

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

## Lesson 1, Part 1 Christ and His Church

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:13-19 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He *began* asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the SON OF MAN is?”<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> He *said* to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.<sup>18</sup> “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.<sup>19</sup> “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

This is a very significant passage for two reasons

1. This is the first time “church” is mentioned.
2. The Lord gives His disciples a final exam.

#### A. The most essential question ever asked.

First question “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

The disciples response

14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

## 1. True salvation is more rare than we think.

Matthew 7:13-14 13“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**Wide gate** - All \_\_\_\_\_

### Jesus describes discipleship

Matthew 16:24–26 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, (sacrifice / self-denial) and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

**Who finds the wide gate?** \_\_\_\_\_

**The wide gate leads to** \_\_\_\_\_ (Hell)

**Narrow gate** - True \_\_\_\_\_

**Who finds the narrow gate?** \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

1. **It goes against man's** \_\_\_\_\_.

Man is wired to understand that blessings and rewards come from hard work.

2. **False religion is** \_\_\_\_\_  
**promoted.**

Isaiah 14:13–14 “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High.**’

**The narrow gate leads to** \_\_\_\_\_ (Heaven)

**So what can we learn from this?**

The vast majority of religious people who claim to be Christians are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Essential truths about the gospel.**

When Jesus asks the question in verse 13 He refers to Himself as who?

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the son of man is?”

\_\_\_\_\_ (most common title)

What does that title emphasize? \_\_\_\_\_

The title Son of Man emphasizes His earthly mission (Incarnation).

Philippians 2:1–8 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

## Jesus asks His disciples the same question.

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

What does this title emphasize? \_\_\_\_\_

So in this short dialogue Jesus is revealed be both human and God.

### **A. There are three realities that we must know about Jesus Christ.**

#### **1. We must believe that Jesus is truly \_\_\_\_\_.**

1 John was written ... that we might know ... we have eternal life

1 John 4:2 <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

#### **2. We must believe that Jesus is truly \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Peter’s answer ... was correct ... Jesus is the Son of the living God**

1 John 4:15 <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

## 3. Although implied, we must believe that Jesus is

\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 10:9 <sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

## B. Salvation cannot be attained without a proper \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel.

Romans 10:1-3 <sup>1</sup>Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. <sup>2</sup>For I testify about them that they have a **zeal for God**, but **not in accordance with knowledge**. <sup>3</sup>For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

### Implication

## 1. The first step in choosing a church is to examine its

\_\_\_\_\_.

**ANSWERS:** religions, Many, destruction, Christianity, Few, intuition, satanically, life, deceived, Son of Man, Humanness, Son of God, Deity, man, God, Lord, understanding, Christology