

*Now while the Pharisees were gathered, Jesus asked them a question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son, is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet"? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. (Mat 22:41-46)*

*Now it happened that as he was praying alone the disciples were with him; and he asked them, "Who do the people say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen." And he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Luk 9:18-22)*

*Then some scribes and Pharisees came to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. (Mat 12:38-42)*

Matthew 12:1-7; 22:37; Luke 24:36-44; John 14:6-11

Christian faith basically lives by its confession and belief in Jesus – he is Lord.

It ought to be apparent, and needing no defense, to state that the test of anything/everything that would be called Christian is its conformity to Jesus of Nazareth, called the Messiah/Christ. This historic person of late Second Temple Israel, who was crucified under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and was proclaimed risen from the dead, is the message and the reality of Christian teaching and faith.

Jesus is much more than a historic person, or the founder of the Christian belief. He is the life of all and each who are his. The Christian life is described in the words: "In Christ." The Christian's life is not his/her own. The true Christian is not his/her own. They are crucified with Christ – buried with him – and see themselves as new creation.

Jesus not only spoke the truth – he is the truth. All reality is in him. In his teaching Jesus is recorded as saying, "I am the Way, and I am the truth, and I am the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me." He is not just the liberator of the believer – Jesus himself is the very message of this faith. The believer is living in union with Jesus. Christian religion may create doctrines and truths around him, or to better define and explain him, but they are additions – the Kingdom is Jesus – authentic Christianity is Christ himself.

The Christian belief system holds that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." Jesus is seen and confessed as the incarnation of the One true God. Jesus is God made flesh – the eternal word of God proclaims his Godself in act and word.