

Men's Bible Journey

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, 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, by the original Christians, in the words: "In Christ." The Christian's life is not his/her own. These believers are more than followers of Jesus, they see themselves as crucified with Christ – buried with him in baptism– and they are (in the present time) an all new creation, risen and seated in the spiritual realm in Christ.

Jesus not only spoke the truth – he is the truth, for a Christian. 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 God as the Father except through me." He is not just the liberator of the believer – Jesus himself is the very message of this faith. 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 proclaim his self in act and word.

Romans 10:2-3 For I (Paul) testify about them that they (Israelites) have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing God's way of making people right with himself and seeking to establish their own (a religion about God but not from God), they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

1. The Christian is warned not to conform to human theories of wisdom. (Col2:8)
2. Only Christ can truly reveal God (Matt 11:27; John 3:31-36; 8:23-30; 7:16-17)
3. This knowledge of God comes through Christ within. (I Cor. 2:10-16)
4. This is the goal of true worship. (Rom 12:1-2)
5. To enter this life, we need an openness – free of inherited presuppositions. (Luke 5:36-39) We must not baptize a "worldview" too early.
6. Read Paul's letter to the Romans 10 in the light of Philippians 3:3-11.