

What Think You of Christ?

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“Whom do men say, that the Son of man is.
Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter.

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Power, culture and piety in their noblest forms, pay homage at the feet of Jesus. Vincent.

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FOREWORD

THIS little booklet is prepared and sent forth with the hope that it may be the means of strengthening faith and confidence in the heart of the reader that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, the Redeemer of a lost race, the Savior of all who come to Him in faith.

The writer, in the preparation of these pages, desires to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the help received from a sermon by Dwight L. Moody, entitled, "What Think You of Christ?" and from the beautiful book, "The Man of Gallilee," by George R. Wendling. His humble prayer is that the perusal of these pages may be an aid in becoming acquainted with Christ, whom to know aright is life eternal.

G. B. T.

1. JESUS OF NAZARETH-WHOSE SON IS HE?

WAS Jesus of Nazareth the Son of God? Was His claim to be the promised Messiah true or false? Do you believe He is the Son of God? If so, what evidence can you give as proof? This is not only a general but a personal question, that every man must answer.

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He said unto them, But whom say you that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16: 13-16.

The text indicates that there were some at Jesus' first advent who rejected Him as the Messiah, claiming that He was only a man. They were willing to believe that He was a prophet raised from the dead, Elijah returned from heaven, or anybody except the Son of God, the world's Redeemer.

Much depends upon this question, "Whose Son is He?" The destiny of souls is at stake. Whether or not this lost world has a Redeemer is involved in the answer; for if Jesus was not what He claimed to be, we have no Savior. Jesus was either the Son of God, or He was not. There is no middle ground; there can be no compromise on the question.

The divinity of Christ is denied today, as it was also in the days of His earthly life in Judea. We must face this vital issue. On what is our faith in the Messiah ship of Christ founded? If we believe that Jesus, when manifested in the flesh on earth, was the Son of God and the Redeemer of a lost race, as He claimed to be, we should be able to bring forth incontestable and incontrovertible evidence with which to substantiate this great truth. I am glad the evidence of His deity and eternal Son ship can be produced.

It is related that a lawyer once told a judge he had a number of reasons why his client was not present in court. The first was, he was dead. The judge told him he need not state the others, as his first reason was sufficient. So here, I wish to set forth evidence of the Messiah ship of Christ under seven heads, any one of which is sufficient to settle the question:

1. The testimony of the prophets.
2. The testimony of personal power.
3. The testimony of His teaching.
4. The testimony of His own claims.
5. The testimony of His friends.
6. The testimony of His enemies.
7. The testimony of Christian experience.

The limits of this booklet will admit of but a brief consideration of each of these propositions. But the evidence in any one of them establishes His claim of being the Savior of the world, and brings to man the glorious hope of redemption through His name.

2. TESTIMONY OF THE PROPHETS

WE read in Genesis 3: 15 that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. Note the

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word, the “ seed “ of the woman. That is an uncommon expression, but full of evident meaning. Here was the prophetic promise of the Redeemer, and through all the Scriptures we find that promise emphasized, and the prophets of God looking forward to the time when He should be born, and giving details of His birth. Let us notice a few of these:

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.” Isaiah 7: 14. True to this prophecy, Jesus was born of a virgin. Then the place of His birth is foretold:

Thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5: 2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, as the prophet had written.

Not only was the very place where He was to be born named, but we are told that the One to be born there was He whose goings forth had been from “the days of eternity” (margin); in other words, that He was not merely human, but divine.

How He would be received was also foretold by holy seers: “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.” Isaiah 53: 3. This prophecy, like the other, was literally fulfilled. “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” John 1: 11.

The manner of His death was also a subject of prophecy: “They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10. This foreshadowed a death by crucifixion. This prophecy, likewise, was literally fulfilled.

The gambling for His seamless garment was foretold: “ They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.” Psalm 22:18. A prophet, hundreds of years before Christ was born, said that some would sit and cast the lot for HIS seamless coat. The literal fulfillment of these words is recorded in John 19: 23, 24.

