

heaven, and on several different occasions said that He had come from there.

About hell:

"Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"How can you escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33).

"He will say to those on the left, ' Depart from me, you cursed people, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" "These will go away into eternal punishment" (Matt 25:41,46).

Jesus plainly and often spoke of the reality of that dreadful place called hell.

About how to escape eternal punishment and receive eternal life:

"He who hears my word and believes on Him who sent me has eternal life and will not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus repeatedly taught that believing in Him, trusting Him, with a change of mind which causes us to turn to Him from the old way of living (what the Bible calls repentance), is the only way to pass from death to life, to escape the punishment we deserve and receive God's forgiveness and salvation. He added nothing to this way (as some have done, and do), no ordinances or sacraments, no joining of any particular church or religious group, no dependence on any men, whoever they may be in the church, or any such thing.

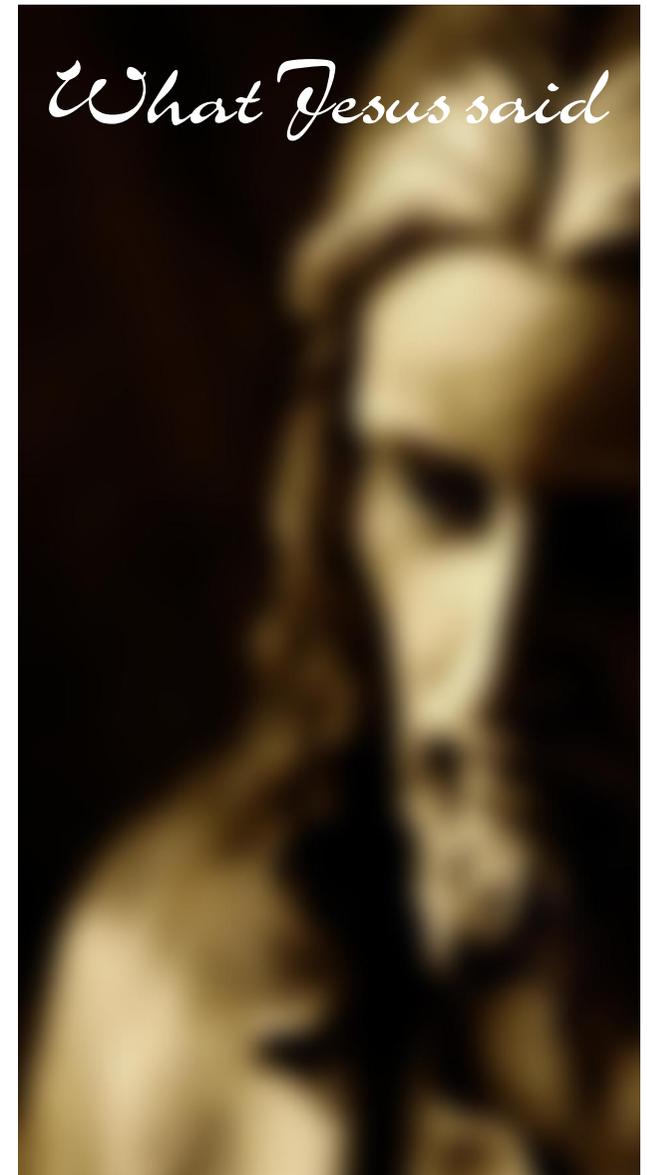
You may have all sorts of opinions and beliefs that are quite contrary to the teachings of the Lord Jesus. Have you ever examined them in the light of what He said? Perhaps unknowingly you are setting your opinions and beliefs above those of the Son of God. Is this wise? Do you have such strong evidence for your beliefs? Do you think it is stronger than the evidence Jesus showed in His miraculous ministry and in His death and resurrection from the dead?

Whether or not you believe this evidence, at the very least you should do yourself the favor of weighing carefully His words as recorded in the Bible. For, according to Him, what is before each of us is either eternal life or eternal punishment, heaven or hell. So I urge you, for your own great and eternal benefit, do what God the Father says about the Lord Jesus in Matthew 17:5:

"This is my beloved Son. . . Listen to Him"

Bob Crow

GRACE MINISTRIES



I hope none of you thinks that it doesn't matter what Jesus said, that you couldn't care less. After all, He is recognized by multitudes of intelligent people around the globe as the supreme figure in the whole history of the world, and a teacher beyond compare. And He has

had a greater impact on the life of mankind than any other person. Surely His teachings are worthy of your respectful interest.

Using my own words I could present to you what Jesus taught, and this might possibly be helpful to some. But is it not better for you to read direct quotations from His own mouth than any words of mine? I'm sure that if you won't pay attention to His words, paying attention to mine will do you no good.

So what did Jesus actually say about matters that should greatly concern us all, matters of the utmost importance? I mean matters such as what we are and what we need above all, and who Jesus is, and what God is like, and heaven and hell, and the way to forgiveness of our misdeeds, and eternal life. No more important themes have ever entered the mind of man. Below we have the words of Jesus –

About Himself:

"I came down from heaven" (John 6:38).

"I said, 'I am the Son of God'" (John 10:36).

"Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).

"You seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth" (John 8:40).

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am" (John 13:13).

If you reject Him, understand whom you are rejecting.

About God:

"God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

"Holy Father. . . righteous Father" (John 17:11,25).

"From the beginning of creation, God" (Mark 10:6).

"The Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19).

So according to Jesus there is a perfectly holy, righteous Spirit, the Creator, who is the Father of Jesus, who with His Son and the Holy Spirit forms one Triune God. If Jesus is right, all atheism, agnosticism, and idolatry is wrong.

About our present condition in this world:

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children. . . ." (Matthew 7:11 – these words "being evil" were said to His own disciples, and so certainly means everyone else on earth).

"From within, out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, envy, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man" (Mark 7:21-23).

"No one is good but One, that is, God" (Mark 10:18).

"If you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24).

About what we need and what we should do:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

. . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3,6).

"Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 18:3).

"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

"Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

"Come to me" (Matthew 11:28).

About forgiveness:

"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven . . . Forgive us our sins" (Luke 11:2,4).

"Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men" (Matthew 12:31).

"Thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations" (Luke 24:46,47).

About heaven:

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt 6:20).

"All power in heaven and earth has been given to me" (Matt 28:18).

"There will be. . . joy in heaven over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7).

So, according to Jesus, heaven is just as real a place as this earth. He often spoke of