

# ***Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up!***

*(announce title in introduction)*

## **Text- 2 Corinthians 11:3-4**

*“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!”*

*[Prayer]*

## **Introduction**

In the **early days of television**, there was a show called, *“To Tell the Truth.”*

Each week the show would **feature a person with an unusual occupation.**

- Only **there were always three people** on the show.
- **One of them was the real person**, but the **other two** were **imposters.**
- The idea behind the show was for the celebrity panel to try to **guess who the “real” person was** by asking them **questions about their life and occupation.**
- At the high point of each show, the MC would announce: *“**Would the real “Joe Shmoe” please stand up!**”*
  - There would be a **dramatic pause**, and then **the real person would stand.**

My message for this service is titled: **Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up!**

**It is vital** to be able to **recognize and know the real Jesus.**

- **Many people** these days are **putting their faith in false or imaginary Christs** who **cannot save them.**
- Let me ask you a question: how do you **identify the REAL Jesus?**

We know there are a **lot of imposters** out there **claiming to be Jesus**.

Jesus Himself said, “*For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*” Matthew 24:5

In researching for this message, **I found 40 people in the past and present who actually claimed to be Jesus.**

- Among them is **Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez.**
- In **November 2011**, he **fired nine shots with a semi-automatic rifle at the White House in Washington D.C.**
- **He told the authorities that he was Jesus Christ and was sent to kill U.S. President Barack Obama, whom he believed to be the antichrist.**

Visit any **Internet religious chat room** and you’ll find a **bewildering array of opinions regarding Jesus.**

- Here are some contemporary answers to the question “**Who is Jesus?**” **A good man ... The Son of God ... A Prophet ... A Galilean rabbi ... A teacher of God’s Law ... The Embodiment of God’s Love ... A Reincarnated Spirit Master ... The Ultimate Revolutionary ... The Messiah of Israel ... Savior ... A first-century wise man ... A man just like any other man ... King of Kings ... A misunderstood teacher ... Lord of the Universe ... A deluded religious leader ... Son of Man ... A fabrication of the early church.**

As many **people as you ask**—that’s **how many different pictures of Jesus** that you will receive. some see Him as a **revolutionary, a subversive, a rabbi, a buddy, a peasant, a charismatic, a prophet, a Pharisee, a figment of your imagination-you name it!**

**So many people today cannot describe the true, biblical Jesus.**

**One survey showed that though 80% of Americans would call Jesus the Son of God, only 40% believed that He was God—and only 40% believed He was sinless.**

- This shows that millions of people have a mental concept of a false Christ: **one who cannot save them.**

I heard the story about different people **who went to heaven and were asked by a divine being “Do you know Jesus?”** The first one said, *“Yes, of course I know Jesus—He is kind and does good things for people.”* The second one was asked, “Do you know Jesus?” *Absolutely, I have lived a good life and done good deeds just like He asked me to.* The third person was a tried and true saint of God who had a powerful prayer and devotional life. This one was asked the same question, “Do you know Jesus.” The saint took one look at this divine being and said, *“Of course I know you Jesus! I immediately recognized you because I have been serving you all my life!”*

*Here’s the truth: it is possible to know Jesus personally and believe in Him but we must be careful of false doctrine.*

**In Matthew 24:24 Jesus said:** *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

**The real Jesus must be proclaimed-the real Jesus of the Bible!**

**Many religious groups have a false Jesus**

## **The Jesus of the Cults**

**The Mormons (16,663,663 members worldwide)**

**1. Jesus was not begotten of the Holy Ghost.**

**2. He was the spiritual brother of the devil.** Milton Hunter , one of their top leaders, writes, *“The appointment was contested by one of the other Sons of God. He was called Lucifer so he was the Spirit-brother of Jesus.*

**3. Jesus begat by Adam.** Brigham Young, one of their leaders said, “*Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh, by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our Father in heaven.*”

**4. Jesus was married and had children.** They teach that Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and that he begot children.

### **The Jehovah’s Witnesses (8,686,980 worldwide)**

1. He is **not God**. He is not equal to God. He is "a god."
2. He is a **created being**—God created Him.
3. **God created everything else through Jesus.**
4. He was **Michael the Archangel** before coming to earth.
5. He was **raised from the dead as Michael the Archangel** without a **physical body**.