And again, when Christ was dying on the cross, “that the Scripture might be fulfilled,” He said, “I thirst.” Notice the clause, “that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” A prophet had spoken these words: “They gave Me also gall for My meat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.” Psalm 69: 21. Christ used that very word, and in response to His implied request they offered Him drugged sour wine, literally fulfilling the Scriptures. Thus Jesus died exactly as a prophet of God had said He would.

The tomb in which the Son of God was to lie was mentioned: “He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He hath done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.” Isaiah 53: 9. In accurate fulfillment of the words uttered by the spokesman of the Lord more than five centuries before, He was laid in the tomb of an honorable counselor, Joseph of Arimathea, one of the rich men of Judea.

Mr. Arthur T. Pierson, in referring to the Bible, says: “Here is a book in which over three hundred converging rays meet in one perfect portrait of a man who did not appear on earth until at least three hundred years after the last prophet had laid down his pen. Yet in not one feature, however minute, does the portrait fail to predict the person.”

Jesus was born exactly as all the seers of God through all the centuries had predicted that He would be born, the manner, the place, and all the details being foretold centuries before the event. That He fulfilled accurately every prediction of the prophets of God, is convincingly attested by the four evangelists. Reader, this shows not only that He was a historic personage, but a divine Savior.

Suppose you should find in history somewhere a record giving the exact time of the birth of a certain man, the place where he lived, his occupation, how the people there regarded him. The length of his life, and the manner of his death; when he died, what his family said around his deathbed; when and where he was buried, and the kind of tomb in which his body was placed. If you should find such a record, would you not conclude that you had an accurate account of a real man? Most assuredly. So when the New Testament gives us a definite record of the birth, life, and death of Jesus of Nazareth, showing every detail to be a fulfillment of prophecy, we have incontestable proof, not only that He lived, but that His claim to be the Messiah is true.

3. TESTIMONY OF PERSONAL POWER

A STUDY of the life of Christ shows Him to have been more than an ordinary man. Millions of men have assailed Him. Millions are indifferent to Him, still He will not down. Shut the door in His face,

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yet He stands there and gently knocks. No power on earth can set Him aside as a factor in life. He cannot be eliminated. The aegis of His name has been used to shield countless crimes, countless hypocrisies, countless ambitions, still He does not fall. Cruel wars have prospered in His name, the horrors of religious persecution, the intolerance of sectarianism, the absurdities of the creed builders, still He will not down. Ecclesiasticism grows weaker, He grows stronger. Dogmas pass away, He abides. Churches grow corrupt, but the effulgence of His glory is not dimmed. At this very day, here in the twentieth century since His birth, more men and women gather about Him to touch the hem of His garment than in any age since He walked the shores of Galilee, more men and women love Him, love Him with an absorbing and passionate devotion, and in the single hour that has passed since the reader began these pages, a host of souls all over the world have faced death with a gentle smile and gone cheerfully into the Unknown, soothed by His surpassing love, and sustained in the sublime transition by His strange power.” – “The Man of Galilee,” George R. Wendling, Pages 107-109.

The ignoble traits common to humanity were not seen in the life of Christ.

“I see the crowd in Pilate’s hall, I mark their youthful mien.
Their shouts of ‘Crucify’ appall, With blasphemy between.”

Observe His bearing in scenes of great turbulence, and note that in the midst of a merciless rabble in Jerusalem, in the midst of His terror stricken disciples in a storm on the lake, amid the clamor and tumult of thousands stirred to the wildest commotion by His work of healing the sick and restoring the deaf and dumb and blind, before the judgment seat of Pilate with the roars of a vindictive mob ringing in His ears, amid a hundred scenes that would stir the blood and shake the nerves of the bravest man, the Great Galilean moves serenely and undisturbed, moves with the imperturbable calmness of an all powerful autocrat, moves with a coolness and a kingly poise never continuously seen under like circumstances in any hero that ever lived.”-Id., pp. 167-169.

Why was He so calm, so different from others? There is but one answer: He was not merely a man; He was the Son of God.

