

Why I Believe That Jesus Is The Christ - The Son Of God

Intro:

- A. Christianity is not a collective faith - but an individual faith ---- ie. **Romans 10:17** - the hearing is not in the collective but individual "hearing".
 1. We see the very same thing in **Matthew 16:13** - who do the "masses" say that I am? ---- but who do "YOU" say that I am? Was essentially what Christ here is asking?
 - a. His question was not to the agreed upon collective faith - but to the individual faith.
 2. In like manner - if I asked you "Why Do YOU believe that Jesus is the Christ - the Son of God - would your answer be in the collective "faith" of this congregation or would it be "YOUR" faith - "YOUR" conviction.
 - a. **John 20:30-31** - John states that the things written in this book are there to produce faith that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God - but notice the "YE" in both the faith statement and the eternal life statement here.
 - b. The life eternal is not a collective but an individual - thus the faith is individual not collective.
 - B. We understand that the faith is "ONCE FOR ALL" - **Jude 3** given unto all men and that based on the evidence we can each share in the faith of each other based on the "COMMON" faith - as in **John 6:66-69** - here the word "WE" is used in the collective manner - "BUT" we can see from the context that collectively and individually many to not remain faithful. WHY?
 1. What I am going to affirm here today is true in every place at any given point of time both in the past as well as in the future.
 - a. No one will every go to Heaven on the coat tails of another's faith!!!
 - b. Children - young folk - you will not get to Heaven on your parents faith! Listen to what I am here saying - you may have grown up in the church, even been baptized - but when the rubber meets the road - do you know WHY?
 2. As we look around and see so many of our young folks here (ones that we have watched grow and have personally taught and love) get ready to move on into a new part (stage) of their lives and leave home to become mature adults - I ask you this question - "ARE YOU READY TO STAND ON YOUR FAITH?"
 - a. What I have seen in years of preaching is that we are losing our young because they believe but they don't have a personal faith!
 - C. It is with this in mind that I am going to share with you a true account in my personal life - when my mother said - "Go visit with your friends, see what they are doing spiritually - BUT - you must write down what you see and then find the scriptures to go along with it.
 1. This was a turning point in my life ---- I had not been to any other church, had not been to any other service except that of the church.
 2. I knew what "we" believed - but this was a cross roads for me - because it was not what "WE" believed but what "I knew and what I believed" the scriptures to teach that I made the conviction to "Hold Fast the words of TRUTH."
 - D. As we examine the topic set before us today - we must both collectively and individually understand that this "Jesus" - who I believe in, is a Historical figure! I affirm this from the standpoint not of sight (I have never seen Jesus) - ie. This same fact is essential to any and all historical figures - ie. Washington, Napoleon, Churchill, Hitler, Julius Cesar etc.
 1. But - There is MORE THAN ENOUGH historical evidence to prove Jesus existed
 - a. The Bible as historical evidence -
 - b. There is non-Biblical evidence -
 2. This is the evidence that I am going to appeal to today - to show you all - what convinced me of this truth - JESUS is the CHRIST!
 - E. My faith is not a "BLIND FAITH" it is not "MY Mothers or Fathers FAITH" - it is "MY FAITH"

based upon the evidence - of personal study, personal research and personal conviction and commitment.

1. I will appeal to you that you must do the same and like Daniel as a young man and as an aged man - we can see our faithfulness in all things as pertains to God, whether with family or in the home or in the world separated from those we love.
2. This is knowledge - faith based in faith established of our own convictions.

II. **THE HISTORICAL JESUS** - this segment is from secular sources (not all are Christians - some staunch enemies of the Cross)

