

*Jesus said, "I am the way,
the truth, and the life."*

—John 14:6

What is TRUTH?

Culture demands ... and deserves an answer



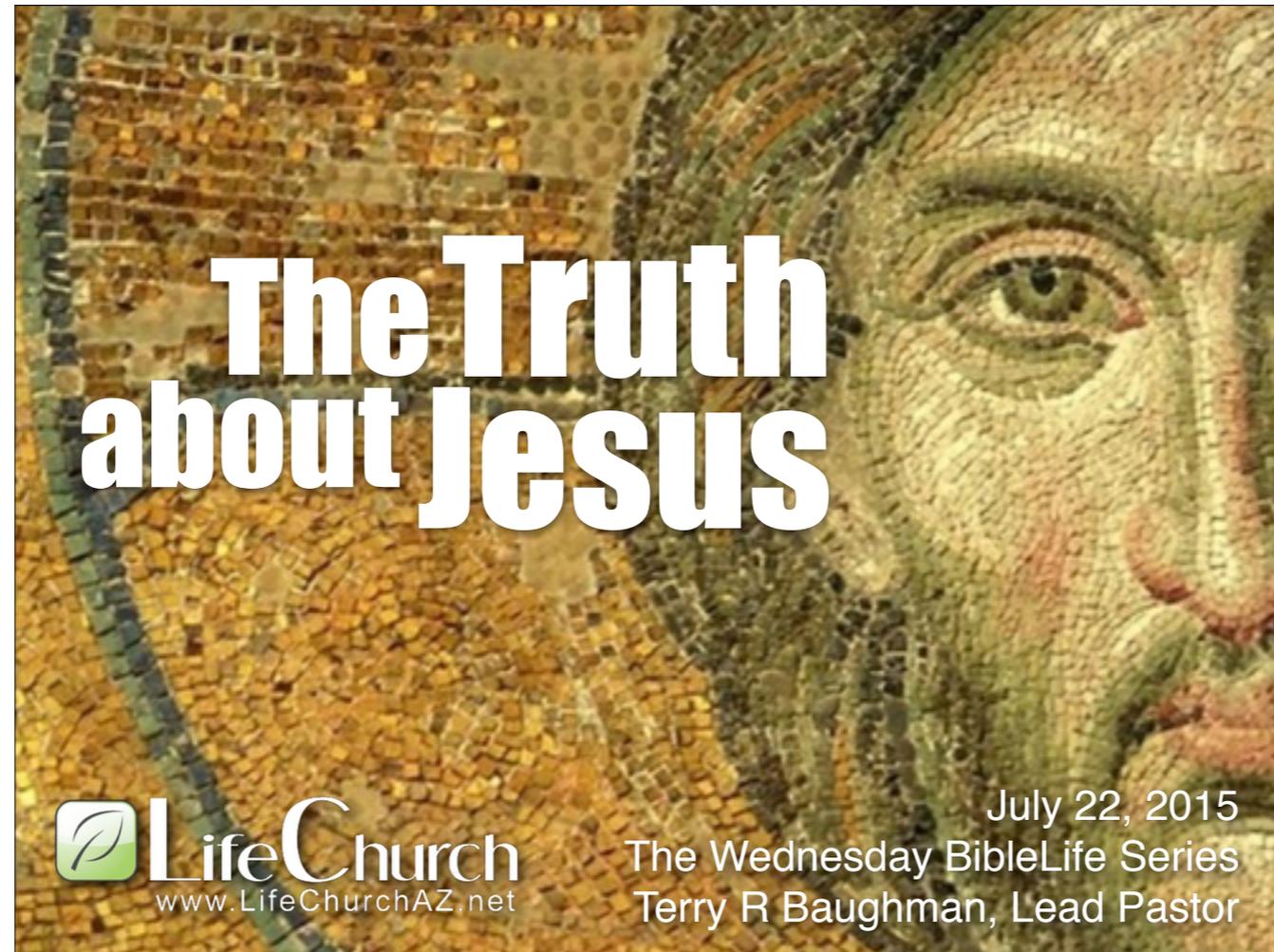
The Wednesday BibleLife Series
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

What is Truth?

Culture demands an answer ... and Culture deserves an answer.

— I plan to teach several lessons in this series.

- First of all we will establish a foundation for the Word of God as being truth.
- We will establish core doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ and who He is
- Then we will approach some topics of apologetics — defending truth in an unbelieving culture.



Lord or Lunatic?

Either Jesus was who He said He was or He cannot be believed or “believed in”

If He is not truth ... He is a deceiver. It is all or nothing. You can't be a casual Christian, sympathetic to Christianity, or tolerant of Christians. Either it is real or nothing can be trusted. (Believing may come slowly, but when you come to faith ... you must come to Christ or reject Him altogether)

“He that comes to God ... must believe”

“Believing ... life through His name”

“unbelievers” were in the lake of fire.