Though of royal lineage, Jesus was born in a small village, of humble parentage, the reputed son of a carpenter, and was Himself a carpenter. He attended no recognized school. He wrote no books. He had no stenographer to take down His words, that they might be preserved. Yet His words live. They are known throughout the world. Why is He known and honored above all the carpenters who lived in His or any other day?

Consider this man. Without friends, position, or education; a humble Nazarene carpenter, a despised Galilean teacher, a silent and patient sufferer; born in poverty and cradled in a wayside manger; dying in infamy and buried in a stranger’s grave. He exercised no authority, commanded no armies, fought no battles, captured no fortresses, conquered no foes. He held no offices, planned no improvements, sought no applause, received no emoluments, wrote no books, delivered no orations, won no laurels, and died in His early manhood a malefactor’s death, crucified between two thieves. And yet today what name on earth is known so widely as His? What man is so esteemed, and that by persons and communities whose homage is most worth possessing? Mighty nations are anxious for the honor of wearing His name, even though slow to heed His precepts. The history of the civilized world revolves about His person; and all its business transactions are dated with reference to His birth.” – “Israel’s Messiah”, - by H. L. Hastings, p. 31.

He owned no home of His own, He had nothing to bequeath to His relatives. He left only a seamless garment, for which the soldiers gambled as they sat at the foot of the cross as He was dying. For a few years He was a popular itinerant teacher, but was finally betrayed by one of His disciples, and died a victim of prejudice. Yet no king or great man of earth is known so widely as He. Why is this? There is only one explanation: He was the Son of God, and not a mere man.

In the British Museum is a stone called the Rosetta stone. For centuries men traveled through Egypt and looked at the carving and figures on the pyramids and tombs, wondering what they meant. Were they ornamentation or writing? It seemed to be settled that if they were writing, no man living could decipher them. But one day some of Napoleon’s soldiers dug up, at the mouth of the Nile, a stone. They washed it off, and found something written on it in three languages.

One of the languages was Greek, which many could read. Scholars arrived at the conclusion that the three languages stated the same thing, and that the Greek was a key to the other two. It took about twenty years to decipher the other two, but when deciphered they proved to be the key to all the writings on the pyramids, obelisks, and tombs of Egypt, so that today men read in hieroglyphics the history of Egypt,

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which had been hidden for thousands of years.

So with Christ. From the obscurity of a Galilean village He was brought forth to enlighten the world. He is the key that unlocks the great mysteries of the Bible. He throws light on all the altar services that for centuries were carried forward in the Jewish ritual. Though He was cradled in a manger, angels announced the good tidings, and His star guided the wise men to the place where He was born. His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection solved the great problem of man's redemption, justified his creation, and threw light on all the services that without Christ we should never be able to understand. Why is this? It is because He was God, and not man. It never can be explained on any other ground.

One writer has called attention to the fact that though Jesus had no servant, the wind and the waves obeyed Him. He had no money, yet He was able to send one of His disciples to the sea to bring up a fish and take money out of its mouth. Under His feet was no costly Mosaic or rich Persian rug, yet He had power to walk on water. He had no barn in which to store up food, yet He could multiply loaves and fishes to feed the multitude; and when the people had eaten to the full, His disciples gathered up more than they had at the beginning. He had no royal funeral, yet when He died, creation mourned, the sun hid its face. The rocks were rent, the earth quaked, and all nature was moved with grief. He had no grave of His own, yet the graves gave up their dead. The only explanation of all this is that He was the Son of the infinite God, one with the Father from eternity.

"Nineteen hundred years of investigation and relentless criticism confirm the verdict of His contemporaries. 'I have shed innocent blood,' was the last testimony of Judas, the betrayer and the suicide. 'I find no fault in this man,' calmly said the representative of the Caesars from his judgment seat. 'Have thou nothing to do with that just man,' said Pilate's wife; at His side a crucified criminal exclaimed with his dying breath, 'This man hath done nothing amiss'. And when all was over, a Roman centurion cried out, 'Surely this was a righteous man.'" – "The Man of Galilee," pp. 192, 193.

All this confirms the great truth that, though He was born a man, He was more than a man; He was God in the flesh.

