

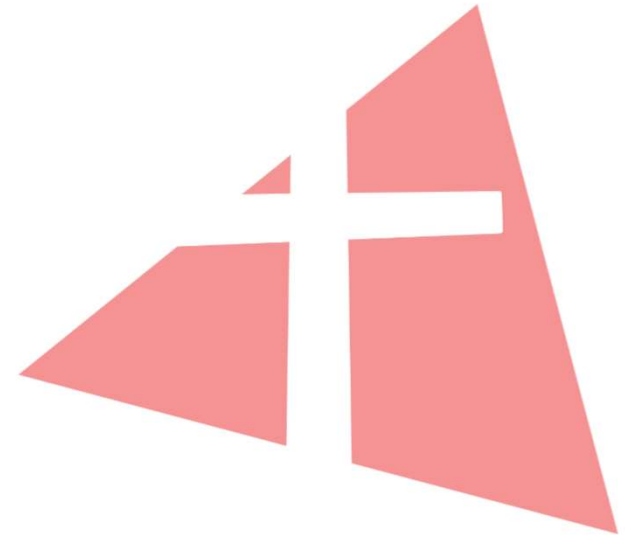
SHOULD I EVEN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

December 16th 2018



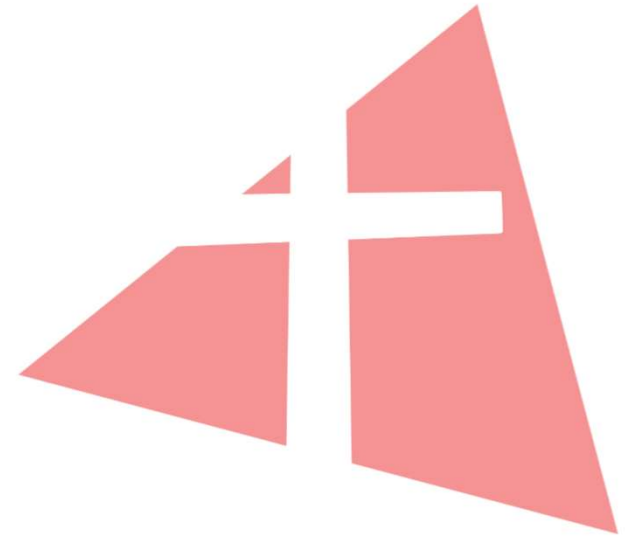
MY HISTORY WITH CHRISTMAS

- I loved Christmas
- I somewhat enjoyed Christmas
- I hated Christmas
- I missed Christmas
- I was disappointed in Christmas



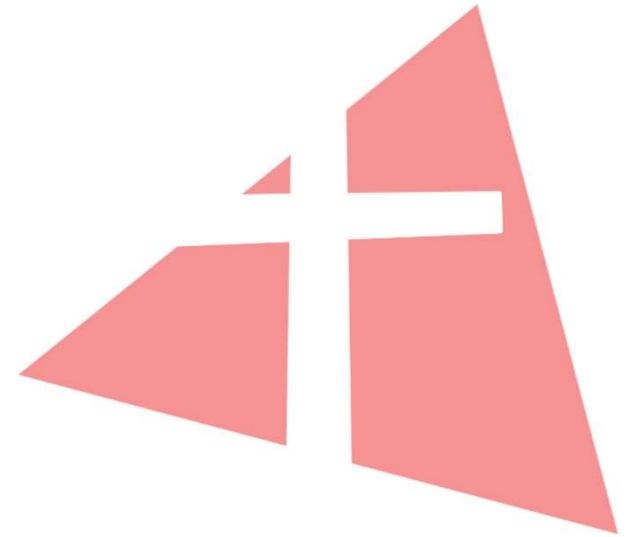
WHAT I KNOW NOW

- Most of these years, I missed the point of Christmas



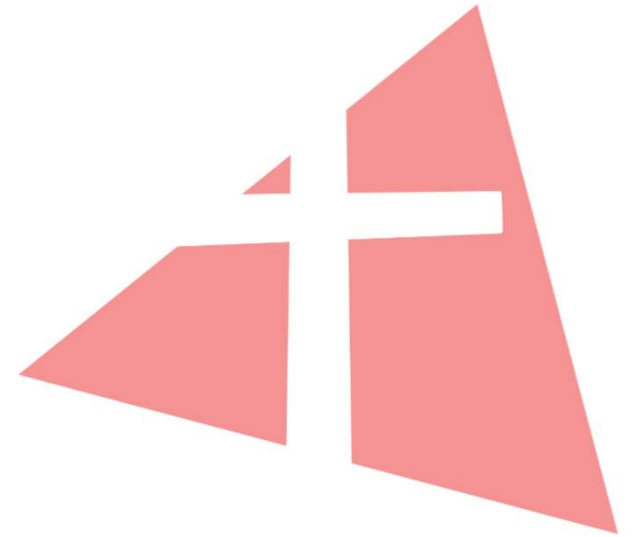
WHAT IS THE CORE?