Jesus said, “no one comes to the father except through me”

SO Who is Jesus?

Prophesied Messiah

Many manifestations / one Incarnation

Word made flesh

God in flesh “wheel of prophecy”

It's ‘all in Him’

The Truth about God

- God is God — The Sovereignty of God
- God is all-powerful — Omnipotence of God
- God is ever-present — Omnipresence of God
- God is all-knowing — Omniscience of God
- God is unchanging — Immutability of God
- God is One — The Oneness of God
- God is Holy — The Holiness of God
- God is right — The righteousness of God
- God is just — The fairness of God
- God is forgiving — The mercy of God
- God is caring — The Love of God

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God is caring — The Love of God



The after school program where Ashley (Gissel) Loring worked in Stockton. One of the children asked, "Who is Jesus?" Another volunteered, "Isn't he that old guy that was really nice?"

Jesus is just lumped together with the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, leprechauns and Jack Frost.

Other Kids: (Out of the mouth of babies...)

Following from: http://www.alphadictionary.com/fun/kids_church.html

—3-year-old Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name"

—A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

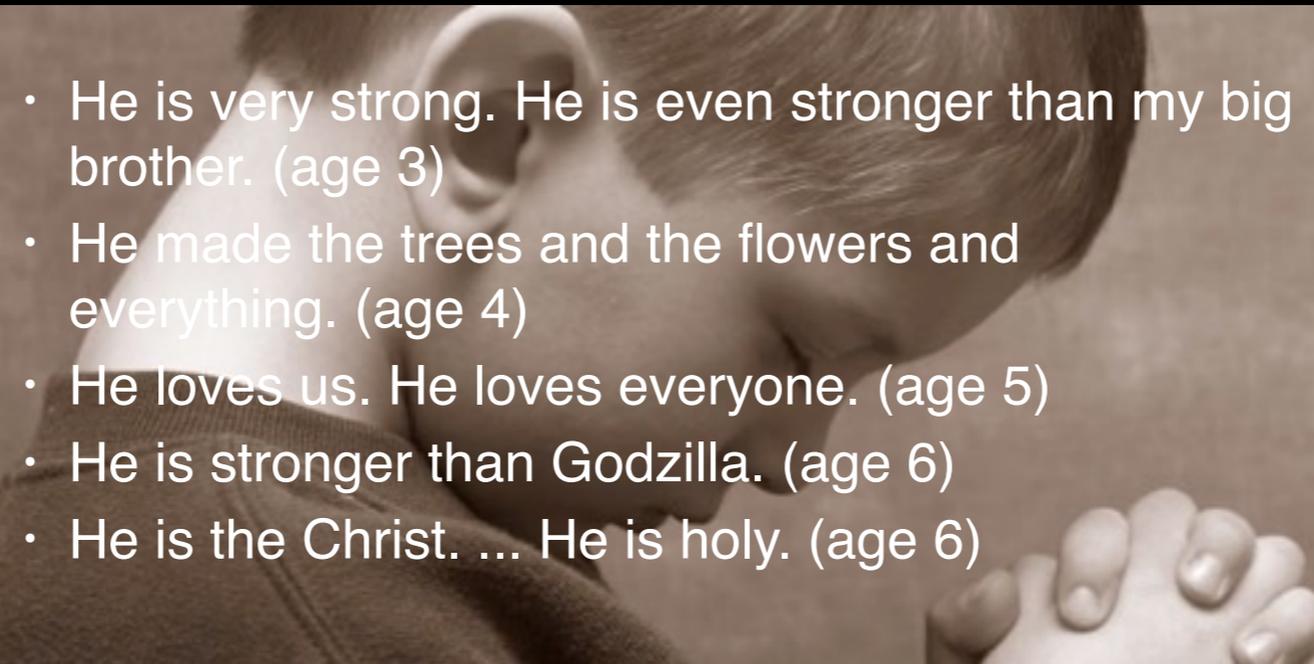
—After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

—A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

—A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

Who is Jesus? What is He like? Out of the mouths of children...



- He is very strong. He is even stronger than my big brother. (age 3)
- He made the trees and the flowers and everything. (age 4)
- He loves us. He loves everyone. (age 5)
- He is stronger than Godzilla. (age 6)
- He is the Christ. ... He is holy. (age 6)

Following from: <http://old.mbconf.ca/old/ideabank/9903/child-2.html>

—Who is Jesus? What is He like?