THE BELOVED

O THOU in whose presence my soul takes delight
On whom in affliction I call,
MY comfort by day and my song in the night,
My hope, my salvation, my all!

His voice, as the sound of the dulcimer sweet,
Is heard through the shadows of death;
The cedars of Lebanon bow at His feet,
The air is perfumed with His breath.

His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow.
To water the gardens of grace;
From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know,
And bask in the smiles of His face.

He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
And millions wait for His word;
He speaks, and eternity, filled with His voice,
Re-echoes the praise of the Lord.
Joseph Swain.

4. TESTIMONY OF HIS TEACHING

THE teaching of Jesus shows Him to be more than a man. He was not educated in the schools of

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His time. He was not taught by the rabbis; He never sat at the feet of Gamaliel. But He taught the people as one having authority. His words shed a new and fresh luster upon the Word of God. Old truths were clothed with a new light. The purity and power of His teaching caused the chief priests and scribes to marvel, and say, "How knows this man letters, having never learned?" John 7: 15.

And more: He taught as no other teacher through all the subsequent centuries of light and progress has been able to teach. It is from the torch of truth in His hands that they have lighted their tapers. The teaching of the wisest of the ages, compared to the radiant light of the divine principles which He enunciated, is as the light of the candle before the rays of the sun at noonday. The study of His words through nearly nineteen centuries has led benighted millions into the light of civilization and progress; His words are known to the ends of the world. The holy influence of His teaching lifts men from the degradation and bondage of sin into the purity and freedom of the gospel. We renew the question of His enemies of nineteen centuries ago, "Whence hath this man this wisdom?" Matthew 13:54. He did not receive it from the religious teachers of His time, nor from the writings of any of the philosophers and wise men who had preceded Him. How did it come that such marvelous light, such divine illumination, was found in this humble teacher, this carpenter of Nazareth? There is but one explanation. It is because He was more than a man; He was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

THE BEATITUDES

He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5: 2-12.

5. TESTIMONY OF HIS CLAIMS

WHAT do the claims He put forth prove? I can call attention to only a few of these, but they contain the clearest evidence that He is the Son of God, and not an impostor, as some would have us believe. Listen to this: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28: 18. What would be thought of a man who would step out on the streets of some large city and announce that all power in heaven and earth was in his hands? He would be called a lunatic. An infidel once read this scripture, and said, - Why, anybody could sap that! " Yes, any man could say it. You and I could say it. But no one would believe us. But Christ said it, and millions believe and know it is the truth.

"All power!" Quite a claim, this. The power that holds the world in place, that guides the stars in their stately march through space; the power of electricity, the power of the tides, the power of the wind - all, He said, are in His hand. Not only all the angels in heaven obey Him, but He spoke to the wind; and there was a great calm. He summoned the dead from the tomb, and they came forth. While on earth He proved beyond question that He was able to make good all His claims, nor have ought of His promises

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failed since His return to heaven.

Notice another claim. "Which of you convinces Me of sin?" John 8: 46. Here Jesus puts forth a challenge to any man - Pharisee, publican, agnostic -any one, to find sin in HIM. That challenge has stood through all the centuries. There has never been a man able to disprove His implied claim to perfection of character. There is no man so far down the moral scale that he dare make the charge that Jesus sinned. This silence of His enemies is an admission that He lived without sin. He claimed perfection, and nobody has ever been able to find any fault in Him. This shows that He was not only a man, but God as well; for only God is without sin.

Here is another: "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden. and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Imagine a man of our time saying to the broken-hearted and weary, to all who suffer sorrow, affliction, trial, and heartache, "Come unto me, and I will give you rest." How preposterous such a claim would be! No one would believe him. The vain pretender would be pronounced a fool. Yet Christ made that claim, and there are millions who can testify that He has made good His claim. There are millions of all ages who could rise to their feet and say that Christ does give rest, for He has brought rest and peace to their souls. The martyrs at the stake had rest. A man cannot give rest, but Christ can and does. He gives rest and peace. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you." John 14:27. He had no money, no farm, no houses, to leave to His people, but He left them His peace, thank God! That is rest indeed, known and experienced by all who believe. But the being who can give peace and rest and comfort to weary souls is God, and not man. It does not prove anything for some skeptic to rise up and say, "He has never given me peace." That may be so, but that is no evidence that Christ has not given rest and peace to others. Millions have it, and rejoice in it.

