

WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE DOES

The **second question** asked of those who would join a Presbyterian church is: *Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?* For a person to say "yes" to this question, he must know Who Jesus is and what He does. When the Bible refers to Jesus as the Son of God, it clearly means that He is equal with God, that He IS God. He said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). Again He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). The Bible ascribes to the Lord Jesus qualities, honors, and works which can belong to God alone. The clear estimate of the Scriptures is that Jesus Christ is God. The Lord Jesus is also human. The Bible represents Him as a human being who was born of a woman, who lived a truly human life, and who died a real death. The Scriptures leave no doubt as to the reality of His humanity. As to His nature, our Lord is both God and Man. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (Luke 19:10; Mark 10:45). He could save others because He had no sin of His own for which to answer (1 Peter 2:22). He died in the place of sinners to answer for their sins (Rom. 5:6,8). He, the Son of God, took the punishment of those who were guilty in order that the guilty might share the reward of the innocent (2 Cor. 5:21). The Lord Jesus died our death that we might live His life. When we say that Jesus Christ saves people, we mean that He delivers them from the death and punishment they were to receive because of their sin. Instead of death and punishment, He gives them life and joy. There is a great difference between being saved and being lost (John 3:36). Those who are saved by Christ have the hope of the resurrection and the hope of heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17; John 14:2,3). Those who have not found Him have not this hope. The Lord Jesus saves those who put their faith in Him. The Bible says, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved* (Acts 16:31). What does it mean by *believe*? When meal time comes around, a healthy boy will know that he is hungry. He also knows that his mother loves him, and that she has prepared food for him and the rest of the family. He believes these things, but his belief must go one step more before his hunger can be satisfied and his body can be nourished. He must actually sit down and eat. Believing in Christ for salvation is very much like this. The sinner may believe that he is a lost sinner and that Christ can save him, but before he can be saved, he must accept Christ's salvation (Rom. 10:9; John 1:12). It is so easy to be lost. All that is necessary is to neglect or refuse to accept Christ as Savior (John 3:18). It is also easy to enter the door leading to salvation. All one must do is deliberately to receive God's free gift of life (Eph. 2:8-9). We remember always one important fact which must never be overlooked: **THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SAVED**, for there is none other Name given us but that of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).