

JESUS FOR REAL

The Bible tells us in **1 Corinthians 14:23**... “God is not a God of confusion but of peace,” yet, there is so much confusion about who God is and what He says. A troubling study from a few years ago reports that nearly half of suburban based Christian Americans think that there are several alternative ways to God besides Jesus Himself. This confusion is not limited to the person and nature of the God-head either. We have had local pastors publicly criticize the concept of original sin which negates the need for sacrifice of Jesus for our sin. I have also spoken to people in Kansas City (two different churches) who had pastors preach from their pulpits that heaven and hell are not real and not to believe in them.

Let’s take a fresh look at who God is and what His Word says. He is who He says He is. He does speak and He is speaking to us and inviting us to know Him and share Him with others.

“Original sin is the only rational solution of the undeniable fact of the deep, universal and early manifested sinfulness of men in all ages, of every class, and in every part of the world.” **Charles Hodge**

“Original sin is in us, like the beard. We are shaved today and look clean, and have a smooth chin; tomorrow our beard has grown again, nor does it cease growing while we remain on earth.” **Martin Luther**

“Fallen human nature has neither grace nor truth in it, but the human nature of Christ was full of grace and truth.” **W.E. Best**

“Man, but his fall, wounded his head and his heart; the wound in the head made him unstable in the truth, and that in his heart unsteadfast in his affections.” **Stephen Charnock**

“Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was he a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man.” **C.H. Spurgeon**

“The natural man is capable of natural good, but he is incapable of any spiritual good.” **John Blanchard**

“If Jesus Christ was a product of evolution, how is it that no better man has since appeared, after nineteen centuries?” **W.H. Griffith Thomas**

- **God spoke in history through the prophets in a variety of ways. (v1)**
 - He spoke in a burning bush to Moses.

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.

Exodus 3:2 NASB

- He spoke to Elijah in a still small voice.

After the earthquake a fire, *but the Lord was not in the fire*; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. **1 Kings 19:12 NASB**

- He spoke to Isaiah in a vision in the temple.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. **Isaiah 6:1 NASB**

- He spoke to Hosea through his circumstances.

²When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord." **Hosea 1:2 NASB**

- He spoke to Amos via a basket of fruit.

Thus the Lord God showed me, and behold, *there was* a basket of summer fruit. **Amos 8:1 NASB**

- He spoke through visions, dreams, trances, angels, Urim and Thummim, a pillar of fire, a cloud of glory, by a donkey and in many other ways.

¹God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. **Hebrews 1:1-4 NASB**

- **In these last days (the Messianic Age) He has spoken to us through His Son Jesus.**

- Jesus is God's prophetic voice.
 - Ezekial portrayed the glory of God, Jesus actualized it.

As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking. **Ezekial 1:28 NASB**

So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the Lord was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face. **Ezekial 3:23 NASB**

- Isaiah declared God's nature as holy, righteous, and merciful; Jesus manifested it.

Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him. **Isaiah 1:4 NASB**

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.

Isaiah 1:18 NASB

But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. **Isaiah 11:4 NASB**

- Jeremiah described the power of God; Jesus displayed it.

¹⁸ Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord. **Jeremiah 1:18-19 NASB**

¹² *It is* He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom; and by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens. ¹³ When He utters His voice, *there is* a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain, and brings out the wind from His storehouses. **Jeremiah 10:12-13 NASB**

- The Word of the Lord came to the prophets. Jesus, the Word of God, came to us to interpret God to us.

¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth ^[19] were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*. **John 1:17-18 NASB**

- Jesus is the Son of God.

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 17:15-17 NASB**

²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. **John 5:25-27 NASB**

- Jesus is the heir of all things.

“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.” **Psalms 2:7-8 NASB**

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Matthew 28:18 NASB**

- Jesus is God’s agent in creation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **John 1:1-3 NASB**

- Jesus is the personification of God’s glory.

¹⁵ Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. **Exodus 24:15-17 NASB**

¹⁸ Then Moses said, “I pray You, show me Your glory!” ¹⁹ And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.” ²⁰ But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” ²¹ Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; ²² and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.” **Exodus 33:18-23 NASB**

- Jesus is the perfect revelation of God.

In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **2 Corinthians 4:4 NASB**

¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **Colossians 1:13-15 NASB**
For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. **Colossians 2:9 NASB**

- This is an engraving term – Jesus bears the very stamp of God’s nature.
- Jesus is the sustaining power of the universe and in and through Him the universe is one harmonious whole.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **Colossians 1:17 NASB**

- He Himself antedates all things and all things in Him cohere. **Wuest**
- Jesus is the only sacrifice for sin:
 - He made propitiation for the sins of the people

¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. **Hebrews 2:17-18 NASB**

- He put sins away so that God remembers them no more.

“For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

Hebrews 8:12 NASB

“And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” **Hebrews 10:17 NASB**

- He bore our sins.

²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, ²⁸ so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him. **Hebrews 9:27-28 NASB**

- He made the once and forever sacrifice for sins.

But He, having offered one sacrifice for [†]sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God. **Hebrews 10:12 NASB**

- He brought about remission of our sins.

Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:18 NASB

- He put sin away by His sacrifice.

Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. **Hebrews 9:26 NASB**

- He has redeemed us from our transgressions and given us eternal life.

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. **Hebrews 9:15 NASB**

- His sacrifice for sin being accomplished, He returned to His rightful place.

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:1-3 NASB**

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **Hebrews 12:1-3 NASB**

NOTE: Jesus is undeniably and unmistakably the Son of God sent so we might be able to know Him, hear from Him and love Him. Jesus is the living, speaking, engraved invitation of God to man. Have you accepted His invitation? Are you hearing Him speaking to you?