Observe another claim: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10: 10. Christ's mission was to give life. The whole human family is struck with death. The bowed forms, the gray hair, the feeble bodies, the graveyards and tombstones everywhere, tell that we are marching to the tomb. Jesus said, Come unto Me and I will give you life. He went further even than this, and said, "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth." John 5: 28, 29. Beyond the grave there is a land of awful mystery and silence; yet He claimed to have power even there, power to raise the dead.

It would sound strange now for some one to stand on a street corner or in some hall, and announce, I give life and health to the sick! I raise the dead! Could he do it? No, indeed. But when Christ was here He demonstrated His power to do this. He walked up to the bier of the widow's son, and said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." "And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak." He came to the home of Jairus, where the daughter lay a corpse. He took her by the hand, and called, "Maid, arise." And life came into her, and she arose straightway.

Jesus stood by the tomb of Lazarus, after he had been dead four days, and said, "Take you away the stone." They rolled it back, and then Jesus looked up to His Father and said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou has heard Me." Then He said, "Lazarus, come forth." And he who had been dead obeyed and came forth from the tomb.

Only God could do that. Jesus has demonstrated that He can give life. And the same Christ who brought Lazarus out of the grave can and will bring all the dead out of their graves at the last day.

6. TESTIMONY OF HIS FRIENDS

THOUGH hated by some, Jesus has many friends. The late H. L. Hastings says, "He has never lacked friends during all these centuries. Friends of every nation, of every clime, of every color. Friends of every condition - in palaces and huts, in cottages and caves of the earth. Friends delving in mines; friends drying their nets in the fishing boats; friends tilling the soil; friends riding in high places; friends everywhere. Hundreds, thousands, millions, tens of millions." - "All Power," P. 7.

What a man's friends testify concerning him is evidence of the character he bears. One often hears the question asked, "What do his friends say about him?" Let us consider briefly what Christ's friends say about HIM.

Call John the Baptist to the witness stand. "John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with

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water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shall see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizes with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.” John 1:32-34.

So John bears a clear testimony that Jesus is the Son of God. And John was there. I would rather have the testimony of a man who was there than that of some skeptic who was not there.

Let Simon Peter bear witness. “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made that same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36. That is his testimony. No comment can make it clearer. He was a disciple, had been with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, and knew whereof he spoke.

Let John the apostle speak. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” Verse 14.

Ask Thomas, that great doubter. Thomas was one of those who boast, “I never believe anything until it is demonstrated. I must see for myself.” He was absent that night after the resurrection when Jesus appeared to the disciples. The disciples told him on his return that they had seen the Savior. Oh, he said, I can never believe that! You cannot make me believe that He who was dead was here in this room. “Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.” John 20: 25.

Eight days later, Christ appeared again. This time Thomas was present. Christ said to him, “Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.” Verse 27. Thomas was convinced. The evidence was so overwhelming that this great doubter was forced to exclaim, “My Lord and my God!”

Hearsay evidence had failed to convince Thomas. It took a personal interview to prove to him that Jesus was indeed risen from the dead. His testimony, therefore, is the more conclusive.

The apostle Paul says, “I know whom I have believed.” 2 Timothy 1:12. I am acquainted with Jesus. I met Him when on the way to Damascus, and this meeting convinced me that He is indeed the Son of God

Let the heavenly angels testify concerning the Messiahship of Christ. “There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:8-11. Angels from around the throne of God said that the babe born in the manger was Christ the Lord. Good evidence, is it not?

Last of all, what did His divine Father say concerning the One born in the flesh? We read that after He was baptized by John, Jesus came up out of the water and kneeled down on the bank of Jordan and prayed. He uttered a prayer that pierced heaven and brought forth a wonderful response. The Spirit of the Lord, in the form of a dove, was seen descending upon Him, and the voice of the Father was heard, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16,17. The Father Himself affirmed that the One who had just been baptized by John in Jordan was His Son. Surely no stronger statement, no more conclusive or convincing evidence, could be found to prove that Jesus is the Son of God than the statement of His Father.