He is very strong. He is even stronger than my big brother. (age 3)

He made the trees and the flowers and everything. (age 4)

He loves us. He loves everyone. (age 5)

He is stronger than Godzilla. (age 6)

He is the Christ. (Can you tell me what that means?) He is holy. (age 6)

Who is Jesus?



A good man?

Teacher?



Prophet?



Prophet, Teacher, or God?

- i. Do you see him as a Teacher, a moral example?
- ii. Is He just a icon of goodness and virtue to aspire to?
- iii. Do you see him as a prophet or a preacher? Right up there with Mohammad, Gandhi, ... or maybe Billy Graham or Rick Warren?
- iv. Is He God in heaven, unattainable and unreachable?
- v. Is He a real and personal presence in your life?

Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Cuando llegó a la región de Cesarea de Filipo, Jesús preguntó a sus discípulos: —¿Quién dice la gente que es el Hijo del hombre?

Matthew 16:14

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Le respondieron: — Unos dicen que es Juan el Bautista, otros que Elías, y otros que Jeremías o uno de los profetas.

Who is Jesus? Some...

- Discredit miracles, because that is paranormal
- Disbelieve the resurrection, because that is considered to be impossible
- Deny the Deity of Christ, because how can a man be God without bringing him down to our level (make him sinful) ... or lifting us up to His (making us a god).

Intellectually people try to reason, they try to figure things out rationally.

- i. Discredit miracles, because that is paranormal
- ii. Disbelieve the resurrection, because that is considered to be impossible
- iii. Deny the Deity of Christ, because how can a man be God without bringing him down to our level (make him a sinful man) ... or lifting us up to His (**humanism**, making us a God).

Others say:

- From a website “A Brief Illustrated Guide to Understanding Islam”
 - “Christians and Muslims both believe in Jesus, love him, and honor him. They are, however, divided over the question of his divinity.
 - Fortunately, this difference can be resolved if we refer the question to both the Bible and the Quran, because, both the Bible and the Quran teach that Jesus is not God.”

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C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*



- "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us."

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Matthew 16:15-16

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the
Christ, the Son of the living God."

— Y ustedes, ¿quién dicen que soy yo? — Tú eres
el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente — afirmó
Simón Pedro.

- III. Knowing Jesus comes through revelation, Understanding comes by his manifestation!
- a. Revealed to Peter, "You are the Christ, son of the living God!"

NKJ Matthew 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

...

Matthew 16:17

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

—Dichoso tú, Simón, hijo de Jonás —le dijo Jesús —, porque eso no te lo reveló ningún mortal, sino mi Padre que está en el cielo.

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

b. The Son revealed God

Jesus is Revealed!

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." (Matthew 11:27)

»Mi Padre me ha entregado todas las cosas. Nadie conoce al Hijo sino el Padre, y nadie conoce al Padre sino el Hijo y aquel a quien el Hijo quiera revelarlo.

NKJ Matthew 11:27 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

c. God was manifest ... revealed ... made visible!

i. God is a spirit

[PPT]

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

—Jesus is the image of the invisible God

- Colossians 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

[from God is One]

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[NO PPT] from older lesson:

NKJ Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

—Jesus is the image of the invisible God



- Colossians 2:9-10
For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
- JESUS is God manifested in the flesh!

[from God is One -Lesson 4]

—Jesus is the image of the invisible God

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

—God came in Flesh

- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

—God came in Flesh

The Incarnation — not another God, or junior God ... but the Son of God (not of separation but of manifestation)

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- John 3:17-18 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



—God came in Flesh

The Incarnation — not another God, or junior God ... but the Son of God (not of separation but of manifestation)

John 3: (Most know 3:16)

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

—One God is the mediator

- **1 Timothy 2:5-6**

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time



—One God is the mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

-God sent His son ... not a separate deity ... but in flesh (He didn't stop being God of the universe to become flesh)

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

—Jesus is One with the Father

- John 10:30 “I and My Father are one.”
- John 14:8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

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9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Wheel of Prophecy

Who Is GOD?

God Is a Spirit

John 4:23-24
 Acts 7:55-56
 Rom 1:20
 1 Cor 2:10-12
 1 John 4:7-10

There is but One God

Deuteronomy 10:4-6
 Mark 12:29-32
 Matt 23:17
 Rom 8:30
 1 Cor 8:4-6
 Eph 4:4-6
 1 Tim 2:13
 James 2:19
 Revelation 4:11



Jesus is God

John 1:1-14
 Mark 16:7-8
 John 1:1-14
 John 1:1-14
 John 8:24, 58-59
 John 14:9-11
 1 Cor 2:10-12
 1 Timothy 2:16

