**What do you think about the Christ?**

*Matthew 22:42*

**Introduction**

1. In **Matthew 22:15-40,** the scribes and Pharisees, and Sadducees took their turns in testing Jesus, trying to make Him contradict Himself.
   1. **Pharisees sent disciples with Herodians** – asked concerning paying taxes to Caesar – lawful?
   2. **Sadducees** – ***“say there is no resurrection”*** – hypothetical about resurrection – ***“whose wife of the seven will she be?”*** – does the doctrine of the resurrection contradict scripture?
   3. **Pharisees, one a lawyer** – what is the greatest commandment? – which ones will He choose at the expense of other?
2. Jesus answered all their questions unerringly, and left them astounded at His answers of wisdom. Then He took a turn, and asked them a question.
   1. **NOTE: Jesus’ motive reflected that of what followed directly previously – love God, and neighbor.**
   2. His question was out of love for God and His word, and for those He questioned, the Pharisees.
3. Jesus’ question: Concerning not just the ancestry, but the nature and position of the Christ in comparison to David.
   1. ***“How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?” (Mark 12:35).***
   2. General Jewish belief – the Messiah is a descendent of David, but nothing more – just a man.
   3. Jesus – argues from scripture **(Psalm 110:1)** to show that such was not the case.
      1. **Christ** – of David’s lineage, but greater than David himself.
      2. **(in the Spirit David says) 1st Lord** – Jehovah; **2nd Lord** – David’s Lord (understood to be Messianic Psalm)
      3. **He was more than just a son of David in the physical lineage. He is to be David’s superior, and He is not mere man, but Divine.**
4. **Jesus’ question showed that some have views of spiritual things which are misguided, and wrong. (In this case, the Jewish view of the Messiah)**
5. **We must look intently at scripture to discover the truths God is trying to reveal. This must be done without ulterior motives, preconceived notions, and bias.**
6. Many today have a view of the Christ that is unscriptural. What do you think of the Christ? What does the scripture say about Him?
7. Is He just a man? Is He just Divine?
8. The Dilemma
   1. If we say He is God, how can He truly know what we go through in temptation and suffering?
   2. If we say He is a man, how did He keep from sinning, seeing that all have sinned? (Misunderstanding about human nature – not inherently sinful, do not have to sin!)
   3. These, among other things, are some matters which some have pondered, and used their own wisdom to explain. What do the scriptures teach?
9. What does scripture say?
   1. **Deuteronomy 29:29** – firstly, let us not think ourselves into error, but accept what scripture says without doubting.
   2. **Philippians 2:5-7** – Humbled Himself and became a man.
      1. ***“emptied Himself”*** – ASV, ESV, NASB (of deity?)
      2. **Humility** – He left heaven to assume a lowly state, that of a servant.
      3. **DID NOT DIVEST HIMSELF OF DEITY!** – **Hebrews 9:14** – through ***“eternal spirit”*** (Christ’s – consideration of deity)
         1. **Contrast** – **v. 13** – blood of animals – cleanses flesh – **on the physical plane**; **v. 14** – blood of Jesus (**eternal spirit**) – cleanses conscience, i.e. spirit – **on the spiritual plane**. (***eternal life through blood’s cleansing – because offering has life within Himself***)
         2. **(vv. 24-28) –** After death, overcame, and entered heaven to offer blood once for all. (**Because He is eternal, God, and can’t be defeated by death**.)
   3. **Mark 15:39; Romans 1:4** – what if the Centurion’s claim wasn’t true – then the resurrection is not true – **1 Corinthians 15:12-19** – still in sins!
   4. **But, was Jesus tempted as we are?** – **cf. Hebrews 4:15** – the scripture says He was – His temptation was every bit as heavy as ours, and accumulated more because He didn’t sin. (He is the perfect guide, and aid.)
10. **The scripture says the Christ was both God and man. Both were necessary facets of the Christ for our redemption, and we should trust in God’s wisdom and revelation.**
11. Is He indifferent about sin?
12. Some make the suggestion that Jesus is tolerant, or indifferent about sin. That sin is a matter of fact, and Jesus will save us in spite of our sin. Is this the scriptural view of the Christ?
13. Word of Christ on sin
    1. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** – You cannot be involved in these matters and get to heaven.
       1. **You WERE these** – Christ sanctified you and cleansed you.
       2. That’s what He thinks of sin – IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN AWAY.
       3. **Paul’s point? Don’t do this anymore!**
    2. **1 John 3:4-9** – His whole purpose of coming and dying was to free us from sin that we might become like Him!
       1. **Is Christ self-contradictory?**
       2. Did He come to take away sin, only to allow us to remain in sin?
    3. **Hebrews 10:26-31** – To sin willfully is to trample Jesus underfoot, and count His blood as common.
       1. **This is contrary to what the world believes – I can sin because God’s grace is greater than my sin.**
       2. ***“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1-2).***
14. Is He indifferent about worship?
15. Christ does not care how we worship. He simply wants us to be sincere, and give Him our hearts. Is that so?
16. Word of Christ on Worship
    1. **John 4:24** – in spirit and truth – sincerity and scriptural.
    2. **Colossians 3:17** – He is preeminent/King/Lord and we must do as He instructs.
    3. ***“If you love me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).***
    4. **Matthew 7:21-23** – These individuals did things for Jesus, and in His name (so they say).
       1. Do we question their **sincerity**? Jesus did not give that as the reason.
       2. Do we question their **motive**? Jesus did not say they did it to be seen of men, or any other thing.
       3. What did He say? – ***“practice LAWLESSNESS”***
    5. **1 Samuel 15:22-23** – The pattern in scripture regarding worship is that such must be strictly according to God’s word in order to be acceptable.
17. Is His mercy unconditional?
18. The Christ will not send “good” men to hell. He will have mercy on their soul even if they do not obey the gospel, or ever hear it.
19. Word of Christ on Salvation
    1. **Ethiopian Eunuch** – **Acts 8:26-28** – good, responsible, trustworthy (treasurer for Candice), religious (traveled a long way to worship), not saved. (**vv. 35-38** – Preached Jesus, and was baptized).
    2. **Cornelius** – **Acts 10:1-6** – Devout man, generous, good, not saved. ***(“He will tell you what you must do”***) (**vv. 47-48** – commanded to be baptized to be saved)
    3. **Romans 1:16** – must believe the gospel to be saved.
       1. **What of them who never hear? God will save them, right?** – **cf. Matthew 7:7-8** – if they want to know the truth, God will provide their way providentially.
       2. **2 Thessalonians 1:8** – To not obey the gospel is to be in sin, to be in sin is to lose your soul.
    4. **The Christ says we must obey Him in order to be saved!**

**Conclusion**

1. The world has many views about the Christ.
2. **They need to consider the question Jesus asked the Pharisees, along with its implications (their view was not consistent with scripture, and the Christ is not simply whoever you want Him to be).**
3. **We must accept the Christ of God’s word, and do as He says!**