

## JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

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### Intro: Who is Jesus Christ? Why does it matter?

- A. The identity of Jesus Christ is something we must all come to grips with.
- B. This question has been asked since Jesus was ministering here on earth. **Matthew 16:13-17**
- C. Our decision about the identity of Jesus will shape our views of this life and change how we live!

### I. Jesus makes the difference in how I view the Bible

- A. What is the Bible?
  1. The Bible is made up of 66 individual writings, written by more than 40 men, over a time period of about 2,500 years.
  2. The Bible claims divine inspiration. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
  3. Jesus is the primary character in the Bible. The Old Testament points to His coming, the gospels tell of His life, and the rest of the New Testament tells of His teaching and looks to His return.
- B. What did Jesus say about the writings that are found in the Bible?
  1. Jesus upheld all of the law of Moses in the Old Testament. **Matthew 5:17-19**
  2. Jesus established a new covenant with all of mankind as the old covenant was being fulfilled. **Matthew 26:28**
  3. Jesus authorized the apostles to carry His teaching throughout the entire world. **Matthew 28:18-20** We find these teachings in the rest of the New Testament.
- C. What does this mean for us?
  1. If Jesus is indeed the Son of God, then His word will never pass away. **Matthew 24:35**
  2. We will seek to do everything we do by the authority found in the teachings of Jesus and His apostles. **Colossians 3:17**

### II. Jesus makes the difference in how I view sin

- A. The reason Jesus came to earth was because of sin.
  1. From the very beginning, Jesus knew His purpose in coming to earth. **John 1:29**
  2. Jesus' mission was not to those who were already forgiven by God, but to those that were lost. **Luke 19:10**
- B. Jesus' teaching was for the purpose of our forgiveness from sin.
  1. Jesus spoke straight from the authority of God the Father, whose goal for us is eternal life with Him. **John 12:49-50**
  2. His teaching is and always has been for our ultimate good, both in this life and in the spiritual life to come. **Deuteronomy 6:24, John 10:10**

3. We should view His teachings with an attitude of love, just as He has given them with an attitude of love. **John 14:15**
- C. Jesus' love motivated Him to go to the cross for my sin.
  1. Jesus *willingly* sacrificed Himself for the sole purpose of our forgiveness. **John 10:11,17-18**
  2. In light of this sacrifice, our own sin should become wretched in our sight. **Romans 5:8**
  3. In order to receive Christ's forgiveness, we must die to sin! **Romans 6:4-7**

### **III. Jesus makes the difference in how I live my life**

- A. Jesus lived His life as an example for us, so that we would imitate Him.
  1. His life was selfless, from the manger to the cross. **Philippians 2:5-8**
  2. His life was one of servitude, and He compels us to do the same. **John 13:12-17**
  3. Jesus greatest area of example was in His love, which we are to imitate. **John 13:34-35**
- B. Our love for Him is tied directly to keeping His commandments
  1. The way in which we show our love is by keeping His commandments and staying within His authority. **John 15:12-15**
  2. We must examine the things we do, because not everyone who claims to serve Christ is doing His will. **Matthew 7:21-23**
  3. This is not merely "law-keeping", but instead "love-keeping". **John 14:15**
- C. The Christian life is one of trial and persecution, but also of comfort.
  1. Jesus made it very clear that his disciples would be persecuted. **John 15:18-20**
  2. Yet through these trials, Jesus has promised true peace. **John 16:33**
  3. The ultimate comfort Jesus promises us is the one of heaven. **John 14:1-6**
  4. These changes in perspective will change the way we think and act. **2 Corinthians 4:18**

### **Conclusion: Jesus makes the difference when this life is over.**

- A. Jesus' teachings, found in the Bible, will be the standard on Judgment day. **John 12:48**
- B. The only thing that will matter when this life is over is whether we are guilty of sin, or we are forgiven.
- C. Our actions will be taken into account as a testament of our obedience and love for God. **1 Corinthians 5:10**

**Above all, we observe the love that Christ has displayed for us (Romans 5:8), and live our lives as a display of our love for Him.**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

**Jesus makes the difference!**