### **The Spiritists (13 million followers 36 countries),**

1. It is possible for the **living to communicate with the dead**.
2. **Man never had a fall**. Whatever is, is right. Evil cannot exist. No matter what man’s path may be, good or bad, it is the path of divine ordination and destiny.
3. There is **no atoning value in the death of Jesus Christ**. He was a religious enthusiast, a Jew who came to an untimely death. **He was, however, a medium of high order. Jesus Christ was not God, but He is now an advanced spirit in the sixth sphere.**
4. **Hell does not exist and never will**. There is no judgment after death. Neither is there any such thing as bodily resurrection.

### **The Witches (millions and millions worldwide) 45 different types of witches Wicca is biggest.**

1. The Jesus of the witches is a “**super witch**.”
2. **Jesus was one among many sages** (wise man).
3. They believe that Jesus was a just a “**son of humanity**” like all of us.
4. They believe that Jesus **cast "spells" and "hexes" in his miracles**.

### **Unitarians (800,000)**

1. **A good man filled with divine inspiration**, but separate from God.
2. **Not physically resurrected** – the resurrection was merely symbolic
3. **Just another Jewish prophet.**
4. **The Jesus of the Unitarians is NOT an atoning Savior**

### **Christian Scientists (1100 groups-100,000 in the USA)**

1. Their Jesus is a **“divine idea.”**
2. They **distinguish between Jesus and Christ.**
3. They believe that **Jesus was a just a man of history.**
4. The Christian Scientists believe that **“Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea.”**
5. They believe in the **“duality” of Jesus.**

### **The Bahais (8,000,000 worldwide)**

1. Jesus is **“the Spirit of God”** and is equated with the **Holy Spirit of the Baha’i God.**
2. This **“Baha’i God allegedly inspired the biblical prophets.**
3. Jesus is just one of the **nine great manifestations of the primal point of divinity.**

### **New Age (3 ½ million worldwide)**

1. **The Jesus of the New Ager is an enlightened man who was in touch with his cosmic consciousness** and was able to tap into this universal power to heal others
2. **The New Age highly esteems Jesus as a spiritually attuned or evolved being** who serves as an example for spiritual discovery and evolutionary advancement.

### **The Theosophists (smallest cultic group – 40,000)**

1. Their Jesus is a **“reincarnation of the world’s soul.**
2. To them Jesus is just a **chosen messenger of God who was a “extraordinary human being.”**
4. They teach that **knowledge of God** may be achieved through **spiritual ecstasy.**

## The four most prominent world religions

*Not classified as “cults”*

*(We will study some of these in a later session)*

**Islam:** a monotheistic religion based on the teachings of Muhammad, the prophet of Allah. It has about **1.907 billion** adherents, making it the **second-largest religion** in the world.

**Hinduism:** one of the world’s oldest religions, with a diverse range of beliefs and practices. It has about **1.161 billion** adherents, making it the **third-largest** religion in the world.

**Buddhism:** a non-theistic religion that follows the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha. It has about 506 million adherents, making it the **fourth-largest** religion in the world.

**Christianity (2.4 billion followers) largest in the world!!**  
*Atheists, skeptics, and unbelievers falsely believe that all religions are the same and the differences are only superficial. They think all religions are different expressions of the same truth and all lead to God. This is NOT true because each of these world religions are fundamentally different and it is a proven fact that Christianity is the one true religion.* We will study this in our last session.

Here are four of the most popular versions of Jesus found in American society.

### **Heirloom Jesus**

- Heirloom Jesus is **doubtless the shallowest** and, sadly, **most common Jesus** found in America.
- This Jesus was **treasured by great-grandma** and has been **passed down generation by generation**, but with **increasingly less value**.

- Jesus might **bring back great memories** of times and persons gone by, but he's **no longer of practical use to the family.**

**Heirloom Jesus is merely kept out of duty**—like an old figurine on a dusty shelf. As a beloved figurine might be considered “part of the family,” so too is this Jesus.

