

1/4/17

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A friend who knows that you go to church asks you this question: "Who is Jesus?" How are you going to answer them? In our world today so many people don't know who Jesus. Oh, they know of Jesus, but they don't know Him. They do not have an intimate relationship like you do. So, they ask you, "Who is Jesus?" How are you going to answer them? Today's devotion will help you answer your friend's question.

On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. John 7:40-43

The crowds were divided. They could not come to any agreement regarding Jesus. Some thought he was the "Prophet" promised by God through Moses. Some thought he was the Christ, the one promised by God to set them free. Still others couldn't accept anything about Jesus because he didn't fit their understanding of the Scriptures. So, who is Jesus? It is a question for which I need an answer.

Today there are still many of the same beliefs and opinions about Jesus. Some people still believe he is a prophet, but only a prophet. Some still believe he was sent by God, but they stop short of believing he is God. There are even some who reject Jesus altogether because he does not conform to their ideas regarding the Savior they need. Unfortunately, all these opinions and beliefs end in conflict and confusion, and ultimately in eternal condemnation.

The only reliable answer comes from God's Word and is accepted through faith worked by the Holy Spirit. God's Word provides the clear truth regarding Jesus. Without hesitation or qualification, it proclaims Jesus is true God and true Man born of Mary. It also proclaims

Jesus is the Christ sent by God to suffer and die to pay the price for my freedom. It further proclaims Jesus is the victorious Savior who lives, rules and protects me with his unsurpassed power and undeserved love. It is faith which trusts everything the Bible says. It is finally faith which leads me to confidently confess Jesus is everything the Bible says he is.

The world may be full of opinions and beliefs regarding Jesus, but there is only one truth. It is the truth which saves, and it is the truth to which I must cling: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and my only Savior.

Prayer: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear. O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King, My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.

(Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal - 358)

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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