

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST

MATTHEW 22:42 • TV-032B

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By
HENRY T. MAHAN

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Zebulon Grace Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501
PH: 606-631-9053

Matthew 22:42

“Saying, What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.”

In **Matthew 22: 41-42** we read these words; “*While the Pharisees were gathered together Jesus asked them saying, what think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?*”

Now this question is straight and to the point, it followed several questions that these men had asked the Saviour. One of them came to Him and said, trying to trap Him, trick Him in His talk; he said; “*Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar?*”

“We’re Israelites; we’re children of God, sons of God. We’re in bondage enslaved by pagan, heathen, rulers. Is it right for us to pay taxes to these pagans, these idol worshippers, these heathen rulers? Is that lawful?”

Well, Christ dealt with that. He said, “*Do you have a coin?*” One of them handed Him a coin. He said, “*Whose picture’s that on there?*” And He said, “*You render to Caesar the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are God’s.*”

And then another one came to Him and asked Him about marriage in heaven. As I said, they were trying to trap Him. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and so they were trying to trap Him in His doctrine of the resurrection.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

One of them said; “A woman had several husbands; they all died. Now when she dies and goes to heaven who is going to be her husband?” And our Lord dealt with that; He said; “*They neither marry nor are given in marriage in heaven but are like the angels. And you do err not knowing the power of God and the Scriptures.*”

And then another came to Him and asked Him this; “Which is the greatest commandment; out of all the commandments that constitute the law of God which is the greatest?”

Now what this man is asking is this; what law if broken constitutes the greatest sin? In other words; is it worse to kill somebody or to steal? Is it worse to take God’s name in vain or commit adultery? Is it worse to tell a lie or is it worse to bow down before a graven image? Which is the greatest commandment?”

And our Lord said; “*The greatest commandment is this; thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. And the second is like unto it; thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two hinge all the law and the prophets.*”

And then in my imagination He put them to silence. But in my imagination, I can see them begin to drift away. They didn’t want any more of Him. They didn’t want any part of Him. He was making a fool out of them in front of all these people.

But before they left, while they were still gathered together, our Lord put a question to them and this was the question; “*What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?*”

Now, will you listen carefully while I make an observation right here? When we go forth to preach the Gospel today; that’s what I’m trying to do, preach the Gospel; there aren’t many people who reject us outright, who just say; “Well, I don’t believe in God and I don’t believe in your Bible and I don’t believe in existence of heaven and I don’t believe in hell.” No; there are not many people who do that because the natural man is religious by nature; you find that.

I’ve traveled all over this world. And wherever I go I find religion, pagan religion, false religion, phony religion, pure religion, false religion, but everybody’s got some kind of religion. And the natural man is religious by nature and he feels the need of some sort of religious foundation, some kind of religious experience or some kind of religious refuge.

So, when we go forth preaching the Word of God, which is the revelation of God; God can only be known by his Word in saving power and redeeming power.

Now, we can see the wisdom of God in nature; “*The heavens declare the glory of God.*” But the mercy of God is only found in the Word of God. The grace of God and saving grace is only found in the Word.

That’s the only source by which we can find out if God will forgive sin, if God will pardon the guilty, if God will give eternal life. The only source is the Word of God.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

But men instead of flatly denying the Word of God; do you know what they do? Most of them are taken up with foolish questions; that's right, foolish questions, unusual miracles or genealogies or prophecy, or what's going to happen in the future and anything but the Gospel. They live to argue. People say to me all the time; "The denominations are so divided." You're right, you're right! And people in religion are so divided. People in Christ are not divided; they have; "*One Lord, one faith, and one baptism.*"

People in Christ are not divided. They know they're sinners and they know God saved them by the blood of His Son and they love each other and they long to please God and they seek the kingdom of God and they consider themselves, "*Lest than all the least of the saints.*"

They consider themselves; "*Chief of sinners. They look not on their own things but on the things of others.*" They are an honest people and a godly people who are walking a pilgrimage sojourning on this earth waiting for God to call them home.

But the religious world is divided. Men love to argue, they love to debate, they love to split hairs, and they love to divide over all these insignificant things. That's the way these Pharisees were, these religious men.

They asked all these hard to understand questions. They were concerned about whether it was lawful to pay tribute to Caesar. It doesn't matter a nickel's worth who is going to be her husband in heaven? And this question, which is the greatest law and all of these?

You know, men today are more interested in where Cain got his wife than where Jesus Christ gets His bride. That's right; they're much more interested in that. You can get a whole lot bigger crowd if you'll announce in the paper next Saturday that Sunday morning you're going to preach a sermon on, "Where did Cain get his wife?"

