

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Matthew 22:42

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What we think and how we think are most important.

- ▶ No one is better than the thoughts of his heart. Proverbs 23:7; 2 Corinthians 10:5
- ▶ Bible teaching on any subject must determine what we think about it.
 - Some let their preacher do their thinking. cf. John 7:25ff
 - Some let their parents do their thinking. Matthew 10:32ff

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What Think Ye Of The Claims Of Christ?

- ▶ He claimed to be the Savior of the world. Luke 19:10; 9:56 KJV
- ▶ He claimed to be the Son of God. Matthew 16:16ff; John 9:35-37
- ▶ He claimed to be the King of kings. John 18:37; Matthew 28:18

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What some have thought about the claims of Christ.

- ▶ The unbelieving Jews thought Him to be an impostor. Mark. 2:7; Matthew 27:40
- ▶ Most today think of Him as a human philosopher, perhaps a prophet.
- ▶ Premillennialists think of Him as a weakling.

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Why is it important what we think of the claims of Christ?

- ▶ A refusal to believe His claims will condemn us. John 8:24
- ▶ A failure to confess Him before men means eternal condemnation. Matthew 10:32-33
- ▶ ***No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the claims of Christ.***

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What Think Ye Of The Commandments Of Christ?

- ▶ As presented by Christ: Faith, repentance, baptism. Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-47; Mark 16:15-16
- ▶ As preached by the apostles: Faith, repentance, baptism. Acts 2:36-38
- ▶ As obeyed by sinners: Faith, repentance, baptism. Acts 16:31-33; 18:8

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What some have thought of these commands.

- ▶ Jews thought these were too narrow.
 - Taught: Faith + Repentance + Baptism + **Circumcision** = Salvation. Acts 15; Galatians 2 cf. Revelation 22:18
- ▶ Some today think these commands are too much.
 - Baptism – **Faith** = Salvation. Practice infant baptism.
 - Faith – **Baptism** = Salvation. Practice faith only.

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What have some thought of these commands?

INTERESTING QUOTE: "It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but 'one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,' and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights and privileges of full membership. In that sense, 'baptism was the door into the church.' **Now it is different ...**" (The Standard Manual For Baptist Churches, by Edward T. Hiscox, page 22).

SEE: Revelation 22:18–19; Galatians 1:6–9; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9–11

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

▶ *Mark 16:16* "He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved; but he that **disbelieveth** shall be condemned."

- ▶ OR He that believeth and is saved, should be baptized.
- ▶ OR He that believeth and is NOT baptized shall be saved.

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Why is it important what we think of the commands of Christ?

- ▶ We will be judged by the word of Christ. John 12:48
- ▶ We will stand condemned if we do not obey the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8
- ▶ **No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the commands of Christ.**

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What Think Ye Of The Church Of Christ?

What is the church of Christ?

- ▶ It is the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:22–23; the one body of Ephesians 4:4; The body of saved people. Ephesians 5:23
- ▶ It is the kingdom of Christ. Matthew 16:18ff; Colossians 1:13ff
- ▶ It is the family of God. Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15
- ▶ It is the temple of God. Ephesians 2:20–22

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

What some have thought of the church.

- ▶ Some thought it was a sect. Acts 28:22
 - *hairesis*: "a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets (a sect or party): as the Sadducees, Acts 5:17; the Pharisees, Acts 15:5; 26:5; the Christians, Acts 24:5,14 (in both instances with a suggestion of reproach); 28:22" (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Some think the church is non-essential.

- ▶ They say, "Christ saves, not the church." I don't want to be a part of the church.
- ▶ Who does Christ save? The church. Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47
- ▶ If the church is non-essential, why did Christ die for it? Acts 20:28

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Some think the church existed once as a separate body, but does not exist today as such ...

- ▶ They say, "Christians in all churches."
- ▶ Is it possible for 100 people to obey the gospel and refuse to join any human denomination? What would they be? Members of Christ's church!
- ▶ Illustration: A blueprint, though lost for years, if found, can be the means of restoring the original building. When we obey the NT pattern, all we have is Christ's church.

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Why is it important what we think of the church of Christ?

- ▶ It is His Body. Ephesians 1:22-23
- ▶ It is His Bride. Ephesians 5:22ff
- ▶ It is His Kingdom. Matthew 16:19
- ▶ *"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."* Psalms 127:1; cf. Matthew 15:13
- ▶ ***No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the church of Christ.***

What Think Ye Of The Christ?

Conclusion:

- ▶ His claims?
- ▶ His commands?
- ▶ His church?

What does Christ think of you and me?

- ▶ He died for us!