7. TESTIMONY OF HIS ENEMIES

JESUS claimed to be the Son of God. Was He true, or was He a mere pretender? How did His general bearing and character impress those who saw and heard Him? We have heard from His friends: let us see how He impressed His enemies.

Favorable testimony by one’s enemies is perhaps more conclusive as to a person is standing and character than the testimony of his friends. It is quite natural for personal friends to bear favorable testimony concerning us; but not so with our enemies. Go to a neighborhood and inquire about a man, find some of his enemies, -those who hate him and will have nothing to do with him. If these speak favorably of him, it is pretty strong evidence of the good character of the man. Well, what did the enemies of Christ say about Him? Not all that they said can be submitted here, but we will call a few witnesses.

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First of all, let the Pharisees testify. The Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receives sinners, and eats with them." Luke 15:2. What is their charge? Oh, they say, He goes to the home of sinners and eats! That was their most damaging charge. I am thankful He still eats and drinks with sinners.

Again, some of the scribes and elders, beholding His sufferings on the cross, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save." This was the truth. Others said, "If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross." But if He had come down from the cross, He could not have redeemed man. To save men, He must needs bear the penalty of the law, which is death; and to fulfil the prophecy, He must die on the cross.

Observe, the scribes and Pharisees bring no charge against Him other than this, that He was the friend of the poor, the Savior of sinners.

Let us see what the most serious charge was that even Calaphas, the high priest, could bring against Jesus when He was arraigned before him. "The high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God." Matthew 26: 63. The height of Christ's offending seems to have been His claim that He was the Son of God. "Is it true that you are the Son of God, as you claim to be?" demanded the high priest. Christ's answer was, "Thou has said." That is, You have told the truth. I am indeed the Son of God. "Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall you see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Verse 64.

Calaphas will doubtless be among the wicked in the special resurrection spoken of in the Scriptures (Daniel 12:1,2), and will see the One whom he condemned, riding forth, followed by all the armies of heaven, to reap the harvest of the earth. He will see the One against whom he gave his voice, and helped to crucify, coming in the clouds of heaven, not as a helpless babe in the manger, but as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Let His trial Judge be called next. Ask Pilate what he has to say concerning Christ. The testimony of the judge who presides when a man is on trial for his life, given after all the evidence is in, is worth something. What did Pilate say? Listen! "Pilate therefore went forth again, and Said unto them, Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." John 19: 4. After he had heard the evidence he said, I am unable to find any fault in Him. Good testimony, this. It was not a mere man who thus impressed this proud judge and governor; it was Christ, the Son of God.

When the chief priest and officers still clamored for His crucifixion, Pilate said again, "Take you Him, and crucify Him: for I find no fault in Him." Verse 6. Then, you remember, the inscription put on the cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." When the Pharisees came along and looked at it, they said, "That looks bad! That says He is the King of the Jews. We will go and see Pilate and get Him to change it." So they looked up judge Pilate, and said to him, "Write not, The King of the Jews; but that He said, I am King of the Jews." just change a word or two in what you have written. He said to those Pharisees, "What I have written I have written." He knew the writing told the truth, and he did not propose to change it. But his confession came too late to save him from everlasting ignominy. What a pity Pilate did not have moral backbone earlier! He surrendered principle to save his office, but later lost it, and not only his office, but his life. But the testimony of the trial judge stands, "I find no fault in Him." And no one from Pilate's day to our time has found any fault in Him, in either word or act - no defect. We have also the testimony of Pilate's wife.

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him." Matthew 27:19. It would have been well if Pilate had listened to his wife. Her testimony was that Jesus was a -just man."

Then there is the testimony of the Roman soldier. When Christ was dying, and those about Him saw the earth quaking, the rocks rending, and all creation seeming to be shattering to pieces, the Roman centurion, shaking with fear, said, "Truly this was the Son of God." Matthew 27: 54.