But now, you announce in the same paper instead you're going to preach on the "Bride of Christ;" you won't have near as many people, not near as many, because men are more interested in speaking in tongues than they are in knowing the Lord in their hearts.

You announce that you're going to speak on what it means to speak in tongues and they'll pack your auditorium. But announce you are going to preach on, "What it is to Know Christ in the Heart;" they're not interested in that.

Men are more interested in the anti-Christ and who he is what he is going to do than they are in the living Christ and who He is and what He did.

Why do you think these preachers try to come up with all the sensational subjects, "Will America fight Russia, who is the anti-Christ? What is 666?" They don't know and nobody else does either, but they get a crowd that way. They fill offering plates that way too, you know.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Men are more interested in the healing of their bodies than they are in the healing of their souls. Of course, that's true. And men are more interested in finding their place in a church than they are in finding their place at the cross.

They're more interested in arguing the old creation than they are in studying the new creation in Christ Jesus. I'm telling the truth and you know it. And men are more interested in rules and regulations and laws of morality in the church than they are in love, and mercy, and grace.

And they're more interested in disciplining people and excluding them from the church and kicking them out of the church than they are in loving them and forgiving them and showing some affection and embracing them in Jesus Christ our Lord.

That's the way these Pharisees were in the days of our Lord. They came with all these silly, hard to understand questions. They wanted to deal with prophecy and all these other things. And then our Lord put a question to them. Here's the heart of the matter. Here's the foundation: *"What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?"*

Now, if you want to get a crowd today among the religious people of our day, if you want to get a hearing, then you talk about something sensational. Don't you talk about substitution. You'll talk about the dignity of men, not the depravity of man. You'll talk about the weakness of God, not the sovereignty of God.

If men want to be entertained today; they don't want to be exhorted, they don't want to be rebuked. They don't want to be reprov'd, they don't want to be edified; they want to be entertained.

And you want to hold your audience staying 50 minutes and preach 10. Don't sing 10 and preach 50 because the sinners of today don't want to be edified; they want to be entertained.

One of these days this tragedy is going to backfire. This tragedy is going to blow up in our faces and God's going to take the Word; Christ said, *"This Book will judge you."* But Lord; we don't know anything about that Book. Well you could have, you could have. *"What think ye of Christ?"*

A preacher one day went to the hospital to visit one of his members. This is a true story. The member, a lawyer, had had a heart attack. He was dying; he knew he was dying. The man was less than 40 years of age.

And his pastor went by to see him and this is what the man said to his pastor, he said; "Preacher; I've listened to you preach for over ten years. Preacher; I'm dying. I'm going out to meet God; And you failed me. You haven't prepared me for this experience. You haven't prepared me for this hour. You haven't prepared me at all."

Now my friend; we may prepare men to argue religion, and we may prepare them to discuss church doctrine, and we may prepare them to claim a religious creed, but we have miserably

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

failed and we have mocked God and mocked our congregation unless we prepare men to die, unless we prepare men to meet God, unless we prepare men for that day when they shall stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

And the only way I know to do this is to preach the Word of God. *“God hath chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe,”* preaching, preaching.

And the center of that preaching is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul said; *“I’m determined to know nothing among you save Christ and Him crucified. God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

All right, let’s take this statement, this question our Lord asked these religious men and let me ask you the same statement; *“We are ambassadors of Christ. I beseech you in Christ’s stead.”* He’s not here but I am, in person, in bodily form. He’s here, present, by His Spirit, but He speaks through a human being.

And I ask you today; *“What think ye of Christ?”* And let’s center our attention; in the first place let’s make it personal as Christ made it here; *“What think ye of Christ?”*

I’m not asking you what your pastor thinks of Christ. I’m not asking you what your church believes. I’m not even asking you what John Westley believed or what Martin Luther believed or what John Calvin believed or what Alexander Campbell believed or what Charles Wesley believed; I’m asking you what do you believe: *“What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?”*

Now, most of us are experts in the art of judging other people. *“And I think she’s saved, and I think he knows the Lord, but I don’t think she knows the Lord. I don’t think, maybe, he knows the Lord.”*

Well, have we judged ourselves? Have we spent some time standing at the bar of God’s law and cried, *“Guilty, guilty?”* Have we spent some time standing before the holiness of God, the immaculate, heavenly, infinite, holiness of God and been made to cry in our own souls, *“Unclean, unclean? Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”* Have you ever stood there?

Have you stood at the altar and cried with the Publican; *“God be merciful to me the sinner?”* Huh? You; have you see the Lord Jesus Christ in His redemptive glory? Have you seen Him?

