken Jesus with them to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. After the feast was over mom & dad pack up and with a group of other traveler’s head back for home.

**Luke 2:44 (NIV) Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.**

**45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.**

**46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.**

**47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

**48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."**

**49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"**

**50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.**

**51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.**

Even though Jesus was so miraculously conceived; Even though, before Jesus was born, the angel had proclaimed to Mary & Joseph who this Child was and what he was to become, Mary and Joseph still didn’t comprehend the fullness of what they had been told about this child who was born to them.

When Jesus said to them…Didn’t you know that I had to be in my Father’s house, Scripture says that Mary and Joseph didn’t understand what Jesus was saying to them and that his mother treasured, she (pondered) all these things in her heart.

After Jesus started His public ministry, many had questions as to who this one wondering the Judean countryside performing so many mighty miracles really was.

Even His most intimate circle of friends, the 12 disciples, didn’t always fully understand or appreciate just who Jesus was and what He was all about while he lived among them.

One day as Jesus and His disciples are traveling through the region of Caesarea Philippi He stops and ask His disciples a very important question….

**Matt 16:13 (NIV) When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"**

**14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."**

**15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"**

**16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.**

**18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

Jesus question was a very simple and straightforward one..**"Who do people say that I am?"**

Notice that the people had several different ideas as to who Jesus was….

**14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets**."

Most people who were around Jesus recognized that there was something different about Him, something that made Him stand out from other men..

Most recognized Him as someone great such as an incarnated John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets of old.

But then Jesus asks the same question to his disciples.. **"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"**

You who have been the closest to me, you who have walked with me and talked with me and lived with me, what about you? Who do you say that I am?

**16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.**

**18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

Of all the questions that we will face in this life this is the most important question that any of us will ever have to answer.

And it is still a question that Jesus asks today…

**Who do people say that I am?**

Well, just about everyone in our world today has an opinion about Jesus.

Some today say that He was a great teacher; some say that He was a prophet of God, some say that He was a man of principle and integrity.

Some will say that he was the Son of God but they mean one out of many sons of God…

Some say that he is the good Son of God and that His brother is Satan who is a bad Son of God..

Some today will say that he was a farce, or that he didn’t even really exist…

When Jesus asked the disciples who people said that he was, I don’t believe Jesus was really all that interested in their answer.

But the answer that Jesus was really interested in was when He asked the next question--**But what about you? Who do you say that I am?**

You see, it is not really all that important what others may have to say about Jesus as to who He is, but it is essential to me personally who I say that Jesus is.

It is essential to you personally who you say that Jesus is..

And this is a question that Jesus is still asking each and every one of us today.

**But what about you, who do you say that I am?**

This is an all-important question because our place in eternity hinges upon our answer, upon our belief in who Jesus is. Who do we say that Jesus is? What is our worldview of Jesus?

When Jesus asked the question to the disciples it was Peter who answered the question… **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

Obviously, Peter got the answer right. Listen to the Lord’s response to Peter…

**17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.**

**18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

I have often heard it taught that Peter is the rock on which Christ built the Church.

But that is not what Jesus is saying here when he says: **And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

To this point Peter has gone by his given name, Simon son of Jonah. Here Jesus gives Simon the name Peter…

Peter is Pet-ros in Greek

Pet-ros means rock or stone…

It seems that Peter is often translated as rock in English but that doesn’t seem to fit here very well.

Jesus said:

**And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

If we understand Peter to mean rock then I think it throws us off of what Jesus is actually saying here.

Was Jesus saying, I tell you that you are the rock on which I will build my Church or was Jesus saying, I tell you that you are a stone and upon this rock I will build My church?

If that is the case then what is the rock that Jesus was referring to that He would build His Church upon?

The rock was what Peter had just testified to.

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God!

This makes a whole lot more sense, doesn’t it?

After all, Scripture says that Jesus is the chief-cornerstone, the rock on which the Church is built upon.

If the Church were built upon Peter then the Church would not have stood. But the Church is not built upon Peter is it? The Church is built upon Christ!

So another way we can read and understand this verse is;

**And I tell you that you are Peter** ( a stone)**, and on this** rock ( the rock of My being the Christ, the son of the living God) **I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

So, instead of Peter being the rock on which Christ built His Church upon, Peter is but a stone that the Lord has used within the building up of His Church.

Just as you and I today are stones that the Lord wants to use to build up His Church, the Body of Christ, of which He is the foundation, the chief cornerstone.

**Ephe 2:19 (NIV) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,**

**20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.**

**21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.**

**22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

But the point is Peter rightly identified who Jesus is… He is the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Jesus Himself elaborated on just who He was many times in Scripture…

I think the most thorough explanation of just who Jesus is, is found in…

**John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Jesus said of Himself….**"I am the way and the truth and the life.**

So, what is Jesus saying here? What is He the way to? What is He the truth of? What life is He talking about?

To find out we need just go to what Jesus and the disciples had previously been talking about…

Jesus, in trying to prepare His closest friends for what is about to happen to Him on the cross says this…

**John 14:1 (NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.**

**2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.**

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

**4 You know the way to the place where I am going."**

**5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"**

**6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

When Jesus said I am the way and the truth and the life He was saying… I am the way to the father, I am the truth of the Father and I am the life of the Father and no one can come to God without first coming to me, because I am He!

It is what Jesus meant in…

**John 10:30 (NIV) I and the Father are one."**

I and the Father are one! I and the Father are the same!

Jesus was identifying Himself as God..

