

Why We Believe Jesus Is Christ

The first gospel sermon was preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). In his sermon he gave three compelling reasons why Jesus is the Christ. First, Peter said, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). The miracles of Jesus proved God was with Him (cf. Jn. 3:2). When He healed men, raised the dead or calmed the storm and sea, He demonstrated His message and mission were of God (Mk. 1:40-44; 4:35-41; 5:35-42). This means what Jesus said was sanctioned by God (Jn. 5:19, 20, 36). When Jesus said He was the Christ, it was true (Mk. 14:61, 62). Therefore, we believe Jesus is Christ.

Peter also quoted Old Testament prophecy to show Jesus is the Christ (Acts 2:24-31). For centuries the prophets of Israel had declared a Messiah was coming. They spoke of His birth, life and death (Mic. 5:2; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 53; Psa. 22:16-18). The details of the prophecies were so specific, that they cannot be applied to anyone else. The fulfillment of the prophecies in Jesus proves He is the Christ. Therefore, we believe Jesus is Christ.

Finally, Peter declared, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses" (Acts 2:32). The apostles saw the resurrected Savior. It was not some illusion or hallucination, it was real (Lk. 24:39). Their eyewitness accounts were not the result of over zealous anticipation of His resurrection, for they were all despondent after His death--they did not anticipate Him being raised from the dead (Lk. 24:13-43). In fact, Thomas so doubted the resurrection that he said, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (Jn. 20:25). When he finally saw Jesus, he said, "My Lord and my God" (Jn. 20:28). The reliable eyewitness testimony of the resurrection of Jesus proves He is Christ (Rom. 1:4). Therefore, we believe Jesus is Christ.

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