

## His love for us

I heard the story of an old professor of Theology who was asked at his retirement dinner to tell what he viewed as the deepest and most profound issue he had ever discussed in any of his classes. He said “the deepest and most profound issue in all of Theology is ‘Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so’”. When I heard this story I chuckled to myself until I gave it more thought.

The words to this simple children’s song convey ideas which force us to come to terms with a number of issues: 1. Who is this Jesus? 2. What is meant by “loves me”? 3. What is this Bible which is the source of my knowledge? 4. How does this affect me? In order to give this song any consideration what so ever, we must decide how much effort to pour into the interpretation of the ideas expressed by it. Is it only harmless children’s song, and are we safe to let it slide by and spend more time in the analysis of other issues, or is it as the old professor said? In either case, we must reach a decision on what to do with the song itself.

If we decide there is some substance to the expressed ideas, then we are greeted with the issue of “Who is this Jesus”? Scripture refers to Jesus as the Holy and divine Son of God who was the vehicle through whom all that is came into existence, and God Himself calls Him “My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased”. Jesus’ mother, Mary, was visited by an angel and told of His conception by the Holy Spirit, and upon His Birth, angels proclaimed it as the birth of “a Savior Who is Christ the Lord. The new Testament Gospels are replete with His miracles, wisdom and sinless life. This life culminated in a crucifixion based upon trumped up charges, but was made anew by His resurrection from the dead giving all who call Him Lord and savior eternal life with Him.

Having now decided on Who is this Jesus, the rest actually begins to fall into place better. I Corinthians chapter 13 talks about love. It is expressed in the fact that while we were dead in our sins, God still loved us. It is love which was the motivation for Jesus’ death on the cross for the sins of the world.

The Bible itself is a book which has survived several thousand years of vain attempts to destroy its reliability and yet has not only overcome the tests, but has been used as references for archaeological digs. Prophecies made in the Bible were fulfilled and lives have been changed by its teachings and by the Savior introduced within it. No other religious text speaks about God reaching down to man in order to lift him up. All others have man reaching up to God. Other religions can take you to the graves of their founders. Jesus Christ is still alive and is actively changing lives.

This opens up question 4. How does the affect me? Either Jesus Christ is the Holy begotten Son of the living God, God incarnate, the one through Whom Salvation is found, or He is a fake and a liar. We must decide for ourselves on this question. The paradoxical absurdity is that the Omnipotent God of Creation has given us the free will to reject or claim His love for us. This is the only way we can live with Him eternally....By our own choice.

Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5; 1John 1:1-3

Matthew 3:17

Luke 1:35

Luke 2: 8-14

Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22:47-24:49; John 18:1-20:29

Ephesians 2: 4-5

John 3:16-17