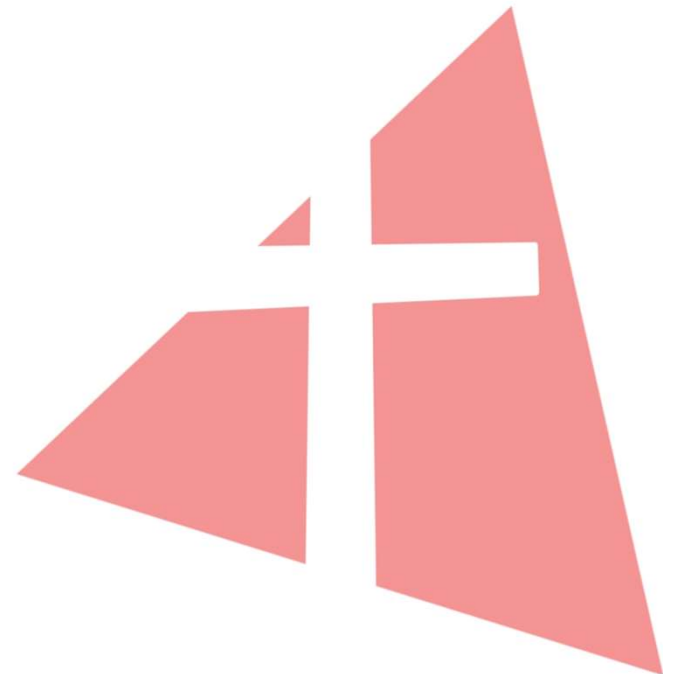


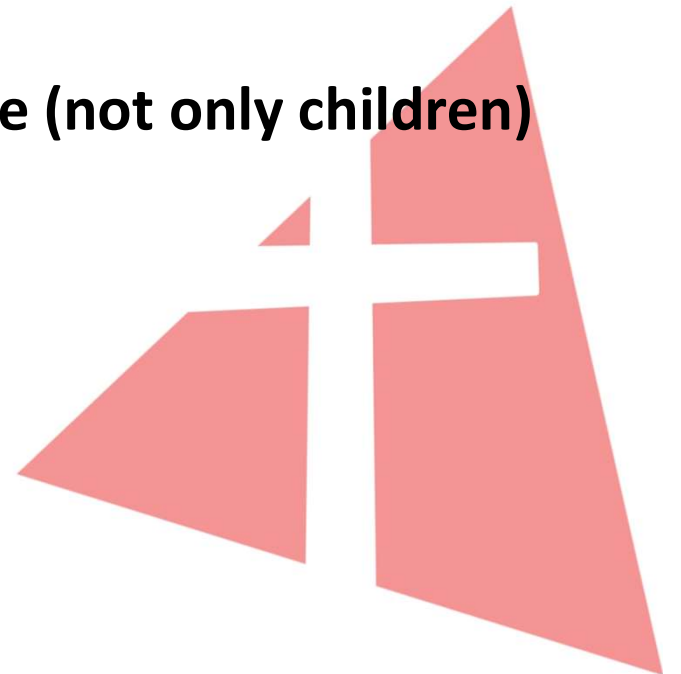
SHOULD I CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

December 17th 2017



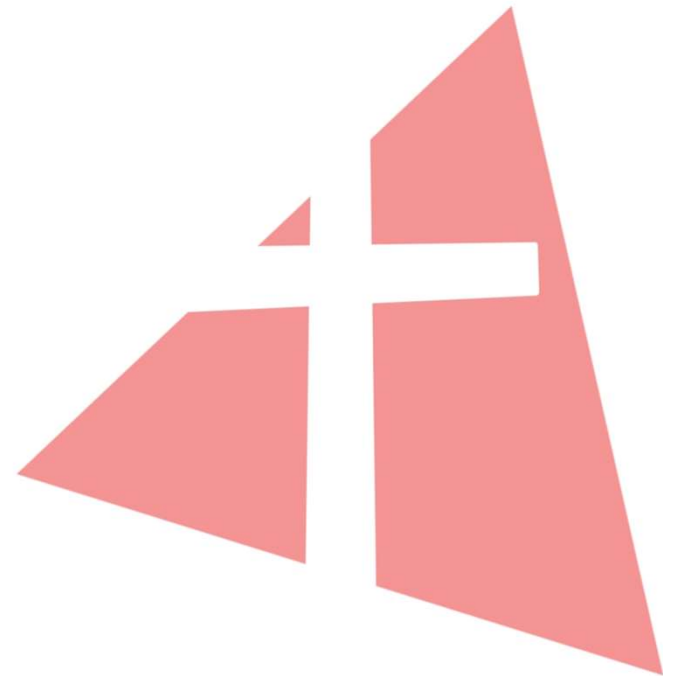
A SPECIAL SEASON

- **Christmas is a special season for many people (not only children)**




WHY CHRISTMAS?

