

Life's Biggest Question

November 13, 2011 ~ Tim Carter

A Quick Review

- Paul is in prison when writing.
- He is writing to some dear friends – the church at Philippi.
- He has just commended Timothy and Epaphroditus in this letter because they were living like Paul had asked the Philippians to live.
- He is now warning the Philippians because there are Judaizers who are teaching that Jesus is not quite enough and that Christians can only be “perfect” if they listen to and obey the Judaizers.
- Paul tells the Philippians that he is righteous before God because of Jesus and not because of anything else.

Philippians 3:12-16

From the Start...

- There were religious people like the Judaizers who told people that Jesus was not enough to save.
- There were religious people like the Gnostics who taught people that Jesus was a good person but not really God.
- There were religious people who completely denied, ignored, or opposed Jesus.

Paul's View of Religion

- Religion is man's attempt to make himself right with God by following precepts/rules carefully, by relying on heritage, and/or by doing good works.
- Religion *may* contain moral, social, and ethical goals within itself, but it does not have the power to make one right with God.
- Religion lessens Jesus by adding requirements to what he has done or lessens Jesus by subtracting from who he actually is.

What Will You Do with Jesus?

- Jesus said in Matt. 25 that he would return to judge the nations (something only God could do).
- Jesus forgave a man from his sins in Mark 2:7 (something only God could do).
- Jesus said in Mark 14:62 that he would return in the clouds of glory (something only God could do).
- Jesus said in John 2:19 that he is the temple of God (the dwelling of God).
- Jesus said in John 4:14 that he can give eternal life (something only God can do).
- Jesus said in John 6:35 that he is the Bread of Life that came down from heaven.
- Jesus said in John 8:58-59 that he is God (before Abraham was, I AM).
- Jesus said in John 14:6 that he is *the way*, *the truth*, and *the life* and that no one could come to the Father except through him.
- Jesus said in Acts 9:5 that he is the Lord.
- Jesus said in Revelation 1:8 that he is the Alpha and Omega.

- Jesus said in Revelation 22:16 that he is the Root and the Offspring of David and the Bright Morning Star.
- Jesus said in Revelation 22:13-14 that he is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, and the Alpha and the Omega.

Paul Discovered that this Jesus would...

- Justify him.
- Sanctify him.
- Someday Glorify him.

What Will You Do with Jesus?

- Will you let him justify you (making you right with God) by committing your life to him?
- Will you let him sanctify you by allowing his word and his Spirit to make you more like him?
- Will you look forward to his return when he will glorify you?