### ing to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Jesus Christ promised to save the obedient in His family, which he called 'My church' (Matthew 16:18). He died for this body of people, and all those who are washed in His blood are saved and added to His church. It is called His body, of which He is the head. It is also described as His bride, wearing His name, the church of Christ. (Romans 16:16 Ephesians 5:23, 25; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 3:15; Acts 4:12). One day He will come back for that saved body of people.

Jesus Christ is the second person in the Godhead (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) (Matthew 28:19,20). There is one God, one Lord (Christ), and one Spirit (the Holy Spirit) ((Ephesians 4:1-6). Christ has all authority in heaven and on the earth (Matthew 28:18). He is presently sitting at the right hand of the Father, reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15). One day He will come again to take His people, the church, to heaven where they will dwell forevermore. "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"

(Ephesians 5:25-27).

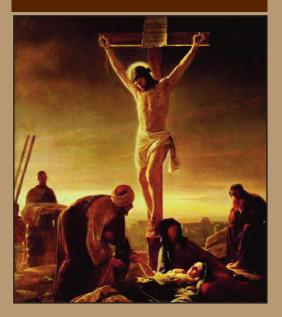
Jesus promised, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Do you believe in Christ? He warned in John 8:24, "...*if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" If we do believe in Him, we will obey Him (Mark 16:16), and will remain faithful to Him until death (Revelation 2:10). Jesus also warned, "*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*" (John 12:48).

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# Who Is Jesus Christ?

## J.C. Choate



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A few people in the world today might never have heard the name, Jesus Christ. Most have. But many who have heard of Him are confused and do not know who He really is. Millions believe in Him, but millions more do not. *Who is Jesus Christ?* 

Jesus Christ existed with God in the beginning. Hebrews 1:3 describes Him as being the brightness of God's glory, and the express image of His person. John 1:1, calling Him "the Word", says that He was *with* God in the beginning, and that *He was God. This means that He is one of the Persons of the Godhead, along with God and the Holy Spirit.* God is described as being eternal, having no beginning and no end, so the same is true of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 63:16). He is said to be the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), the beginning [or, the initiator] of the creation of God (Revelation 3:14), the first and the last (Revelation 22:13).

Jesus Christ was the creator of all things. In Genesis 1:1 we read that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Hebrew word for God is the plural form, which includes the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. In Genesis 1:26 God said, "*Let us make man in our image....*" Paul further explained in Colossians 1:16,17, speaking of Jesus Christ, "*All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*"

Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary through the power of God, having no earthly father. His unique birth was prophesied many centuries before by the prophet Isaiah: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel." In Matthew 1:20,21 it was said, "... that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." From these verses we can see that Jesus was born miraculously, that He was more than just a man.

Jesus Christ was the Son of God, having emptied Himself of the rights and powers inherent in the Godhead, He subjected Himself to God as Father, and became a brother to humans by His physical birth (Philippians 2:3-8). He came into the world to save man from his sins. We read in John 3:16,17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Christ Himself said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus Christ performed miracles to prove that He was the Son of God. John wrote concerning His miracles, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:30,31).

Jesus Christ died on the cross so that all who believe in Him might be saved and have the hope of eternal life. We read the words of the apostle Paul, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain ... that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day accord-