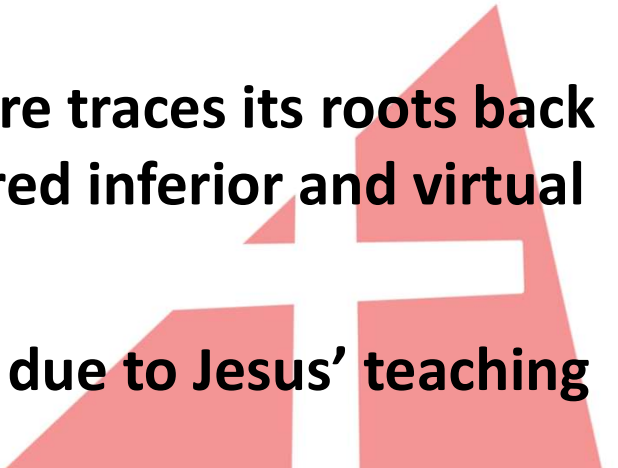
- **The birth of Jesus**



HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT JESUS

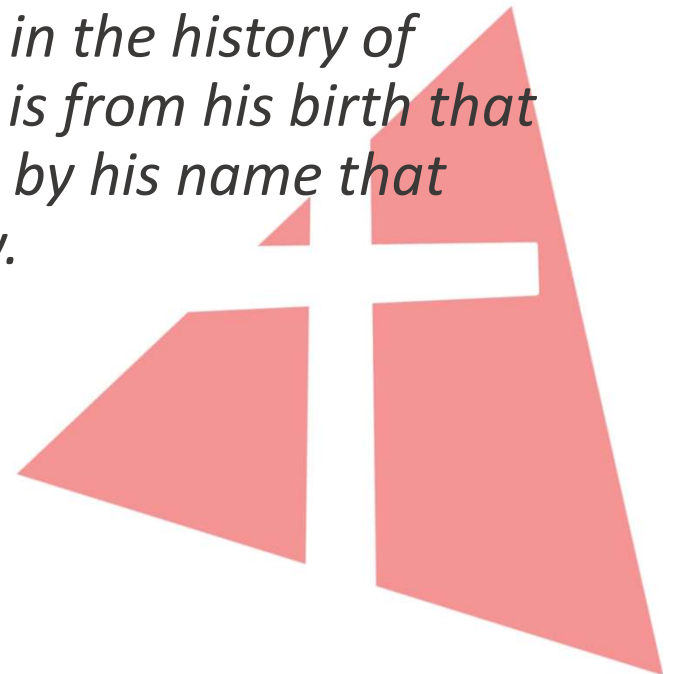
- **More books have been written about Jesus than about any other person in history.**
 - **Nations have used his words as the bedrock of their governments. According to Durant, “The triumph of Christ was the beginning of democracy.”**
 - **His Sermon on the Mount established a new paradigm in ethics and morals.**
- 

HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT JESUS

- **Schools, hospitals, and humanitarian works have been founded in his name. Over 100 great universities — including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, and Oxford – were begun by his followers.**
 - **The elevated role of women in Western culture traces its roots back to Jesus. (Women in Jesus' day were considered inferior and virtual nonpersons until his teaching was followed.)**
 - **Slavery was abolished in Britain and America due to Jesus' teaching that each human life is valuable.**
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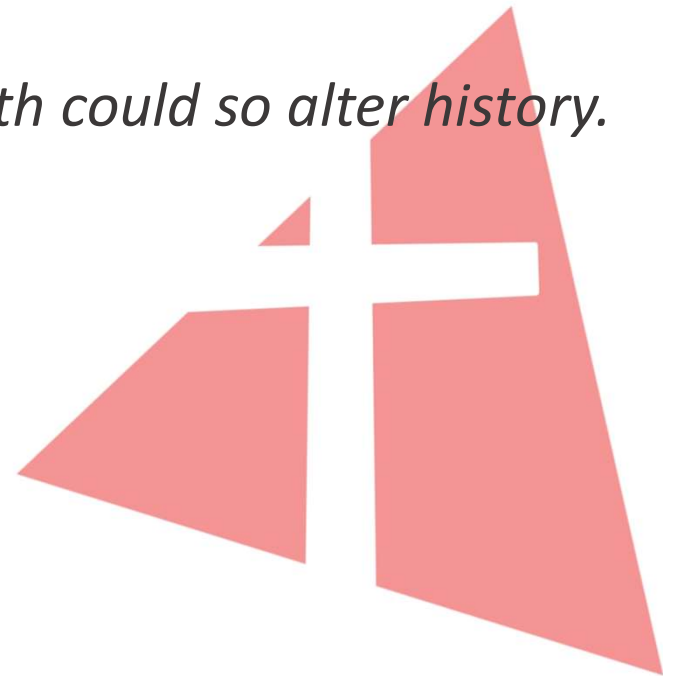
HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT JESUS

Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries... It is from his birth that most of the human race dates its calendars, it is by his name that millions curse and in his name that millions pray.



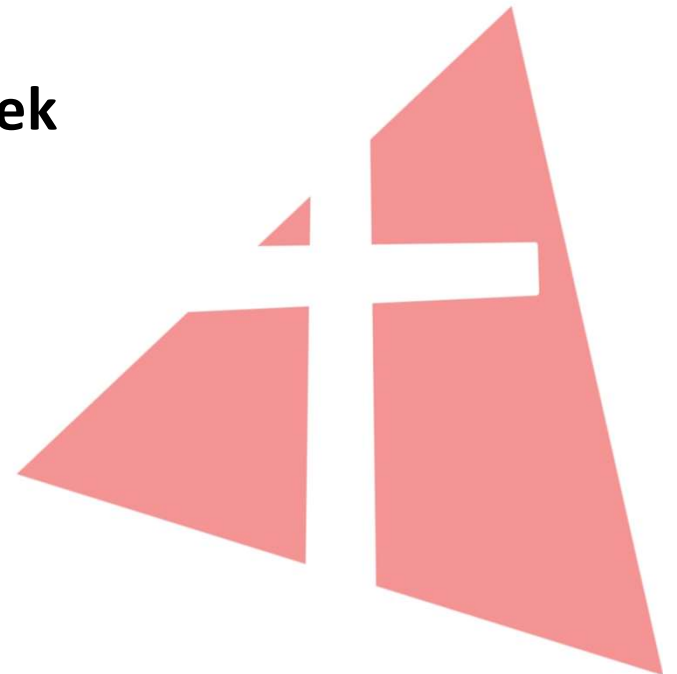
HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT JESUS