The Jews that He was speaking to knew what He was saying.

After Jesus said this about Himself it says…

**John 10:31 (NIV) the Jews picked up stones to stone him!**

Why? Because Jesus was identifying Himself as God and they thought it blasphemy.

Jesus said: **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

I know that this is all pretty simple and elementary teaching of our faith but do you get the full impact of the last part of this verse?

Jesus says…

**No one comes to the Father except through me.**

You see, there are many who will make the claim of being a Christian yet don’t have a clue what this elementary truth of Christianity, of Scripture, is saying here.

Those Christians who say that there are good Muslims who are people of faith who worship a god, so they will go to Heaven, there are good Hindu’s who are people of faith who worship a god, so they will go to heaven, there are good Buddhist who are people of faith, they worship a god so they will go to heaven…

I mean all good people go to heaven, don’t they?

No! Good people don’t go to heaven - only saved people go to Heaven!

If any of us expect to go to heaven because of our goodness then we will find ourselves in a world of hurt and greatly disappointed.

**Isai 64:6 (NIV) All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**

Scripture tells us that in Gods sight all our righteous acts are like filthy rags!

When standing before an all righteous, all holy God, all our righteous acts become like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins will sweep us away.

You see, we have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.

We are all sinners. The just penalty for sin is hell and eternal separation from God.

That is why we should never ask God to give us what we deserve, but if we ask Him for anything, we need to ask for His mercy and ask Him for His grace and give us that which we don’t deserve-- A saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

For if any of us got we deserved we wouldn’t like what we received. An eternity separated from God in Hell..

There are Muslims who are good and moral people. There are Hindu’s who are good and moral people. There are Buddhists who are good and moral people. But we don’t get into Gods Kingdom by being good and moral people, we get into Gods Kingdom one way and one way only and that is by being a forgiven and a saved people, and that can only happen one way and that is through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ having confessed Him as our Lord so He can become our Savior.

Jesus said: **I am the way and the truth and the Life and no one can come to the father except through me!**

Buddha didn’t die to pay the price of man’s sin.

Mohammed didn’t die to pay the price of man’s sin.

Gandhi didn’t die to pay the price of man’s sin.

And if sins price is not paid then you cannot be forgiven and you are still lost in your sin and separated from fellowship with God.

There is only one who came to pay the price of man’s sin and purchase man’s redemption and that is Jesus Christ.

**Acts 4:12 (NIV) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**

Buddha can’t save you! Mohammed can’t save you! Gandhi can’t save you, only Jesus Christ can save you because: **Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**

Example: Pam shared with a person about how only those who embraced Jesus as Lord would go to Heaven and their response was: I don’t think I could call myself a Christian if I believed that.

The fact of the matter is if you don’t believe that Jesus is the one and only way to salvation then how can you call yourself a Christian, because isn’t that what Christianity is all about.

Jesus Christ being the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all who come to embrace Him as the Lord and savior of their life…

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**

Notice it doesn’t say that Jesus is the name by which we might be saved, but it says Jesus is the name by which we must be saved.

The apostle Paul affirms this by telling us the only way by which we can be saved is through Jesus Christ…

**Roma 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord!**

The Greek word for Confess is

**3670 homologeo {hom-ol-og-eh'-o}**

1. **to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with**

To confess here means to come to agreement with God.

To come into agreement with God about our sin and come into agreement with God about the Lordship of Jesus Christ…

If I come into agreement with God about my sin then I will feel sorry for having done it and have a desire to turn away from it.

If I come into agreement with God about the Lordship of Christ, then I will advocate control of my life to Jesus.

I will start asking myself WWJD and then strive to do it.

I will allow Jesus to literally dwell within my heart giving Him control of my life.

In short, I will strive to be a reflection of Jesus in the world in which I live. I will strive to allow Him to live His life vicariously through me.

Church, this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The Gospel message that can set the captive free!

The gospel message that can deliver a soul that is headed for an eternity in hell safe in the arms of a loving and compassionate and merciful God.

It is the message of this gospel that caused Paul to say with great boldness in a world that was very hostile to the message he had to proclaim…

**Roma 1:16 (NIV) I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.**

We should never compromise the gospel message that we have been given to proclaim to the world in which we live by compromising its message…

Other religions are not the enemy of Christianity.

They are a part of the people that we are called to reach out to with the love of Christ and the message of the gospel that we have been given…

We should never be timid about standing up for what we believe and proclaiming this message of the gospel. Because it is this gospel that is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who comes to believe in it!

We need to embrace it for our own life then boldly proclaim it to those around us..

What is the biblical world-view of Jesus?

Jesus is the one and only way by which a man can be saved and Salvation is found in no one else!

This morning I will close with two questions..

1. Have you personally embraced Gods message and means of salvation?

Have you allowed Jesus to become the Lord and savior of your life? Have you received His salvation?

2. If you have, are you boldly proclaiming that Gospel message to those around you in the part of the world in which you life?

Can you stand with the Apostle Paul and say: **I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes its message?**

Muslims, Hindu’s, Buddhists and many others are living under a spirit of deception and have bought into the lie of Satan that there are other ways to God then Jesus Christ…

We have been given the message to set the captive free!

We have been given the message that will snatch a soul headed for the fires of hell and deliver them safe to God!

We have been given the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and Scripture says that salvation is found in no one else!

That there is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved!

Are we boldly proclaiming that gospel message? Are our lives being lived as a reflection of that message in the world in which we live? Are our lives being a reflection of Jesus to others?