

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD

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The Gospel of Mark begins with this powerful declaration about who Jesus is: “The beginning of the gospel of *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*” (Mark 1:1). This *fact* about Jesus, that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is central to the New Testament, and is key to our eternity. John 3:16-18 says, “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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” For the sake of our eternity, we need to understand the reasons why we must believe that Jesus is God’s Son.

What Jesus said about himself

It is interesting that it was only on rare occasions that Jesus directly stated that he is the Son of God. The unbelieving Jews sought to kill Jesus for “making himself equal with God” in John 5:17-18. One Sabbath day, Jesus healed a blind man, and the man was cast out by the Pharisees for defending Christ against their false accusations (John 9:24-34). John 9:35-38 says, “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, *Dost thou believe on the Son of God?* He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, *Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.* And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him.” Prior to raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby” (John 11:4). Jesus was compelled by the High Priest to answer whether he was the Christ, the Son of God, and he answered in the affirmative (Matt 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62). Though he did not say it often, what Jesus said of himself is absolutely true.

Even the devils know

When Jesus commanded evil spirits to depart from two men in the country of the Gergesenes, the devils cried out in Matthew 8:29, “What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” There were many other times where the devils confessed exactly who Jesus is. Luke 4:41 says, “And 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.*” The devils do not have any doubt at all about the existence of God, that the Bible is His inspired word, and that Jesus Christ is His Son. The *know* all of these things are true. James 2:19-20 says, “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” The problem with the devils is not what they believe. Their problem is they refuse to obey. It is essential that we believe that Jesus is the

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(continued)

Son of God, but that faith must be a living faith, a faith that is demonstrated by works of obedience. In Luke 6:46, Jesus asks, “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*” Christ “became the author of eternal salvation *unto all them that obey him*” (Heb 5:9).

The Father has revealed His Son

When Jesus walked the earth, many confessed that they believed he was the Son of God (see Matt 14:33; Mark 15:39; John 1:49; 6:69; 11:27). How did all these people know this truth? In Matthew 16:16-17, Peter said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: *for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*” How did the Father reveal that Jesus is His Son? He stated to his future mother Mary through the angel Gabriel that Jesus would be “called the Son of God” (Luke 1:26-35). When Jesus was baptized of John in the river Jordan, “a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). When Jesus was transfigured in the mountain, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him*” (Matt 17:5). We have the testimony of the eyewitnesses to what God said to ensure us that we are not following “cunningly devised fables,” but rather have “a more sure word of prophecy” (2 Pet 1:16-19). John the Baptist is another prophet who testified that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. John said of Jesus, “*And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God*” (John 1:34). Jesus spoke of John’s testimony about him: “I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true” (John 5:32). Many Jews also recognized that “all things that John spake of this man were true. And many believed on him there” (John 10:41-42). More importantly, the Father testified that Jesus is His Son by the miracles that He performed through him. In John 5:36-37, Jesus said, “But I have greater witness than that of John: *for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me*” (see also John 10:24-39). Christ’s resurrection from the dead is the single greatest event which declares him to be the Son of God (Acts 13:32-33; Heb 1:4-5). Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was “*declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*” All of these things have been written in the New Testament so that we “might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31). Rejecting God’s witness is the same as calling God a liar (1 John 5:9-10). Believing that Jesus is the Son of God is the faith that will overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5).