If Jesus didn't exist, one must wonder how a myth could so alter history.



HE CHANGES LIVES TODAY

- **A few quotes from a letter I received this week**

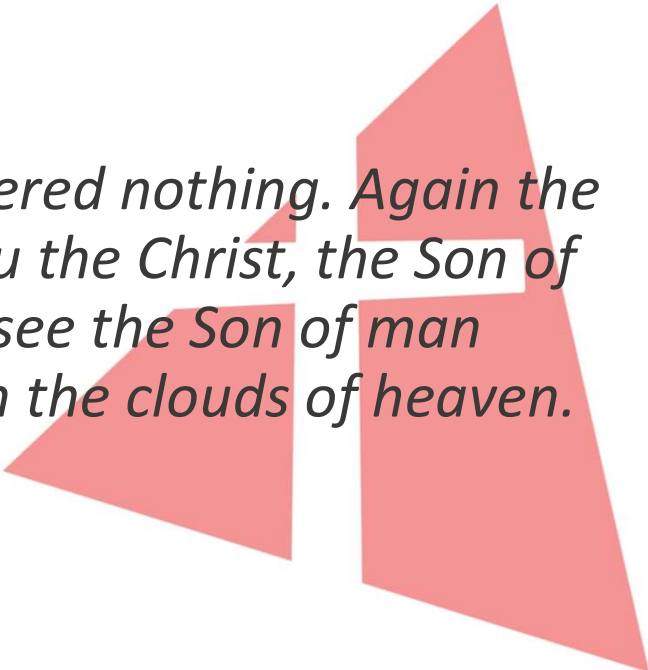


WHO WAS HE?

- **Jesus claimed to be God**

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

Mark 14:61-62 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and you shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent red triangles of various sizes and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

THE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD HIS CLAIMS

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone you not; but for blasphemy; and because that you, being a man, make yourself God.

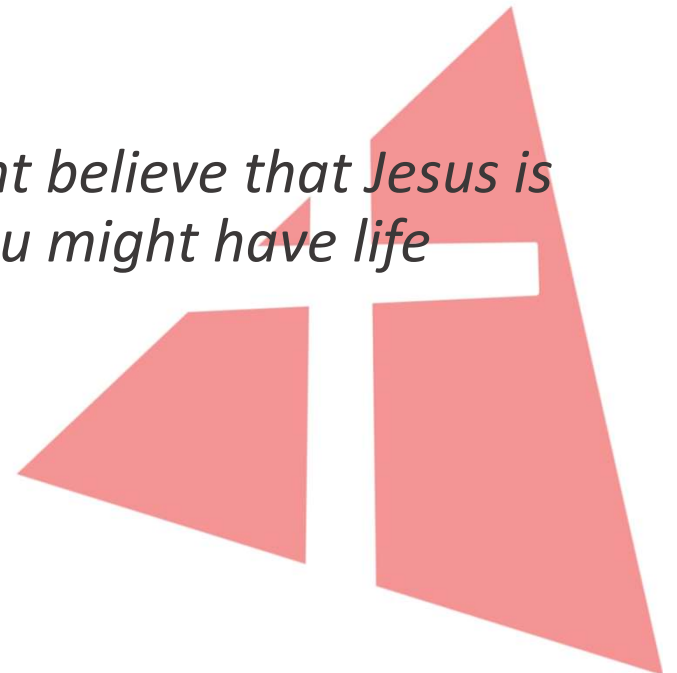
John 19:21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.



HIS FOLLOWERS UNDERSTOOD HIS CLAIMS

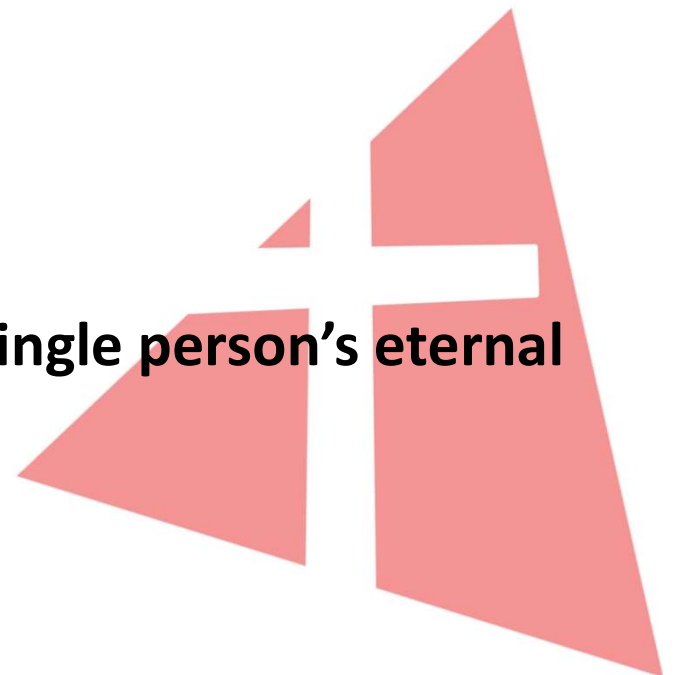
Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 20:31 But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.