It is further related that one Dionysius, who was standing near the cross when he saw these startling manifestations of nature, said, "Either the Deity is dying, or He is sympathizing with the sufferer."

Let now His betrayer, who sold his Master for thirty pieces of silver, make a statement concerning the Son of God. What does Judas say? As he threw down the money at the feet of the chief priests, he exclaimed, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Matthew 27:4. "Innocent blood!" Strong testimony, this. Had Judas believed Jesus to be an impostor, would he have spoken of Him as "innocent"?

What Think You of Christ?

Last of all, call the devils, the angels who fell, and let them bare witness. Listen to their marvelous statement: “The devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And He rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that He was Christ.” Luke 4: 41. These demons had seen Christ when they were yet in heaven, around the throne of God. Once they had bowed in adoration before Him; but they had lost their holy estate, and were now controlling wicked men. When commanded by Christ to depart, they said, “Thou art Christ the Son of God.” Though demons may influence others to deny Christ, they themselves know He is the Son of God. If the very demons of darkness admit His deity, let men beware how they reject the Crucified One.

Look again at this strong array of evidence from His enemies, the Pharisees, Caiaphas, Pilate, Pilate’s wife, the Roman soldier, Judas, the evil angels. All inferentially bear positive testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

8. TESTIMONY OF CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

WHAT does the regenerated heart in millions of human lives testify on this subject? In prayer Christ said, “Thou has given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou has given Him.” John 17: 2. Jesus claimed to have power over all flesh,” and that power is incontrovertible evidence of His son ship. Millions of redeemed souls can testify that through believing in Him a power came into their lives which delivered them from their own sinful flesh. . Many a drunkard can testify to the fact that when he believed in Christ a power came into his life that gave him victory over the terrible liquor habit. Thieves, and all kinds of criminals, have been converted and their lives reformed, and they have become clean, honest, upright men. They can bear witness to the fact that when they believed in Christ, a new power took possession of their hearts, delivering them from blasphemy, conquered their depraved appetites and passions, subdued the carnal nature, and gave them victory over the power of evil.

Ask the millions of martyrs who for Christ’s sake were mocked, scourged, stoned, sawn asunder, burned at the stake, fed to the wild beasts in the arena, slain with the sword. Who were dressed in sheepskins and goatskins, were destitute, afflicted, tormented. And who wandered in deserts, in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth, and they will testify to the redeeming power which came into their lives through faith in the Son of God who was crucified on Calvary.

“The most wonderful work in all the world is not to take iron, steel, and brass and make a locomotive; nor is it to take gold and diamonds and cogwheels and make a watch; nor is it to take canvas and colors and brush and paint an Angelus. Nor yet is it to take pen and parchment and write an Iliad or a Hamlet; but an infinitely greater work than all is to take an ignoble, cruel, impure, and dishonest being and transform him into an upright, gentle, noble, and pure man.” – “The Man of Galilee,” pp. 218, 219.

This is what faith in Jesus Christ does for the believer. It brings deliverance from sin, and God’s people in all generations can testify to the reality of this great truth. It is recorded of Napoleon that while he was on the island of St. Helena, he said to one of his generals:

“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but on what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour, millions of men would die for Him! I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth, to become food for worms. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep mystery and the eternal kingdom of Christ, which is proclaimed, loved, and adored, and is extending over the whole earth!” – “Points for Preachers and Teachers,” p. 42.

O glorious truth! Jesus has founded in the hearts of men a spiritual kingdom that conquers sin, subdues iniquity, purges away all transgression, purifies the soul, and gives men victory over temptation. Jesus has power, bless His holy name! Over all flesh. No mere man has this power, for all men are by nature slaves of sin. But those who believe in Jesus know by a blessed experience that a new power transforms their lives. Jesus bids all the ends of the earth look unto Him and receive salvation. And all who look, live. Truly, the one who can do this is not a man, but in very deed and truth the Son of the living God.

“Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name.” John 20:30,31.

What Think You of Christ?

OUR SACRIFICE

THE wonders of redeeming love Our highest thoughts exceed;
The Son of God comes from above, For sinful man to bleed.

