

Next, we must recognize we are sinners. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23 We need God to redeem us from our sin. *"...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ..."* *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."*

Then, we must receive Christ by faith because salvation is a free gift that is received by His grace *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

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**WHO IS
JESUS?**

**Your eternal destiny
depends on how
you answer this question.**

Jesus is one of the most controversial figures in history. His identity is what separates all world religions. Some religions claim He is just a good man and a prophet, others say He is a created being; still others say He is the Son of God. Every major religion acknowledges Jesus; however, not all are right about who He is. If you are seeking the truth, the beginning of your search should be to know Jesus' true identity according to the Bible.

There is a common belief that all religions are the same; that we all worship the same God. That simply isn't true. In John 14:6 Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Jesus is THE WAY -- not a way. It is imperative to know the truth about Him.

Today, many people refer to Jesus as being the Son of God. This statement is Biblically correct. Unfortunately, many religious groups acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, but they mean something different. When you question them further, you find they believe He is a created being of some sort. To clearly convey what the Bible says about Jesus, we must recognize Him as GOD IN THE FLESH.

I John 2:22-23 reads: *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?...Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father..."* John 4:25-26 states the titles Christ and Messiah are synonymous. Jesus was telling the woman at the well that He was the Messiah.

In the Old Testament the Messiah's deity was foretold. Isaiah 7:14 tells us *"a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* In Matthew 1:23 we learn that the word Immanuel means *"GOD WITH US."* The child was to be called *"THE MIGHTY GOD"* according to Isaiah 9:6. In John 5:18 and 10:33 the Jews clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be God.

In John 8:58 Jesus referred to Himself as *"I Am"*. This is the same term that God used for Himself when He talked to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Acts 20:28 says God purchased the church *"with His own blood."* That could be true only if Jesus is God. In Mark 2:5-7 Jesus forgave sins, in Matthew 12:25 and Luke 6:8 He knew people's thoughts. He exhibited power over nature in Luke 8:24 and Matthew 14:25. Exodus 34:14 states, *"For thou shalt worship no other god."* Jesus received the worship of others in Matthew 14:33 and John 9:38.

Finally, in John 2:18-22 Jesus made the most astounding prediction of all time. *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* He prophesied that His body would be crucified, but in three days HE WOULD RAISE HIMSELF FROM THE DEAD. Jesus fulfilled His prophetic statement, something only God can do! Jesus clearly claimed to be God in the flesh. This means He was either a lunatic of epic proportions, or He is God! There is no middle ground. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, there is nothing more important than receiving Him as our Savior (John 1:12). First, we must acknowledge His deity, His death on the cross, and His resurrection. *"...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* I Corinthians 15:3-4