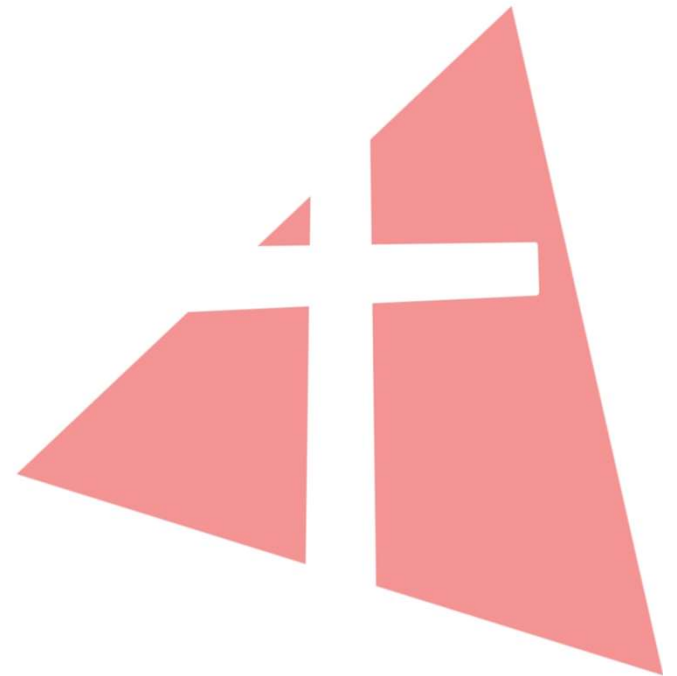
WHO WAS HE?

- Jesus claimed to be perfect
- Jesus claimed to be the absolute Truth
- Jesus claimed absolute authority
- Jesus claims to be alive
- Jesus claims to come again
- Jesus claimed that He will determine every single person's eternal destiny



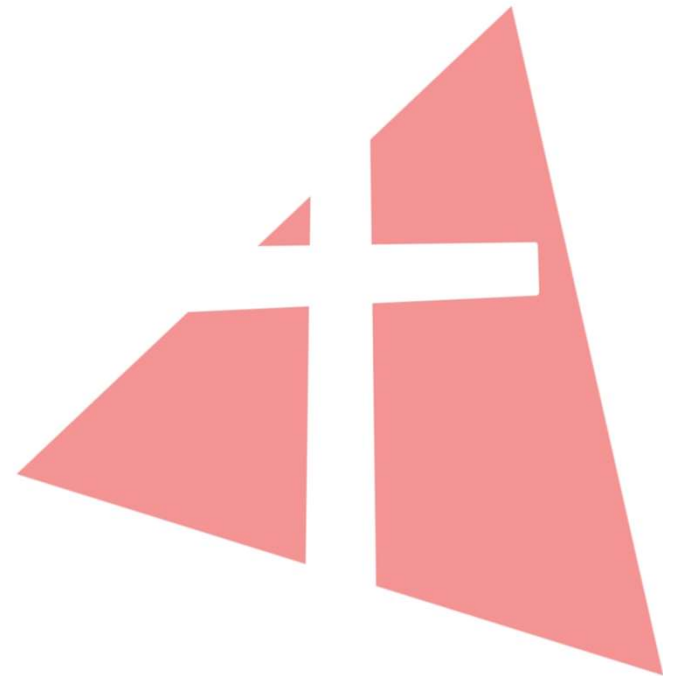
WHAT DID HE OFFER?

- He offered forgiveness



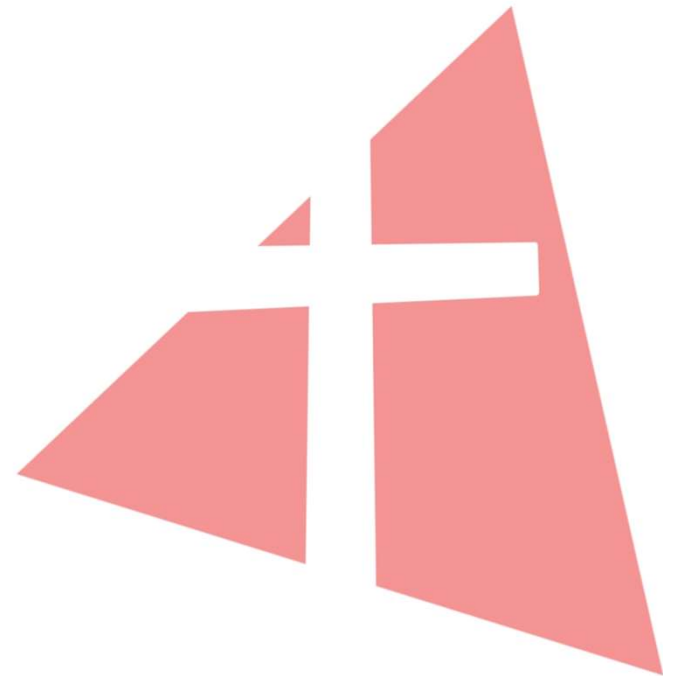
WHAT DID HE OFFER?

