

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 11

2018

What Do You Think About The Christ?

In Matthew 22:42, Jesus asked the Pharisees, “What do you think about the Christ?” Now that’s a good question, so with that question in mind, let’s take a look at what some thought about the Christ. Starting with, some have thought of Him as...

1) A Fraud.

Unfortunately, there were many Jews in the first century who thought that Jesus Christ was a fraud. For instance, while Jesus walked into the temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Dedication, some of these doubting Jews surrounded Him and said, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Now, notice what Jesus said to them. He said, “I told you, and you do not believe” (John 10:22-25). You see, like those Jews in the first century, there are sadly many people today who likewise think of the Christ as being a fraud, and choose not to believe in Him.

2) A Burden.

Not only did some in the first century think of the Christ as being a fraud, but some also thought of Him as being a burden. You see, a burden is something that weighs you down, and sadly, there were some in the first century who began to follow Jesus, but after awhile they could not bear the load of discipleship, and they turned away from Him and walked with Him no more (John 6:66). Unfortunately, there are again many today who likewise think of Christ and His will as a burden, and because of that they too choose not to serve Him.

3) A Disappointment.

There were others in the first century who thought of the Christ as being a disappointment. For instance, in Luke 24, we learn that after the Christ had been risen from the dead, He appeared to two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus. However, their eyes were restrained and they did not know Him, so after Jesus asked them about their conversation, they, in reference to the Christ, said, “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to restore Israel” (Luke 24:21). You see, they did not fully understand all that the prophets had spoken (v. 25) and because of that, it brought to them disappointment concerning the Christ. Folks, this also happens to many today because they too fail to understand what the Scriptures teach concerning the Christ.

4) A Seasonal Attraction.

Also, there were some in the first century who thought of the Christ as a so called seasonal attraction. For instance, John the Baptist, the forerunner for the Christ, once said in reference to Jesus the Christ, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). However, after some time had passed John was arrested and put into prison, when he began to have second thoughts concerning the Christ, so he sent two of his disciples to ask the Christ if He was the Coming One, or if they needed to look for another (Matthew 11:2-3). Folks, the truth is, Christ is no seasonal attraction. For as we read in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

5) Their Savior.

Last, but certainly not least, there were some who truly knew that the Christ was the Son of God, and they thought of Him as their Savior. In John 6:68-69, we learn that Simon Peter knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, who had the words of eternal life. We also read in 1 Timothy 1:15 that the apostle Paul recognized Jesus Christ as the Savior, and John likewise does in 1 John 4:14, when he says, “we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.” Yes, indeed my friends, Jesus the Christ is our Lord and Savior!

Now, I ask the question, what do you think about the Christ?

✍ Brad Phillips

“JUST SO I PUT GOD FIRST..”

Some time ago while talking to an individual about the need to be faithful in assembling with the saints, this person made a statement that seems to reflect the thinking of far too many. This individual said, *“Just so I put God first in my life does it really matter if I do not attend every service?”*

How would you answer this question? I am afraid that those who would ask this question are not really aware of what they are asking. Such a question would be the same as my saying, “Just so long as I obey the laws of the land does it really matter if I rob a bank or two?” I think we all can see that the question itself presents a contradiction. In this case, to rob a bank is to fail to obey the laws of the land and in the question asked by the individual above a failure to assemble with the saints is a failure to put God first in one’s life.

I would be the first to admit that there is more to putting God first than just assembling with the saints. There may be some who have the false idea that just so long as they assemble with the saints they have done all they need to do and that it really doesn’t matter what they do during their everyday activities. Such is truly a misconception and a person who has such an attitude cannot be pleasing to God. However, are we to conclude that since there is more to being a faithful child of God than just assembling that such assembling is unnecessary or unimportant? I hope to show that this is a false assumption.

To fail to assemble with the saints is to disobey God’s command. See Hebrews 10:24,25. Also, there are activities that God has commanded us to do when the saints are assembled. The Lord’s Supper is to be eaten when the disciples are come together (Acts 20:7). To say that one can put God first and not assemble with the saints is to say that we can refuse to do what God has instructed us to do and still, be putting Him first. Who can believe it?

What people need to realize is that the reason they fail to be faithful in assembling with the saints is due to a failure to put God first in their lives. The person who manifests an indifferent attitude toward serving the Lord is deceiving no one but himself if he thinks he is putting God first in his life.

Another idea very similar to the above has the person saying he can worship God at home just the same as *“in a church building.”* Again, I would be quick to agree that our worship to God should not be confined to

that which is done in the “church building,” however these individuals are making the same mistake as those discussed earlier. Can such individuals be identified as worshippers of God when they view opportunities to assemble with the saints to sing praises to God, to pray, to study His word, or to partake of the Lord’s Supper as boring or unimportant?

The person who says that he can worship God without assembling with the saints shows his ignorance of God’s word. It is interesting to note that the individuals who make such claims never spend any time praying or studying the word of God in their home. It is also interesting to note that the individuals who take time to pray and study the word of God daily are those individuals you see present every time the saints assemble.

These facts should make us realize what the real problem is. There are some who do not love the Lord and have no desire to do His will. These often try to excuse their lack of faith by saying that assembling with the saints is not important. What these need to do is repent of their unfaithfulness and pray to God for forgiveness. When they do decide to put God first in their lives and to truly worship Him they will DESIRE to take advantage of EVERY opportunity they may have to worship Him and to study His word. Why would anyone even claim to be a child of God and not desire such. Until a person has this desire he is in the same condition as Simon when he sought to buy the power of God with money. Peter told him that his *“heart is not right in the sight of God”* (Acts 8:21). When a person’s heart is right in the sight of God he will put God first in his life and he will truly worship Him and I know where that person will be when the saints assemble together to worship God! *✍ James Hahn*

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507