

Sermon ~ Sunday

Text: Matthew 16: 13-17 (KJV and Amplified Classic Version)

Title: WHO is JESUS to You?

King James Version

- v. 13 “When **JESUS** came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, **HE** asked **HIS** disciples, saying,
Whom do men say that I The Son of man am?
- v. 14 And they said, Some *say* that **THOU art** John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.
- v. 15 **HE** saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I **AM**?**
- v. 16 And Simon Peter answered and said **THOU art The CHRIST, The SON of The Living GOD**.
- v. 17 And **JESUS** answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but **MY FATHER** which is in heaven.”**

Amplified Classic Version

- v. 13 “Now when **JESUS** went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, **HE** asked **HIS** disciples,
Who do people say that The Son of man is?”
- v. 14 And they answered, “Some say John the Baptist; other, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or [just] one of the prophets.”
- v. 15 HE said to them, **“But who do you say that I **AM**?”**
- v. 16 Simon Peter replied, **“YOU are The CHRIST (The MESSIAH, The ANOINTED ONE, the Prophets said would come, The Only ONE WHO can Save), The SON of The Living GOD!”**
- v. 17 Then **JESUS** answered him, **“Blessed [Happy, Spiritually Secured, Favored by **GOD**] are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood (mortal man, human seed, heredity) did not reveal this to you, but **MY FATHER WHO** is in heaven.”**

WHO is JESUS to You?

In our text, we have the “*test*” question which *must* be *first* asked to everyone, who *enters* into **The Assembly of The LORD**—**WHO is JESUS to You?**
The first question to be asked of those who are “*born* into **The Body of CHRIST, The Church**, [this is the earliest mentioning of The Church in the NT] ... (Matthew 16: 18, “And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, *petros*—*a large piece of rock*], and on **This ROCK** [Greek, *PETRA*—a huge **ROCK**, bigger than Gibraltar] I will build **MY Church**, and the gates of hell [Hades] (the powers of the infernal region) shall not prevail [overpower it or be strong to its detriment, or hold out against it], is, **“What thinkest thou of JESUS?”**

You cannot be *right* in the rest unless you think (believe rightly) of **HIM**. If you do not begin aright with **JESUS, The CHRIST, The SON of The Living GOD**, you will not go on aright, and *your coming in, your joining, your belonging too*, of any visible Church-house, will be a mistake, and injurious both for yourself and **The Church**.

WHO is JESUS to You?

Beloved, let it be with each of us *first*, **CHRIST**, *then* **The Church**, *then* **The Church-house**. There is a certain style of “*preaching*”; a certain style of *priesthood*—convenient rites, order, and satisfy me—ordinances; a certain style of *church-house* setting!

But as for us, The Chief word is not “*church*,” but **CHRIST**, and not even **The Church of CHRIST**, but **CHRIST** as very **GOD** of very **GOD**—**The SON of The HIGHEST!**
First **CHRIST**, the root, *then* **The Church**, *then* **The Church-house**—the outgrowth—*first* **CHRIST**, **The Builder**, *then* **The Church** that **CHRIST Builds**, *then* **The Body of CHRIST** in our homes, communities, and the world!

The most important question is not, “To which part of **The Church** do you belong? But, “Do you belong to **CHRIST**, **WHO is The SON of The Living GOD?**” **Who is JESUS to You?**
If you know **CHRIST**. *If you rest* in **CHRIST**. *If* **CHRIST** is to you, **The WAY, The TRUTH, The LIFE...**
[John 14: 6, “**JESUS** said... **I AM The Way and The TRUTH and The Life**; no one comes to **The FATHER** except by (through) **ME**. (Amplified Classic Version)]

Above all, *if* **CHRIST** be “formed *in you* the hope of glory,” (Colossians 1: 27) your connection with **The True Church, The Church of GOD’S Election and Redemption:**
Aploutrosis (ap-ol-oo’-tro-sis) ‘*apo*’ meaning ‘from’, ‘*lytroo*’ meaning *redeem*; properly, redemption—literally, “is buying back from, *re*-purchasing (winning back) what was previously *forfeited* (lost.) *Aploutrosis*, looks back to **GOD’S Amazing G.R.A.C.E.**, that required only my Faith (*belief*), that **GOD** so loved me; **HE gave JESUS; JESUS gave HIS Life**—Calvary; I confessed my *sin(s)*... **JESUS died**—paying my *sin(s)* price, and was *buried*—*sin(s)* condemnation, and **GOD** raised **JESUS** from the dead, **HE is Alive**, and I confess **HIM** as **LORD-GOD**... is clear and certain.

WHO is JESUS to You?

To me, *my* **LORD** and **GOD**, *my* **SAVIOR** from *sin*, from *transgression* and from *iniquity*; from the *gutter* to **Glor**y; from *darkness* to **LIGHT**; from *pitiful* to **Prince**; from *sinner in hiding* to a *Saint in Shouting*; from a *Slave* to a *Servant*!

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