

## BELIEVING IN JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD

To believe in Jesus as the “**Son of God**” is to believe in Him as God. Son of God means He is of the very order and nature of God (cf. Jn. 1:34; 4:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4). He is God of very God Who reveals God to us. He was God come in the flesh. This is the MAJOR theme of the entire book of John seen for example in the I AM statements in the book. I AM is God's eternal name emphasizing Him as the eternal and unchanging God (Ex. 3:13-15).

### John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”

### John 8:58 (NKJV)

**58** Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

“The title [Son of God] does not, of course, imply biological descent...but the metaphor of sonship expresses the unity of nature, close fellowship, and unique intimacy between Jesus and the Father. Human fatherhood and sonship are only a faint copy of the relation between God the Father and God the Son.” - **Expositors**

In short, to believe in Jesus as the Christ is to believe in Him as the promised God-Man Savior; to believe in Him as the Son of God is to believe in Him as God Almighty. And as noted in the illustration of Thomas in John 20:28-29 it must be personal as in “My Lord and my God!”. We must believe in Jesus as our personal God-Savior!

**Note:** In John 20:31, John writing evangelistically says in order to be saved we must believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. In Matt. 16:16-18 Peter confessed this very thing saying to Jesus, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**” to which Jesus responded by saying on this ROCK (this ROCK truth) “**I will build My Church.**”

On what is Christ building His Church? On the gospel TRUTH of Who Jesus is as the Christ Who is the Son of God. It is NOT built upon some ritual. It is not built upon water baptism. Rather it is built on the truth of WHO Jesus is. When people BELIEVE this gospel truth then they are saved and added to the forever family of God called the Church of Jesus Christ. This is HOW Christ is building His Church – namely through FAITH in His Person.

And so, John wraps it all up by saying, “**and that believing you may have life in His name.**” (Jn. 20:31) Saving faith must have CONTENT and that content is the NAME – that is the PERSON of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ’s NAME is His Person – Who He is. His Name represents all that He is and all that He stands for as Lord and Savior. It is in believing in Him for Who He is that we have LIFE (eternal life) in His name.

#### **Acts 4:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

“Believe” is a KEY word in John’s gospel occurring 98 times in the book. Another key word is “life” which is found 36 times in the book. It is through believing in the Person of Christ that we have LIFE!

This rounds out the book of John proper. It ends where it began by emphasizing life through faith in Christ’s name.

#### **John 1:12 (NKJV)**

**12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

#### **John 20:31 (NKJV)**

**31** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The gospel of John makes the ultimate issue that of BELIEF in Christ. In the end, one is ultimately either a true believer or an unbeliever.

#### **John 3:18 (NKJV)**

**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.

#### **John 3:36 (NKJV)**

**36** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Saving faith is from the heart, involving the will (Rom. 10:9-10). It is a change of mind (repentance) kind of faith with regard to the PERSON and WORK of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Lord Jesus Christ is truly believed on (personally recognized, acknowledged, embraced) for WHO He is as Lord and Savior, genuine repentance has taken place (Acts 16:31; Lk. 23:42).

This saving faith response to Christ involves a change of mind with regard to sin and a change of mind toward Christ. A change of mind with regard to sin and with regard to Christ go together. You can't have one without the other!

Jesus must be believed on for WHO He is as Lord and Savior! This is the critical issue for time and eternity.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! (Acts 16:30-31).