- He offered eternal life
- He offered hope



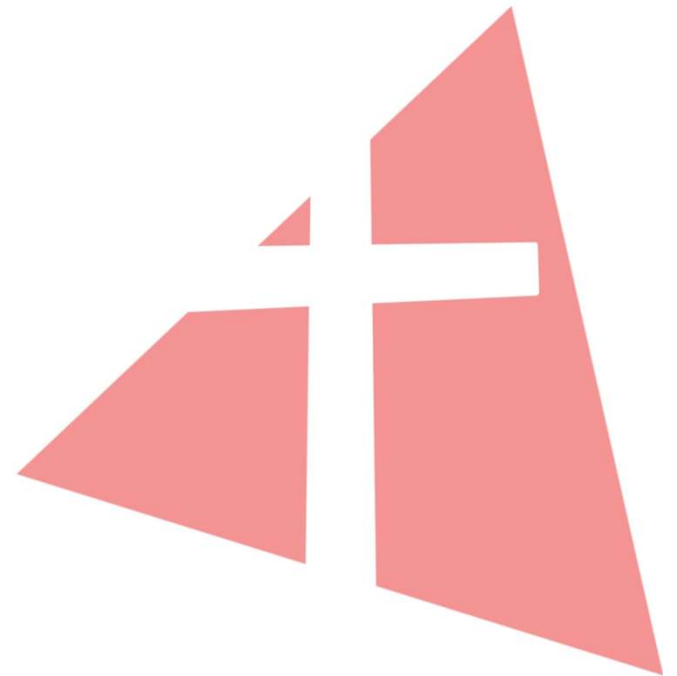
WHAT DID HE OFFER?

- He offered fulfillment
- He offered meaning and purpose



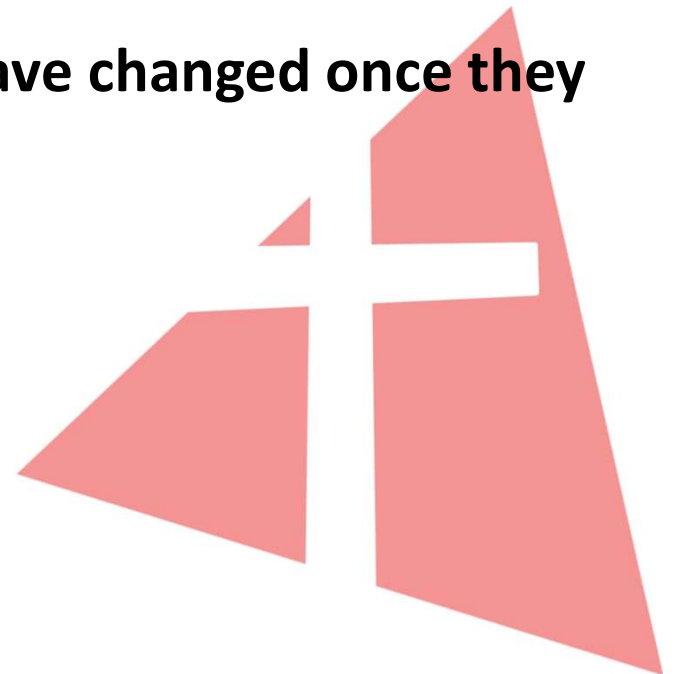
WHAT DID HE OFFER?

- He offered deliverance
- He offered freedom



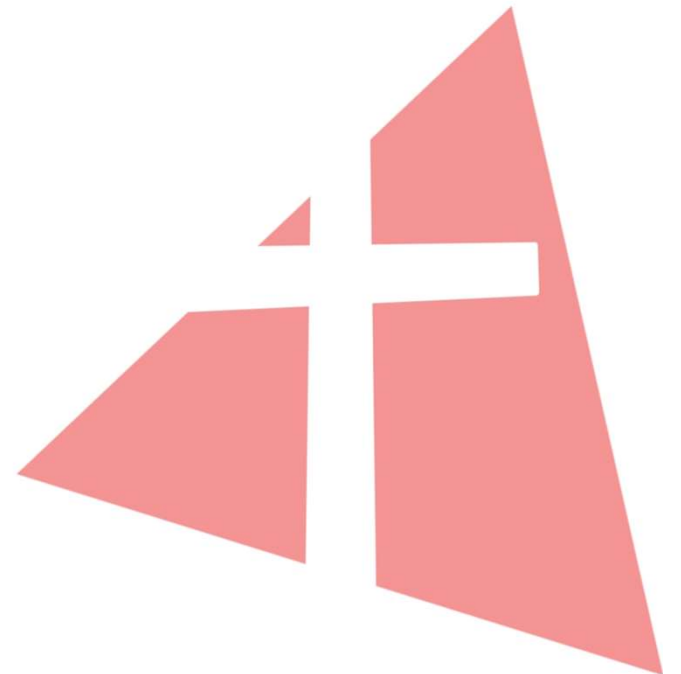
JESUS AT WORK TODAY

- **Many people can testify of how their lives have changed once they started to follow Jesus**



