

The Lord's Day Evening

**October 15, 1944**

**"I Believe in Jesus Christ"**  
**Scripture Lesson – Matthew 16:6-20**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Introduction

1. Resume
  - a. Importance of a Creed
  - b. Believe in God
  - c. Am trying to make these sermons practical and not mere speculation
2. Tonight think of "I believe in Jesus Christ."
  - a. This takes more of Creedal statement than all the remainder put together.
    1. This is as it should be because in early days there was more discussion about Him, His personality and being than any other doctrinal question.
  - b. It is most important because it is the cardinal point of all Christian theology.
    1. Know God through Him
    2. Our attitude toward Him will very largely determine our attitude toward sin.
    3. Our attitude toward Him will determine our conception of what the Gospel is and the whole plan of salvation.
  - c. So let us look carefully at what we believe about Jesus Christ.

I. He was a historical character

1. Some few question this today
  - a. They question everything
2. Question it because they say so few mentions made of Him in secular Roman history.
  - a. Marvel is that any should be made at all
    1. He wrote nothing
    2. He did not deal with music, art, science, economics, government
    3. He was distinctly a religious character dealing with a hated and despised people who lived in one very small and remote area of the Roman Empire.
    4. It was several decades before His life began to make any impression on the Roman Empire and then we find their history begins to be full of mention of His followers.
  - b. But let us notice three important mentions of Him which were made by Roman historians.
    1. See attached copy.
  - c. Here we find the Roman historians make certain interesting and important statements about Christ which are important in any consideration of what was said and thought about Him by Romans in early times.
    1. They use His divine name, Christ.

2. They refer to His having lived in Judea.
3. They refer to His having been crucified by Pontius Pilate.
4. They refer to the rapid spread of His sphere of influence from Judea to Rome in spite of the declaration that He had been put to death.
5. They say that His followers met together and worshiped Him.
- d. So it would be rather foolish for any to doubt the historicity of Christ.
  1. Yet there are those today who would continue to apparently believe He did not exist and teach others to believe it.

## II. His being Jesus Christ

1. Jesus was human name
  - a. Meant Jehovah saves
  - b. Was given Him at annunciation when declared "His name shall be called Jesus because He shall save His people from their sins."
  - c. So then there is a human side to this being.
    1. All believe in this. Jews declare His greatness as a teacher and even now are waiting to accept Him as a prophet.
    2. Mohammedans accept Him as a prophet of God.
    3. Many today will extol the virtues of the man Christ and declare He was the greatest prophet and teacher of all time. Will ever praise Him as a heroic martyr.
2. But the Creedal statement goes further and says Jesus Christ.
  - a. Christ means Messiah, Anointed One of God.
    1. The one about whom prophets wrote
    2. The one long looked for and expected
  - b. He was the only Son of God
    1. He distinctly implies this when He speaks of "I and My Father are One." "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."
    2. He Himself always distinguishes between our relation to God as Father and His relation to God as Father. For He never says our Father, but your Father and My Father.
3. So we believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God in a unique sense.

## III. How can we believe this

1. His sinlessness
  - a. No sense of any need for a break with His past
    1. Called on others to repent but never needed to Himself.
  - b. No cry for forgiveness for Himself
  - c. No sense of not pleasing Father at all times
2. No sense of helplessness
  - a. Best and greatest of men have feeling of frustration and need and at times helplessness.
    1. Never so with Christ
  - b. He said can do all things
  - c. Commanded all realm of nature
3. Claims He makes for Himself

- a. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
  - b. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."
  - c. "I go to prepare a place for you."
  - d. "Believe in God, believe also in Me."
  - e. We would call any other person who made such claims crazy.
- 4. His influence on the passing years
  - a. Take statements in early part of sermon made by Roman historians
  - b. Many decry futility of the Church and criticize it but not Christ
  - c. Charles Lamb said if Shakespeare should enter this room we would all rise to honor him, but if Jesus came into this room, we would all fall down and worship Him.
  - d. 1900 years after He lived and died thousands perhaps millions would rather die for Him than to give Him up.
  - e. His influence upon human history, art and science
    - 1. Hospitals
    - 2. Orphans homes
    - 3. Humanitarian institutions
    - 4. Modern science has flourished only where Christ has set men's souls free.
- 5. The universality of His appeal
  - a. Throughout the world
  - b. Saints and sinners
  - c. Scientists and mystics
- 6. The miracles He performed
  - a. Someone has said "How did He know the apostles did not have something put over on them?"
  - b. Can you imagine the kind of man we have been thinking of putting anything over on men
  - c. Calling them from their families, business, religion, to follow Him and sending them out to die for Him in a belief that He was God and doing it in any false or insincere manner.

### Conclusion

- 1. Here again it is not mere speculation. There is a duty involved.
  - a. Follow Him as Lord.
    - 1. Poem – page 267 – "World's Greatest Sermons"
 

"If Jesus Christ is a man, and only a man, I say, That of all mankind I will cleave to Him, and to Him will I cleave alway;  
If Jesus Christ be God, and the only God, I swear, I will follow Him through heaven and hell, the earth, the sea, and the air."
  - b. You young people cannot afford not to make Him your Lord
    - 1. He can lead you into happiness and usefulness
  - c. We should accept Him as Savior
- 2. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.