I’m not talking about with these eyes. I’m not talking about a dream or a vision or an experience when you are under the influence of some type of medication. I’m talking about have you seen Him by faith in His redemptive glory?

The Scripture says; *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath eternal life.”* Peter saw Him. Our Lord said; *“Whom do men say that I am?”*

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Well, they said; “*Some say you are Elijah and some say you are John the Baptist and some say you’re one of the prophets.*” But He said; “*Whom do you say that I am?*” And Peter said, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

And our Lord said; “*Blessed are thou Simon, flesh and blood didn’t reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven.*” Have you seen Him, seen Him in His redemptive glory, seen Him in His redemptive work, seen Him in His precious atoning sacrifice?

And then; have you, and I’m talking to myself too, have we lovingly, willingly, intelligently, not under some kind of emotional experience, but have we intelligently received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour? Have you? I have; I can say that. I’ve trusted Him and I’ve believed on Him. I do now. By God’s grace I will.

But I’ll tell you this, if we never pray Lord receive my soul in grace; we’ll never dare cry with Stephen; “*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*”

**“I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come to me and rest
Lay down thy weary one
Lay down thy head upon my breast**

**Well I came to Jesus just like I was
Weary and worn and sad
And I found in Him,
(what I found nowhere else
And what is revealed, nowhere else,
And what is given, nowhere else)
I found in Him a resting place
And He hath made me glad.”**

“*What do you think of Christ?*” I’m not asking you what do you think about the Bible or what do you think about the doctrine of election or what do you think about the doctrine of predestination or what do you think about the doctrine of the church.

What do you think about baptism by sprinkling or emersion? I’m not dealing with that; I’m talking about this, what do you (you, you) think of Christ?

Now watch this; listen carefully; this question has to do with thoughts. It not only has to do with you; it has to do with your thoughts, “*What think ye of Christ,*” He said.

Now religion today consists of everything but thinking. You know it and I know it, everything but thinking. The average person can go to a church; (try yourself on this, test yourself). The average person can go to a church and he can sit for one hour in that service and come out and a few minutes later he couldn’t tell you to save his life what he heard. He was there in body, but he doesn’t remember a thing. He doesn’t think.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Most religious ceremonies and rituals and forms and all this carrying on in the name of God; most of it enables men to play church without thinking. That's right; they can go and sit there and doze off and a song leader can wake them up and tell them to turn to 243 and they turn to 243 and they stand and sing the verses he says and then they sit.

And some fellow gets up and makes some announcements and sits back down. And then they stand again and somebody brings a special. And then while they are praying the organ plays softly. You don't want any silent time you know because men don't want to think. They don't want to be disturbed.

They pay somebody to preach for them. They pay somebody to pray for them and pay somebody to study for them and pay somebody will win souls for them. And they'll pay somebody to do this, that, and the other for them.

They don't want to think. And they go through all these forms and ceremonies and don't have to think. Well, I'm telling you this; we better start thinking. We better start thinking about sin, inability, condemnation, thinking about death, thinking about judgment, and thinking about the Word of God. We better start thinking.

"What do you think of Christ," think, think, what do you think? "Well I've never given it much thought." Well you better. *"What think ye of Christ?"* What do you think of Christ as almighty God? Is He God? "Well, I'll have to ask my preacher."

Well, the Word of God says He is God. The Scripture says; *"The Word was made flesh. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

2 Corinthians 5:19 says; *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself."* God was in Christ. What do you think of Christ as your representative? Adam was your representative. He was mine. *"In Adam all die. In Christ we're made alive. By the disobedience of one we were made sinners. By the obedience of one we were made righteous."*

You better think about that. Christ is our representative. You can't trust an unrevealed Christ. You can't believe in an unrevealed hope. You can't build on an unrevealed foundation. You've got to know.

Paul said; "I know whom I have believed. I know who He is. I know what He did. I know why He did it; God told me so."

What do you think of Christ as your substitute? Isaiah said, *"He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities."*

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

What do you think of Christ? What do you think of Him as your Mediator? The Bible says; *“There’s one God and one mediator between God and men”* and it’s not mother Mary, and it’s not Saint Jude, and it’s not Peter, James, or John.

Who is it? What does the Scripture say? *“There’s one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* That’s what the Bible declares.