2 POSSIBILITIES

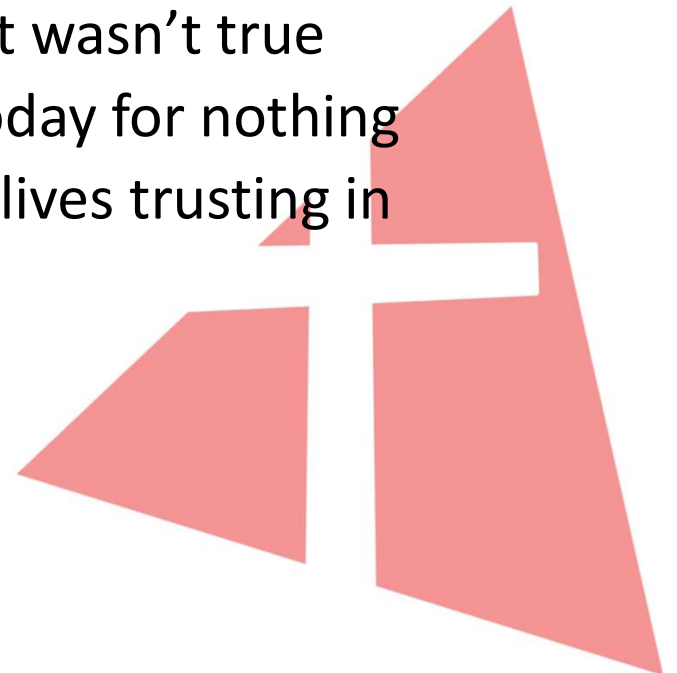
- If Jesus was wrong about a single thing He said, all His claims fall apart
- Everything Jesus said is true



TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

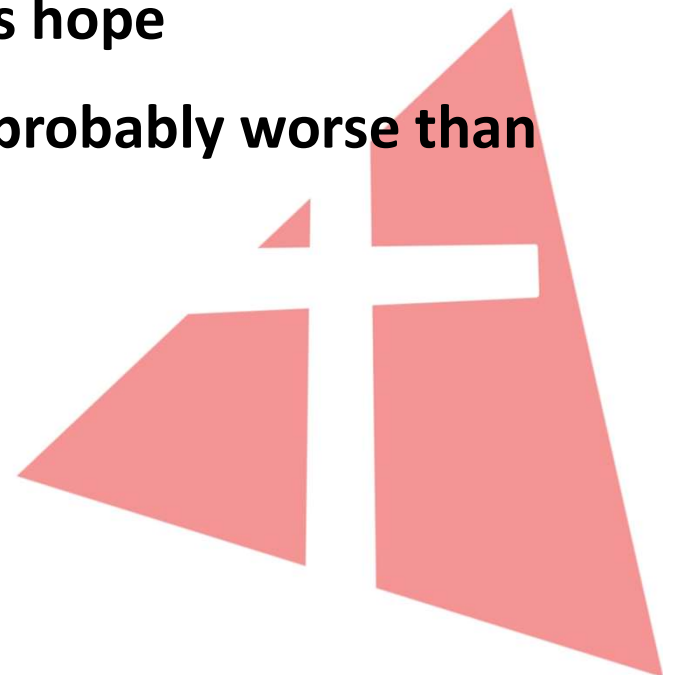
○ If Jesus isn't God, then

- Millions of people have died in a hope that wasn't true
- Millions of people are being persecuted today for nothing
- Millions of people today are wasting their lives trusting in something that will never happen



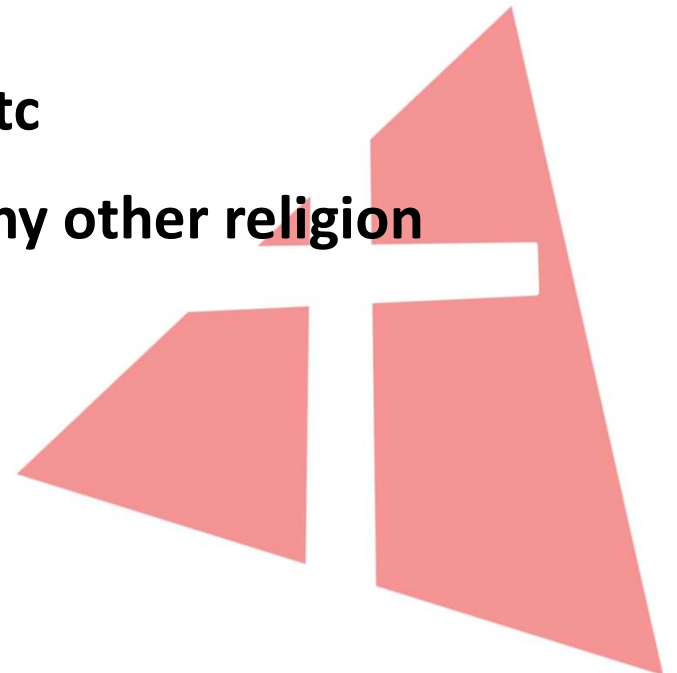
TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

- If Jesus is who He says He is, then He gives us hope
- If Jesus is NOT who He says He is, then he is probably worse than Hitler