- A. In the Historical Jesus {Ancient Evidence For the Life of Christ} by **Gary R. Habermas** - "Dr. Gary Habermas, an American Christian apologist, theologian, and philosopher of religion, he writes that "approximately eighteen non-Christian, extra biblical sources mention more than one hundred facts, beliefs, and teachings from the life of Christ" - (Did Jesus Rise From The Dead? The Resurrection Debate, p. 43).
1. Not that he states "over 100 facts" ---- this is evidence, in a court of law this is what would convince the jury!
- B. **Gaalyah Cornfield**, Jewish scholar, - "Modern archaeology and scholarship have now established beyond all doubt that a man known as Jesus certainly did exist in history and that the criticism of the skeptics was ill founded ... We are today able to assert beyond a shadow of a doubt that the historical Jesus existed" (The Historical Jesus, A Scholarly View of the Man and His World, pgs. 11-12).
- C. **Flavius Josephus**, - "He (Annas the Younger) convened a judicial session of the Sanhedrin and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ -- James by name -- and some others, whom he charged with breaking the law and handed over to be stoned to death." - (Antiquities 20.200)
1. Flavius Josephus, - "Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those who loved him at the first did not forsake him,
 2. "for he appeared to them alive again at the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and 10,000 other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, is not extinct at this day." - (Antiquities 18.63-64)
- D. The **Talmud**, - On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged. For forty days before the execution a herald went forth and cried, "He is going to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf." But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of Passover. - Sanhedrin 43a
- E. Jesus] of having "invented his birth from a virgin," and upbraids Him with being "born in a certain Jewish village, of a poor woman of the country, who gained her subsistence by spinning, and who was turned out of doors by her husband, a carpenter by trade, because she was convicted of adultery; that after being driven away by her husband, and wandering about for a time, she disgracefully gave birth to Jesus, an illegitimate child, who having hired himself out as a servant in Egypt on account of his poverty, and having there acquired some miraculous powers, on which the Egyptians greatly pride themselves, returned to his own country, highly elated on account of them, and by means of these proclaimed himself a God."...
1. **Celsus**, - "'Jesus, they say, was sent to save sinners; was he not sent to help those who have kept themselves free from sin? They pretend that God will save the unjust man if he repents and humbles himself. The just man who has held steady from the cradle in the ways of virtue He will not look upon.'" - (175 AD)

- F. In the **Annals of the Histories - Cornelius Tacitus**, Annals 15.44 - written in the 2nd century A.D. But neither the aid of men, nor the emperor's bounty, nor propitiatory offerings to the gods, could remove the grim suspicion that the fire had been started by Nero's order. To put an end to this rumor, he shifted the charge on to others, and inflicted the most cruel tortures upon a group of people detested for their abominations, and popularly known as "Christians" . . .
1. Annals 15.44 - written in the 2nd century A.D. - . . . Their name came from one Christus, who was put to death in the principate of Tiberius by the Procurator Pontius Pilate. Though checked for a time, the destructive superstition broke out again, not in Judaea only, where its mischief began, but even in Rome, where every abominable and shameful iniquity, from all the world, pours in and finds a welcome."
- G. **Mara bar Serapion**, - Letter to Son Serapion ---- "What advantage did the Athenians gain from putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as a judgment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that their kingdom was abolished. . . .
1. . . . God justly avenged these three wise men: the Jews, ruined and driven from their land, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates did not die for good; he lived on in the teaching of Plato. Pythagoras did not die for good; he lived on in the statue of Hera. Nor did the wise king die for good; he lived on in the teaching which he had given."
- H. **Pliny the Younger**, - Letters to Trajan ---- . . But they declared that the sum of their guilt or error had amounted only to this, that on an appointed day they had been accustomed to meet before daybreak, and to recite a hymn antiphonally to Christ, as to a god, and to bind themselves by an oath, not for the commission of any crime but to abstain from theft, robbery, adultery and breach of faith and not to deny a deposit when it was claimed. . . .
- I. Epitome from **Church History of Agapius (Arabic)** ---- "At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. . . ."
1. ". . . And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders."
- J. **Lucian, - the Greek satirist, AD 170** ---- "The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day - the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account... You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, . . ."
1. ". . . which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed upon them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws."
- K. This is not an exhaustive listing but sufficient to establish this fact - JESUS was a historical figure - not the figment of some religious groups imagination.
1. We want to turn our attention now to the second part of "My FAITH" - that this Jesus (a historical figure IS "THE CHRIST - THE SON OF GOD" - not just some man but the SAVIOUR of my SOUL.
 2. For this we will now turn our attention to the Scriptures!