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Jesus Is Man

John 1:14
 Mark 16:7-8
 Luke 1:21, 24-27
 Acts 17:31
 Galatians 4:4
 Philippians 2:1-8
 1 Timothy 2:16
 Hebrews 2:14-16
 Hebrews 7:24-25

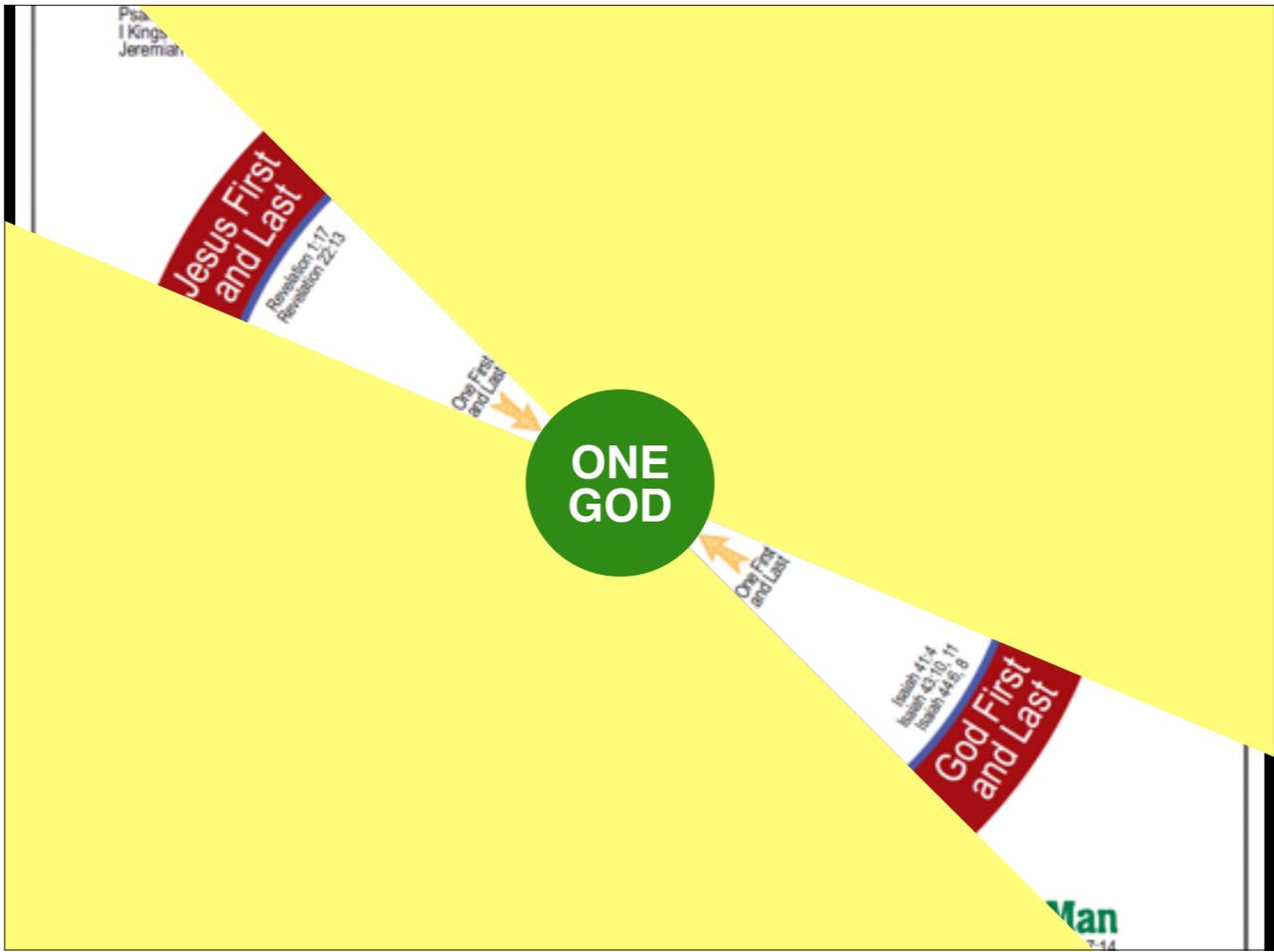
God Is a Spirit

John 4:23-24
 Acts 7:48-49
 Acts 17:24-28
 Psalm 139:7-12
 I Kings 8:27
 Jeremiah 23:23-24

There is but One God

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 Mark 12:28-32
 Malachi 2:10
 Isaiah 44:6-8
 Isaiah 45:2-6, 21-23
 Isaiah 46:8-9
 I Corinthians 8:4-6
 Ephesians 4:5-6
 I Timothy 2:5
 James 2:19
 Revelation 4:2-3





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