He gives Himself, His life, His all, A sinless sacrifice.
For man He drains the cup of gall, For man the victim dies.

And now before His Father's face His precious blood He pleads;
For those who seek the throne of grace His love still intercedes.

He knows the frailties of our frame, For He has borne our grief;
Our great High Priest once felt the same, And He can send relief.

His love will not be satisfied Till He in glory see
The faithful ones for whom He died From sin forever free.

R. F. Cotirell

9. EMMANUEL

HOW conclusive is the evidence that the one whose name is Emmanuel is in very truth "God with us!" Matthew 1:23.

"He [Jesus] voluntarily assumed human nature. It was His own act, and by His own consent. He clothed His divinity with humanity. He was all the while as God, but He did not appear as God. He veiled the demonstrations of Deity, which had commanded the homage and called forth the admiration of the universe of God. He was God while upon earth, but He divested Himself of the form of God, and in its stead took the form and fashion of a man. He walked the earth as a man. For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He laid aside His glory and His majesty. He was God, but the glories of the form of God He for a while relinquished. Though He walked among men in poverty, scattering His blessings wherever He went, at His word legions of angels would surround their Redeemer, and do Him homage. But He walked the earth unrecognized, unconfessed, with but few exceptions, by His creatures. The atmosphere was polluted with sin and curses, in place of the anthem of praise. His lot was one of poverty and humiliation. As He passed to and fro upon His mission of mercy to relieve the sick, to lift up the depressed, scarce a solitary voice called Him blessed, and the very greatest of the nation passed Him by with disdain.

"Contrast this with the riches of glory, the wealth of praise pouring forth from immortal tongues, the millions of rich voices in the universe of God in anthems of adoration. But He humbled Himself, and took mortality upon Him. As a member of the human family, He was mortal; but as a God He was the fountain of life to the world. He could, in His divine person, ever have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but He voluntarily laid down His life, that in so doing He might give life and bring immortality to light. He bore the sins of the world, and endured the penalty which rolled like a mountain upon His divine soul. He yielded up His life a sacrifice, that man should not eternally die. He died, not through being compelled to die, but by His own free will. This was humility. The whole treasure of heaven was poured out in one gift to save fallen man. He brought into His human nature all the life giving energies that human beings will need and must receive.

Wondrous combination of man and God! He might have helped His human nature to withstand the inroads of disease by pouring from His divine nature vitality and undecaying vigor to the human. But He humbled Himself to man's nature. He did this that the Scripture might be fulfilled. And the plan was entered into by the Son of God, knowing all the steps in His humiliation, that He must descend to make an expiation for the sins of a condemned, groaning world." - Mrs. Ellen G. White, in *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1887.

What Think You of Christ?

Today, as truly as at His first advent, the Son of God is being rejected. In many pulpits His pre-existence is denied, His eternal Son ship discounted, His deity challenged. But let Him be exalted as God. Jesus was not a mere human teacher. He was the great I AM. He “came forth from the Father.” He “came down from heaven.” He was glorified with the Father “before the world was.” His name is “Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9: 6.

He who died on Calvary’s cross was before all things. He existed before the stars. It was through Him that the millions of worlds, the suns and systems that move in orderly procession around the throne of God, were created. “Without Him was not anything made that was made,” and He upholds all things by the word of His power.

And He through whom all things were created is the one who redeems us from sin, that blood washed through who will come from every kindred, tribe, and tongue. And though all created things may perish, He remains, clothed in honor, glory, and majesty, worshiped by the numberless host of angels and unfallen beings, and by the redeemed saints throughout the boundless ages of eternity.

Having borne the penalty of our sins, He has ascended to the place of exaltation and power at the right hand of His Father, where, as our great High Priest, He ever lives to make intercession for His people, and is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. Blessed Intercessor! Wonderful Savior!

JESUS FOREVER

“Jesus, and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of Thee?
Ashamed of Thee, whom angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days?”

“Ashamed of Jesus! That dear Friend
On whom my hopes of heaven depend?
No; when I blush be this my shame,
That I no more revere Us name.”