III. **WHY I Believe Jesus is the CHRIST!**

A. The **PROPHESED JESUS**

1. Jesus said that the **scriptures testified of Him** – (**John 5:39**)(NKJV) ---- 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.
2. The Law **was a tutor** to bring us to Christ – (**Gal. 3:24**)(NKJV) ---- 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
3. The OT **scriptures produced faith** in Christ for Timothy – (**2 Tim. 3:15**)(NKJV) ---- 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
4. The **prophets confirmed** Jesus as the Messiah – (**2 Pet. 1:16-21**)(NKJV) ---- 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. **The Lineage of the Messiah:**
 - (1) **Seed of woman** (**Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4**).
 - (a) **Genesis 3:15** (NKJV) - 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
 - i) **Galatians 4:4** (NKJV) - 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
 - (2) **Seed of Abram** (**Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16**).
 - (a) **Genesis 12:3** (NKJV) - 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 - i) **Galatians 3:16** (NKJV) - 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.
 - (3) **Tribe of Judah** (**Gen. 49:10; Heb. 7:14**).
 - (a) **Genesis 49:10** (NKJV) - 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.
 - i) **Hebrews 7:14** (NKJV) - 14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.
 - (4) **House of David** (**Isa. 11:1; Acts 13:23**).
 - (a) **Isaiah 11:1** (NKJV) - 1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
 - i) **Acts 13:23** (NKJV) - 23 From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—
 - (5) **Divine in nature** (**Mic. 5:2; Jn. 1:1-2**).
 - (a) **Micah 5:2** (NKJV) - 2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”
 - i) **John 1:1-2** (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - (6) **Equal to God** (**Zech. 13:7; Phil. 2:6**).
 - (a) **Zechariah 13:7** (NKJV) - 7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will

be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

- i) **Philippians 2:6** (NKJV) - 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
- b. **Main Events In His Life:**
 - (1) **Announced by a harbinger** (**Mal. 3:1; Matt. 11:10**)
 - (a) **Malachi 3:1** (NKJV) - 1 “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.
 - (b) **Matthew 11:10** (NKJV) - 10 For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’
 - (2) **Anointed prophet, priest, and king** (**Deut. 18:15-18; Zech. 6:13; Heb. 1:1; 5; Rev. 1:5**)
 - (a) **Deuteronomy 18:15-18** (NKJV) - 15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ 17 “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.
 - (b) **Zechariah 6:13** (NKJV) - 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”
 - i) **Hebrews 1:1** (NKJV) - 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
 - ii) **Hebrews 1:5** (NKJV) - 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?
 - iii) **Revelation 1:5** (NKJV) - 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
 - (3) **Began work in Galilee** (**Isa. 9:1; Matt. 4:12**)
 - (a) **Isaiah 9:1** (NKJV) - 1 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.
 - i) **Matthew 4:12** (NKJV) - 12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.
 - (4) **Mission confirmed by miracles** (**Isa. 35:5; Acts 10:38**)
 - (a) **Isaiah 35:5** (NKJV) - 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
 - i) **Acts 10:38** (NKJV) - 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
 - (5) **Life of sorrows** (**Isa. 53:3; Matt 26:36ff; Acts 8:32**)
 - (a) **Isaiah 53:3** (NKJV) - 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
 - i) **Acts 8:32** (NKJV) - 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led

as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

(6) **Rejection by Jews (Isa. 53:1-3; Jn. 1:11)**

(a) **Isaiah 53:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

i) **John 1:11** (NKJV) - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

c. **BETRAYAL and TRIAL:**

(1) **Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; Matt. 27:3)**

(a) **Zechariah 11:12** (NKJV) - 12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

i) **Matthew 27:3** (NKJV) - 3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

(2) **Unjustly tried (Isa. 53:8; Matt. 26:59-68; 27:22,23)**

(a) **Isaiah 53:8** (NKJV) - 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

i) **Matthew 26:59-68** (NKJV) - 59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, 60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" 62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" 64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

ii) **Matthew 27:22** (NKJV) - 22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

a) **Matthew 27:23** (NKJV) - 23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

(3) **Demeanor during trial (Isa. 53:7; Mt. 26:62-63)**

(a) **Isaiah 53:7** (NKJV) - 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

i) **Matthew 26:62-63** (NKJV) - 62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

- (4) **Suffering abuse (Isa. 50:6; Mt. 26:67)**
- (a) **Isaiah 50:6** (NKJV) - 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.
 - i) **Matthew 26:67** (NKJV) - 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,
- d. **HIS CRUCIFIXION and BURIAL & Resurrection**
- (1) **Died for sins of others (Isa. 53:5)**
- (a) **Isaiah 53:5** (NKJV) - 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
- (2) **Clothing divided (Psa. 22:18; Jn. 19:23)**
- (a) **Psalms 22:18** (NKJV) - 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.
 - i) **John 19:23** (NKJV) - 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.
- (3) **Numbered with transgressors (Isa. 53:12; Jn. 19:17-18)**
- (a) **Isaiah 53:12** (NKJV) - 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.
 - i) **John 19:17-18** (NKJV) - 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.
- (4) **Buried with rich (Isa. 53:9; Jn. 19:39-42)**
- (a) **Isaiah 53:9** (NKJV) - 9 And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
 - i) **John 19:39-42** (NKJV) - 39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. 40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.
- (5) **Resurrected (Isa. 53:10; Acts 2:29-32)**
- (a) **Isaiah 53:10** (NKJV) - 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.
 - i) **Acts 2:29-32** (NKJV) - 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.
- (6) **Ascended into heaven (Psa. 68:18; Eph. 4:8)**
- (a) **Psalms 68:18** (NKJV) - 18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the Lord God might dwell there.