They think they are Christians because “**Mama was a Christian,**” but the truth is *our God has no grandchildren.*

They have a **big family Bible with a picture of Jesus on the top,** they go to **church on Christmas and Easter,** (we call them “**CEO’s—Christmas and Easter only**) and they **ensure their kids receive proper dedications and baptisms.**

They **politely bow their heads before meals**—they have a form of Godliness *but deny the power thereof!*

### **Political Jesus**

The Political Jesus is **used to support political arguments.**

- The “political Jesus people” **ride His coattails for their own advancement in politics** and **that ultimate court of opinion: Facebook.** Their image means everything to them. **They preserve it at all costs.**
- **This Jesus only represents the political beliefs of the individual. Politicians love to use this Jesus on the campaign trail,** drawing on His reputation to win a demographic area.

### **Insurance Agent Jesus**

**Insurance Agent Jesus can exist in the heart of a true believers,** but their spiritual growth is stunted by a need to feel safe.

This **Jesus is summoned exclusively during crisis.**

- **Like a good neighbor,** this Jesus is there in the event of serious injury, terminal illness, job loss, divorce, or

**property loss.**

- He **functions** like an **insurance agent**. When things go wrong, **he is just a prayer away**. But only then—only in desperation.
  - **When things go well**, he is, like an insurance agent, **largely forgotten**.

**This is NOT Prosperity Gospel** because **Insurance Agent Jesus** doesn't offer prosperity, but reassures safety.

Many of these types of Christians will **gladly tell you about their new BMW or lake house**.

- But **once the safety net has been removed**, the **house foreclosed**, or the **child lost to drugs**, and the **cars repossessed** the **boasts of faith are shattered** and they **run to find the Bible left on the car floor from some Sunday weeks ago**.
- They **flip through the pages**, hoping to find the **right words to pray**.

**Insurance Agent Jesus** is worshiped *fervently* and *wholeheartedly*—but only for a short time.

- When the **season of trouble has passed**, personal devotion goes with it, and the **follower of this Jesus falls back into their old religious routine**.

## **Therapist Jesus**

**Therapist Jesus** is the most popular—and most handicapping—version of Jesus in America today.

- Therapist Jesus **people come to Jesus not for forgiveness of sin** because of some **emotional turmoil** in their lives.



- **Therapist Jesus lives to make you feel better.** He is a **friend** in the storm.
- If you are you **depressed** and **life feels meaningless**, **this Jesus is here to soothe.**

True **believers in Christ** know that He will never leave **nor forsake his children.**

- But **those who follow Therapist Jesus *mis-prioritize*** these comforting promises and **forget that Jesus came first to remove the condemnation of sin.**
- They **don't want to live a holy life, only a happy one.** Therapist Jesus provides a **shoulder to cry on, *not a Savior to believe in.*** He functions like a **motivational bumper sticker!**

**Here is the real problem:** people **find bits and pieces** about Jesus they like, **discard those they dislike**, and **fashion their own Jesus.**

- This Jesus tends to be **whichever Christ is safe, convenient, and helpful for the individual's life in the moment.**

So, with the **exception of the Christian faith, *none of these are the real Jesus!*** The Jesus whom we **worship, witness, and work** for is:

- The **Jesus of the Bible;**
- The **Son of God** and **God the Son;**
- The **Second Person** of the **Triune Godhead;**
- **Emmanuel**, God with us; and
- Our soon-coming **King.**

The “real Jesus” has **stood up and still stands**  
**the test of time!**

Here's how we can know for sure!

**His origin**—He is **eternal** and is the “**uncreated creator.**” He is “**Alpha and Omega,**” the **beginning** and the **end.**

- In John 8:58, He said, “*I assure you: Before Abraham was, I am*” **I AM** is the **name God gave Himself** at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14.
- John 1:3 says, “*All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.*” **End of story!**

**He is the real Jesus because of His deity**—He is **co-equal** and **co-eternal** with the **Father** and the **Holy Spirit.**

- John 10:30 – “*The Father and I are one.*”
- Col 2:9 “*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*”
  - The “Godhead” is the "Divine" essence is shared by three distinct persons:: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

**His humanity**—While on earth He was **fully human**, sharing the **full range of mankind’s experiences.** He got **thirsty, hungry, angry, and weary.** He suffered **temptation, pain, and sorrow.**

- In **Matthew 4**, Jesus is **hungry and tempted** by Satan but **responds to both with God’s Word.**
- In **Luke 19:41** and **John 11:35** – Jesus **weeps over Jerusalem** and at the **tomb of Lazarus.**
- In **John 19:30** Jesus says, “**I’m thirsty,**” and then **He dies** for our sins!
- His **humanity enables Him** to serve as our **great high priest.** Listen to **Hebrews 2:17-18** “*Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*”

