

The Great Confession

(Matthew 16:13-16)

“The ultimate question that every human being must face is, ‘Who is Jesus Christ?’ A person’s answer is of the most monumental importance, because on it hinges his eternal destiny. It is a question that no one can escape or avoid. Every soul, as it were, will be pinned against the wall of eternity and forced to answer that question.”

— J. MacArthur

“Christianity is Christ. But to know Jesus we must understand two great things about Him: who He is and what He did. In theological textbooks, these two points are referred to as the person of Christ and the work of Christ. They emerge here in Matthew 16 explicitly for the first time.” – J. Boice

**“You are THE Christ, THE
Son of THE God, THE Living
One.”**

I. Christ claimed to be God.

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- II. OT presents the coming Messiah as more than a mere man.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

- I. Christ claimed to be God.
- II. OT presents the coming Messiah as more than a mere man.
- III. If Christ is not deity, you are not saved!

“Faith in the deity of Christ is necessary to being a Christian. It is an essential part of the New Testament gospel of Christ. Yet in every century the church has been forced to deal with people who claim to be Christians while denying or distorting the deity of Christ. At the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, the church, in opposition to the Arian heresy, declared that Jesus is begotten, not made, and that His divine nature is of the same essence with the Father. This affirmation declared that the Second Person of the Trinity is one in essence with God the Father. That is, the “being” of Christ is the being God. He is not merely similar to Deity, but He is Deity.” – R.C. Sproul

“The first and most important thing any person needs to understand about Jesus is that He is the Son of God, ‘very God of very God,’ as one of the ancient creeds puts it. That is because the value of His work, dying for sin, depends on who He is. If He is not God, His death would have no more value than any other person’s death. But because He is God His death has infinite value and is able to take away sins.” – J. Boice

“I’ve grown up in the church.
There has never been a time that
I haven’t loved the Lord. God has
done so many wonderful things in
my life.”

“I’m a Christian. I have been baptized and I do my best to live a good life. I’m not perfect but I know God is forgiving.”

“The doctors told me I had a year or less to live. I’m not a praying man but I asked the Man upstairs to heal me. I know He heard me. I believe there is a God in heaven.”

“I can’t tell you the exact time when I did it but I’m here to tell you that I walked that aisle and gave my life to the Lord. It was the hardest thing I ever did and I don’t know why it took so long but I went forward and got myself saved.”

“You bet I’m a Christian! I’m a man of faith. You gotta have faith and you gotta walk the narrow path. It ain’t easy but God will help you.”

“Of course I’m a Christian. My husband and I are founding members of the Lutheran Church. I have taught Sunday School for over 30 years. If anyone is saved, I am.”

“My mother helped me to pray the sinner’s prayer when I was 8 years old. I told her I was afraid to die and we knelt down at bedside and she helped me pray the prayer.”

“I was into drugs and booze big time. One night I told God if He would deliver me from the condition I was in, I would go to church and do my best to be a good person. I went to the first church I could find and they prayed for me. My life has been so much better.”

“I think I’m saved because I have done the best I can to be kind to others, help others who need help and seek to live the 10 Commandments.”

“I’ll tell you how I know I’m a Christian. I’m not like other people, swindlers, unjust, adulterers or those who work for the IRS. I fast weekly and tithe everything.” (Luke 18:11 & 12)

“A right confession of who Jesus is, and what He has done, is basic to salvation.” – W. Wiersbe

Acts 4:12

¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Romans 10:9 & 10

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,