

## Lesson 81 – WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? (1)      Matthew 22:15-46

What are the important questions concerning salvation, righteousness, and eternal life? Consider – How can a holy, just, righteous, and good God save, forgive, justify, and accept sinful people? How can God do so and still remain true to Himself in all the attributes of His nature? How can sinners be forgiven by God on a just ground? How can the ungodly be justly declared righteous in God's sight? The answer is found in the Gospel revelation of the righteousness of God, which is the entire merit of Christ's obedience unto death as the Surety, Substitute, and Redemer of God's chosen people. This is His righteousness imputed and from which God gives spiritual life and faith. The natural man does not even consider or see the importance of these questions, but he will delve into worthless and vain issues that have nothing to do with salvation. Consider the following:

**(Matt. 22:15-22)** – The *“HERODIANS”* (followers of Herod Antipas and Rome) as sent by the *“PHARISEES”* to try to *“ENTANGLE HIM IN HIS TALK.”* It is significant to know that they were not really seeking answers. They wanted to entrap the Lord in His words to find a reason to arrest Him. They first spoke the truth even though they themselves did not believe it – *“MASTER, WE KNOW THAT THOU ART TRUE, AND TEACHEST THE WAY OF GOD IN TRUTH, NEITHER CAREST THOU FOR ANY MAN: FOR THOU REGARDEST NOT THE PERSON OF MEN.”* The Lord Jesus was (and is) an honest person of integrity. He was (and is) the supreme embodiment and teacher of God's way of truth. His Gospel is the one and only way of salvation by God's grace based on HIS righteousness alone, and this truth was offensive to them. He was (and is) no respecter of men's persons. Christ knew that all people are sinners and in need of salvation by grace. No sinner has anything within himself to impress or recommend himself unto God (Rom. 3:10-12,23).

Their question, *“IS IT LAWFUL TO GIVE TRIBUTE UNTO CAESAR, OR NOT?,”* was designed to bring Him to admit to the crime of sedition so that He would be charged with rebellion against Caesar and Rome. But the Lord called them *“HYPOCRITES,”* and in His wisdom outsmarted them all by asking them to show Him their tax money, a coin which had the image of Caesar inscribed on it. He wisely answered, *“Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar,”* but give *“UNTO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S.”* They were amazed and shut their mouths. Their trap did not work with Him.

**(Matt. 22:23-30)** – The *“SADDUCESS, WHICH SAY THAT THERE IS NO RESURRECTION,”* asked about marriage after the resurrection. Christ told them, *“YE DO ERR, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES, NOR THE POWER OF GOD.”* False religionists do not know God's revealed Word. Furthermore, they do not know the power that God has to create in the new heavens and earth conditions that are not the

same as conditions here in this sinful world. We do not know a lot about our eternal existence in glory, but in glory we neither marry nor are given in marriage. We will be like the angels, not that we become angels, but in the sense of the quality of their persons and their eternal existence without sickness, pain, and death. The love we will have then for each other will be so much higher and satisfying than the love we have now, and it will not be disappointing or lacking.

**(Matt. 22:31-33)** – The Lord here emphasizes that there is a resurrection of all who die in Him as indicated by the covenant promise given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is all conditioned on Him for His chosen people (2 Cor. 1:20-22), and the result is the perfection and bliss of eternal life in a new spiritual, glorified body (1 Cor. 15:35-49). And when they heard His words, *“THEY WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS DOCTRINE.”*

**(Matt. 22:34-40)** – The Pharisees and the Sadducees were enemies religiously and politically, so the Pharisees were probably pleased to see Jesus shut the mouths of the Sadducees. They sent a *“LAWYER”* (interpreter of the law) to test Him by asking, *“MASTER, WHICH IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW?”* The Lord answered by stating the law of perfect love to God and perfect love to our neighbor. He said, *“ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.”* Obviously, they did not expect this answer, and they could not deny it, so they gathered probably to plan their next question to try to trap the Lord. But before they could come back with another foolish question, the Lord posed a question for them.

**(Matt. 22:41-46)** – *“WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE?”* This is one of the most important questions that we can consider and seek to find the answer. This question is one of salvation and eternal life as they are all from God are founded upon and given to His people through this glorious Person Who is the Messiah, the Anointed One, and the work He has accomplished as the Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Life-Giver, and Preserver of His people. They answered correctly that He is *“THE SON OF DAVID,”* but their answer did not tell the whole story. They left out a vital truth concerning the Person of Christ. So, the Lord asked them, *“HOW THEN DOETH DAVID IN SPIRIT CALL HIM LORD,”* and quoted David’s words in *Psalms 110:1*, *“THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU ON MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL.”* This means that King David recognized the Messiah as being both Divine and human, both God and man in one Person as He is both the Son of God and the Son of man. So, *“IF DAVID THEN CALL HIM LORD, HOW IS HE HIS SON?”* How could Messiah be both David’s God and David’s Son? They were unable to answer Him, but this is the kind of Person needed to fulfill all righteousness for His people! By His obedience unto death, Christ, Godman, died to put away the sins of His sheep and established the only righteousness by which God justifies the ungodly.