Jesus was not a **hybrid!** He was **fully and completely man** and **fully and completely God** at the **same time!** This is tough to

understand—it is called the “**incarnation.**” We just believe it!! This is **the problem with the cults** because they **only use the scriptures** that show His **humanity.**

### **He is the real Jesus because of His purpose.**

- Luke 19:10, “*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.*”
- He came to **bring God’s kingdom; to pay our “sin debt;” to defeat Satan and his works; and to offer us eternal life.**

### **He was the real Jesus because of His proof.**

- He **fulfills Messianic prophecies**, most notably by **rising physically from the dead.** Look at John 2:18-21 “*So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" (19) Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (21) He was speaking of the temple of His body.*”

**The real Jesus of the Bible** didn’t come **merely to make us Just feel better**--He came to give us life and more abundantly.

- The **pain we feel, the hurt we endure, and the trials we face are all real**, and He **delivers us** in the midst of them all.
- **Man at altar:** *Lord help me get rid of the cobwebs in my life—His pastor said, “God kill the spider!”*

**He is the real Jesus and He has “all power”—He is omnipotent.**

- His **riches are unsearchable** (Eph. 3:8)
  - *Unsearchable riches of Christ*
- His **love passes knowledge** (Eph. 3:19)
  - *Love of Christ passes knowledge*
- He receives our **honor, glory, praise.** (Rev. 5:12, 13 with Isa. 42:8; John 5:23)
- He has the power to **baptizes us with the H.S.** (Matt. 3:11)
  - *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Jesus **stands at the center of salvation**; He is the **Way and the Way maker** and He is the **Author of freedom**.

- He said , *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6). He also said, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John (8:36).*

**He is Jesus now and forever more!**

### Close

As believers, it is **our job to tell people the good news of Jesus**.

- We are **“laborers together with Him.”**
- We can **tell one person and they can tell another person** and **that person can tell another person**. That’s how the Gospel is heard all over the world!
  - This is called **“tell a person”** and it still works!
- *One man awake can awaken another. The second can awaken his next-door brother. The three awake can rouse the town by turning the whole place upside down. The many awake can make such a fuss, it finally awakens the rest of us. **One man up with dawn in his eyes multiplies!***

*\*I put this on the backside of page 3*

Scientology is **one of the most controversial religious movements of our time**. The **membership** is not published by thought to be between **100,000 and 200,000**, spread across **184 of the world's 195 countries**. Scientology leadership claims to have 10 million! Who knows? Church of Scientology International The Flag Building , which is located in Clearwater, Florida, was opened to the public in 2013 and **serves as the spiritual headquarters of Scientology**.

Scientology is a **set of religious beliefs** created by **science fiction writer** L. Ron Hubbard (Lafayette) . Hubbard wrote a **self-help book** that explored the **relationship** between **body** and **mind** called *Dianetics* in 1950. In **1952**, he expanded upon the success of Dianetics by **creating Scientology**. Hubbard then **incorporated the Church of Scientology in 1953**.

Hubbard maintained a leadership role in the **Church of Scientology until his death in 1986** — even during periods where he went into hiding because of controversy and **legal actions against the church**.

What do scientologists believe? Scientologists believe that **people are immortal alien beings (called thetans)** who have forgotten their true nature and are **trapped on earth in a human body**. Scientologists believe that each **thetan has lived numerous past lives (reincarnation)**, both **on earth** in our physical bodies, and on **other planets**. Scientologists also believe that by **undergoing a series of classes and teachings** (called "*auditing*" by the church), people can free themselves of their human form and reclaim their true selves. **Numerous celebrities** including **Issac Hayes, Tom Cruise** and **Jerry Seinfeld** have been **involved** in it.

**Reports** from some who have **left the Church of Scientology** are quite **incriminating** and **include stories of church members being held for years against their wills at "rehabilitation camps"** for violating **certain policies**, or **sending members to go through the trash of the church's critics and former members to find material to blackmail them into silence**. In 1979, several **Scientology members** were convicted for participating in the **largest theft of government documents in U.S. history**. Scientologists have also been accused of **tampering with witnesses** in court cases and **even murder**.