- i) **Ephesians 4:8** (NKJV) - 8 Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”
5. THE **WEIGHT of Fulfilled Prophecy**:
- Jesus fulfilled approximately 330 prophecies -
 - The probability of any man fulfilling eight prophecies has been calculated as 1 in 10 to 17th power (100,000,000,000,000,000)!
 - The probability of fulfilling just 48 prophecies is one in 10 to 157th power! - Peter Stoner
6. MY FAITH IS **BASED ON EVIDENCE!**
- B. THE **APOSTOLIC WITNESS**: The Apostles claimed to be “EYEWITNESSES” of His life, Death and RESURRECTION
- Peter - Acts 10:39-42; 2 Peter 1:16-18**
 - Acts 10:39-42** (NKJV) - 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.
 - 2 Peter 1:16-18** (NKJV) - 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
 - John – Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 1:1-3**
 - John 1:14** (NKJV) - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - 1 John 1:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - Paul – Acts 22:6-10; 26:12-19**
 - Acts 22:6-10** (NKJV) - 6 “Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ 8 So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ 9 “And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. 10 So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.’
 - Acts 26:12-19** (NKJV) - 12 “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things

which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' 19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

4. **All of the apostles – Acts 1:1-4;**

a. **Acts 1:1-4** (NKJV) - 1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5. **Over 500 others - 1 Cor. 15:3-8**

a. **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** (NKJV) - 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

6. The **Significance** of this:

a. **The apostles by their testimony force us to make a decision – 1 Cor 15:12-15; John 20:30,31**

(1) **1 Corinthians 15:12-15** (NKJV) - 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

(2) **John 20:30** (NKJV) - 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

(a) **John 20:31** (NKJV) - 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

b. **Were they eyewitnesses, or false witnesses? - 1Cor 15:14-15; 2Peter 1:16-18**

(1) **1 Corinthians 15:14-15** (NKJV) - 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

(2) **2 Peter 1:16-18** (NKJV) - 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

c. **Why would men suffer extreme hardship, persecution, and martyrdom for a lie? 1 Cor. 15:18,19**

(1) **1 Corinthians 15:18** (NKJV) - 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

- (2) **1 Corinthians 15:19** (NKJV) - 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
- d. **Jesus is everything they claimed!**
- (1) Jesus is the **Son of God** - **Rom 1:4**
 - (2) Jesus is **God in the flesh** – **John 1:1-3,14; Phil. 2:5-10**
 - (a) **John 1:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - (b) **John 1:14** (NKJV) - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - (c) **Philippians 2:5-10** (NKJV) - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
 - (3) He **died for our sins** – **Matt. 26:28**
 - (a) **Matthew 26:28** (NKJV) - 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - (4) **Was resurrected** and has all authority in heaven and earth - **Mt 28:18; Acts 2:36**
 - (a) **Matthew 28:18** (NKJV) - 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 - (b) **Acts 2:36** (NKJV) - 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
 - (5) He **went to prepare a place for us** - **Jn 14:2**
 - (a) He shall come again - **Jn 14:3**
 - (b) No one can come to the Father but through Him - **Jn 14:6**
 - (6) There **will be a resurrection of the dead** and ensuing judgment - **Jn 5:28-29; 12:48**
 - (a) **John 5:28-29** (NKJV) - 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.
 - (b) **John 12:48** (NKJV) - 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

IV. In Conclusion:

- A. It is with this evidence and so much more - but time will not allow us to cover in this lesson - That “I JOHN CRIPPS” - am convinced and convicted that “JESUS IS THE CHRIST - THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD”
- B. I along with all others who will commit themselves to the search for TRUTH - will come to the very same conclusion that those who remained and followed Jesus came to so many years ago - **John 6:66-69** (NKJV) - 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

C. So Why Believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God!

1. The Historical Jesus –
2. The Prophetic Witness –
3. The Apostolic Witness –
4. The Practical Evidence -

D. Can we help you PUT your faith in JESUS into CONVICTION today - by surrendering you heart and life to full obedience to HIS and the FATHER'S WILL.