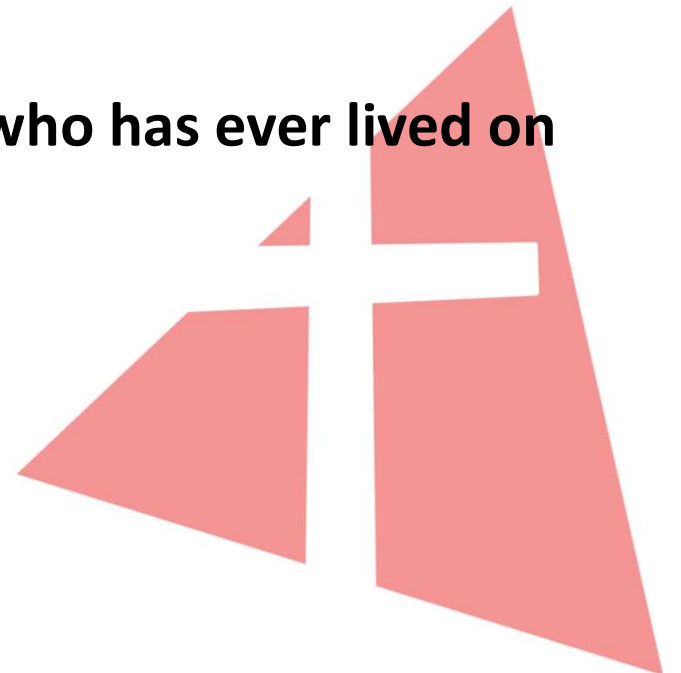
OPTIONS JESUS DIDN'T LEAVE OPEN

- Jesus cannot be a great religious teacher
- Jesus cannot be for some people, cultures, etc
- Jesus made Christianity incompatible with any other religion



2 OPTIONS

- **Jesus is God**
- **Jesus is one of the (if not the) worst person who has ever lived on this earth**



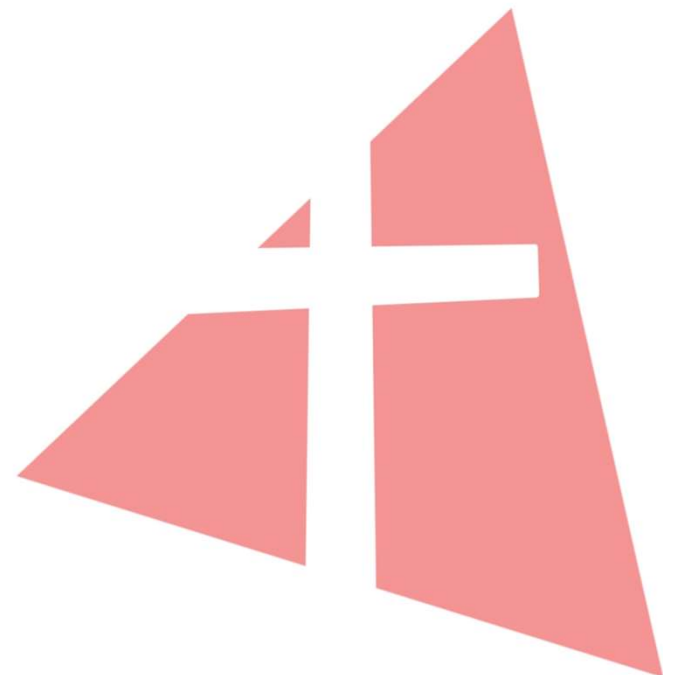
BACK TO CHRISTMAS

- How would you feel if Germany celebrated Hitler's birthday the way we celebrate Christmas?
- In my opinion, we should not separate Christmas from Jesus' claims



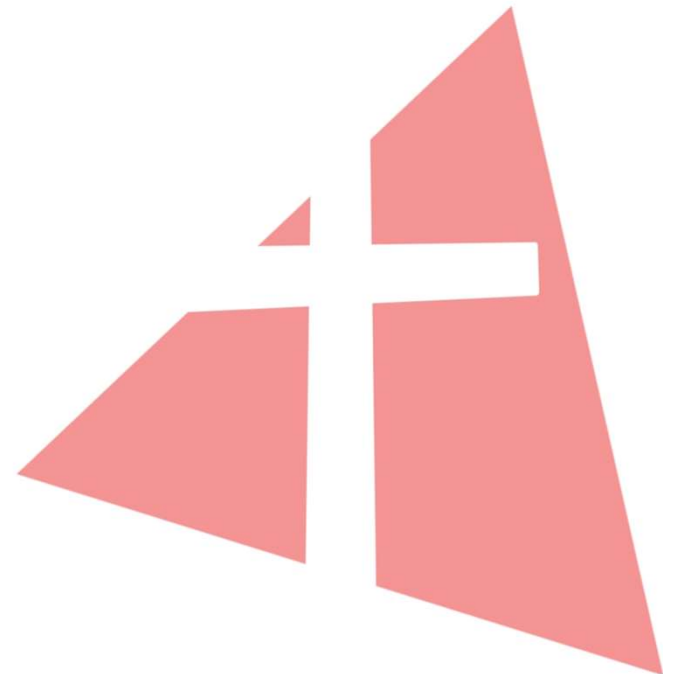
HOW WE SHOULD NOT RESPOND

- **It's not important**
- **It's impossible to know**
- **I'll do it later**
- **...**