What do you think of Christ as the Lord? Paul said; *“Lord what will you have me do?”* Christ set Peter down after the resurrection; He sat him down and said; *“Peter; do you love me, do you love me? Now, if you do; you feed my sheep.”*

Now I’m telling you, this thing; I picked up a church bulletin today that was sent me from another city. And the preacher said in that bulletin; *“Don’t you wish every Christian loved the Lord?”*

Well now my friends; every Christian does love the Lord. And men who do not love the Lord are not Christians. The Scripture says; *“If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed when Jesus comes.”* *“Well now that’s what it says preacher.”* That’s what I’m saying. We need to do some thinking; we need to do some thinking. You men can’t keep your job without thinking. You men who are electricians, miners, plumbers, carpenters, contractors, Dentists, Doctors, and Lawyers; you have to think.

And this most important part of your life, this most important phase of your whole life; you haven’t given it a moment’s thought. You let some preacher or some priest or somebody that’s been dead for 300 years dictate what you believe. You better buy you a Bible and see what God says. It can be found in God’s Word.

And then last of all; *“What do you think of Christ?”* We’re talking about a person here now. I want Paul to speak. Paul says in **Colossians 3:11**; *“Christ is all and in all.”* That’s what he thinks of Christ.

Paul said, *“Christ is all, and in all;”* but there was a time when this world had no being. The earth, the seas, the trees, the mountains; they didn’t exist.

Well now, Christ is all; where was He then? Well the Scripture says; *“In the beginning was the Word, (capital W-O-R-D; that’s Christ) and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”*

And the Scripture says in **Proverbs 8**; *“Before the mountains were settled, before the hills were brought forth, while as yet, He had not made the earth nor the fields; I was there.”* That’s Christ talking. He was with the Father. He was with God and was God.

Well, there was a time when God made the heavens and the earth, hurled them into space, brought them into being. There was a time when all these things were created in the wisdom and the purpose by the Word of God.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

If Christ is all; where was He then? Well the Scripture says in **Colossians 1:16**; *“For by Him were all things made that are made, all things in heaven that are visible, invisible, principalities and powers, and all things were made by Him and for Him. And He’s before all things and by Him all things consist.”* He made all things.

Well, there was a day when sin entered this world, when the man that God created, (Adam and his help meet Eve); there was a day when they sinned, and darkness fell on this earth that sin visited God’s world. And death and sickness all came upon this earth. What a dismal, dark, depressing day. Well if Christ is all where was He then? He was the one ray of light. He was the announcement of life in a day of death.

He was the light in a day of darkness. God said to the serpent; *“I’ll put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed.”* That’s the virgin’s Son, the virgin-born Son of God, her seed, not man’s seed, her seed. Satan shall bruise His heel, (His lower part, his human nature) but He’ll crush your head, your power, and your government. Christ was the announcement of salvation in that dark hour.

Well, 4,000 years passed, darkness and superstition and error ruled this earth and religion was perverted and twisted. It was a dark day. Well if Christ is all where was He then? I’ll tell you; He came down here to this earth in Bethlehem’s manger. *“In the fullness of the time God sent His Son into the world, made in the likeness of sinful flesh, made of a woman, (as He announced 4,000 prior to that time) made under the law, to redeem them that were born under the law.”*

He was right here on this earth and He went to that cross yonder on Calvary and He gave His life to pay for our sins. In His life He is our representative, our righteousness and in His death He’s our Saviour, our Redeemer.

Well, there’s a time when the world shall end. God said; *“There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth. And this is one going to melt in a fervent heat,”* this whole world and everything about it. God’s going to destroy it, utterly, ultimately destroy it.

Well, if Christ is all; where will He be then? The trump of God shall sound. The voice of the archangel and Jesus Christ our Lord who went away shall come back to this earth. He’s coming back again.

Philippians 2:10-11 says: *“And every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He’s Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

All right; there’s coming a day of judgment. The Scripture says; *“That all men shall stand before God. Death and hell will deliver up their dead. The sea gave up its dead. Heaven gave forth its living and they’ll all stand before the judgment bar of God.”*

If Christ is all; where will He be then? Now listen; can you answer that? In **John chapter 5:22** the Scripture says: *“The Father judgeth no man. He hath committed all judgment to the Son. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

MATTHEW 22:42 • HENRY T. MAHAN

It's all Christ. That's right, from before the foundation of this world it was Christ, the Christ of the covenant and the Christ of creation. Here on this earth it was the Christ of the cross and the Christ of the tomb and the Christ of the resurrection.

And right now it is the Christ of intercession. And one day it shall be the coming Christ. And one day it shall be the judging Christ. And from then on through the countless ions of eternity it will be the reigning Christ.

And throughout eternity the employment and enjoyment of the sons of God will be to praise that Christ. We're not going to praise the Baptist church!