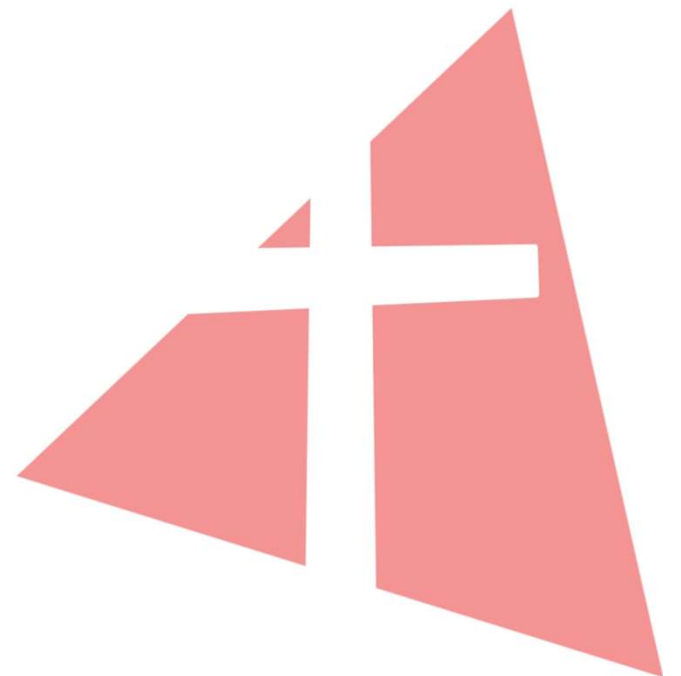
3 WAYS TO RESPOND

- I believe in Jesus
- I do not believe in Jesus
- I'm not sure, so I want to hear more



IF WE BELIEVE

- **Live it out**
- **Celebrate Christmas for what it really is**



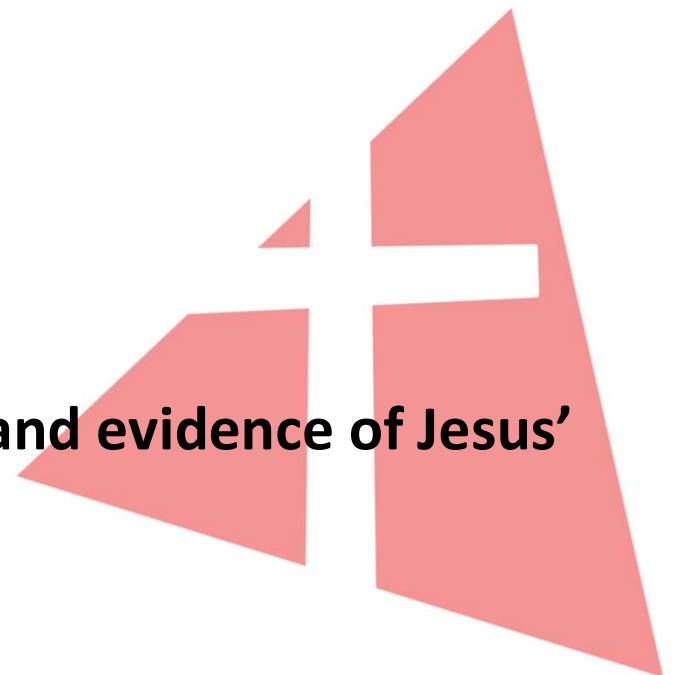
IF WE ARE UNSURE

○ Investigate

- Read the Bible
- Come to church
- Do some historic research
- Read books
- ...

○ **Most people have an opinion about Jesus**

○ **Most people have never looked at the facts and evidence of Jesus' life, death and resurrection**



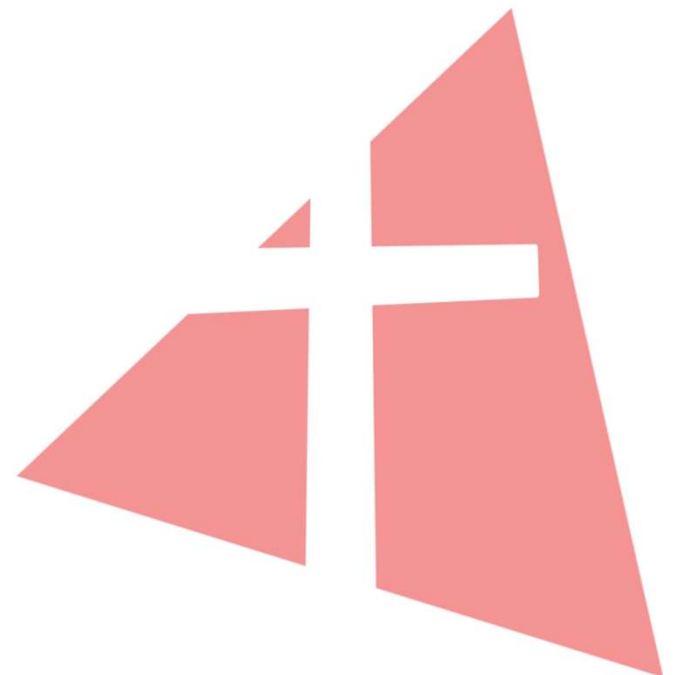
IF WE DON'T BELIEVE

- I recommend to be consequent about Christmas (and in all of life)



RESPONDING TO JESUS' CLAIMS

- It's a personal choice
- But not everybody can be right
- We will all know who was right after we die



SHOULD I CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

- **Wrong question**
- **The right question is: Who do I think Jesus is?**