- **Christmas is really about Jesus**



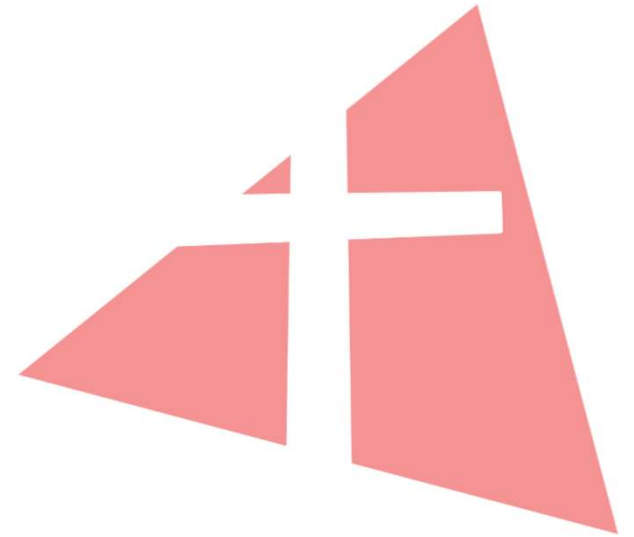
A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

- If Christmas is about Jesus, then should I really celebrate it?



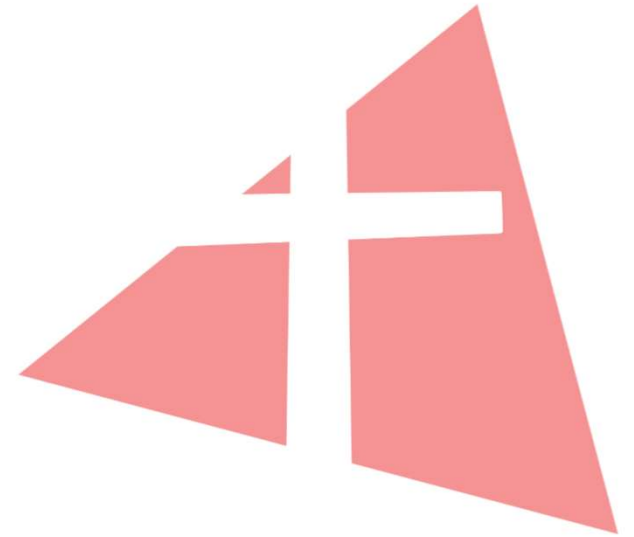
JESUS' CLAIMS

- I am God
- I am alive forever more



JESUS' CLAIMS

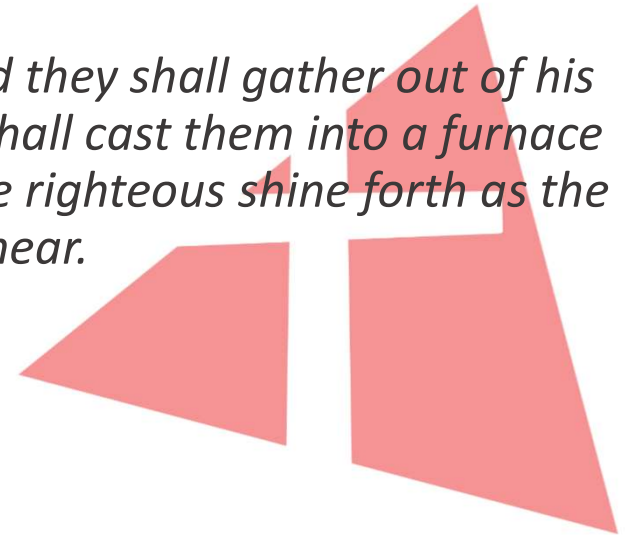
- I will die and then rise again from the dead after 3 days



JESUS' CLAIMS

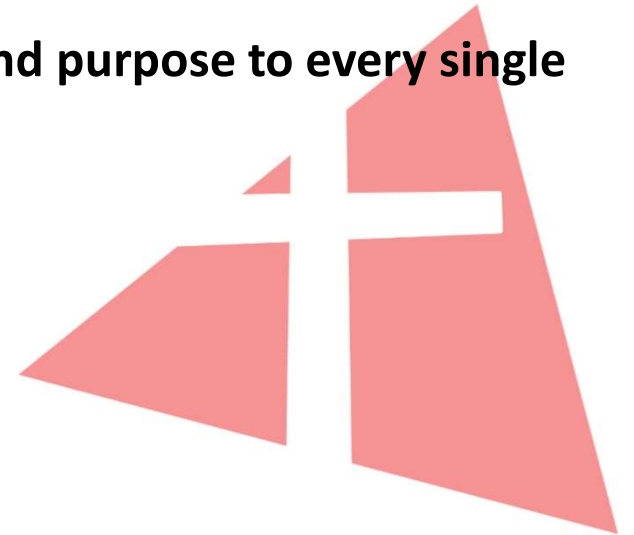
- I am the Judge of every single person on the earth

Matthew 13:41-43 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who has ears to hear, let him hear.



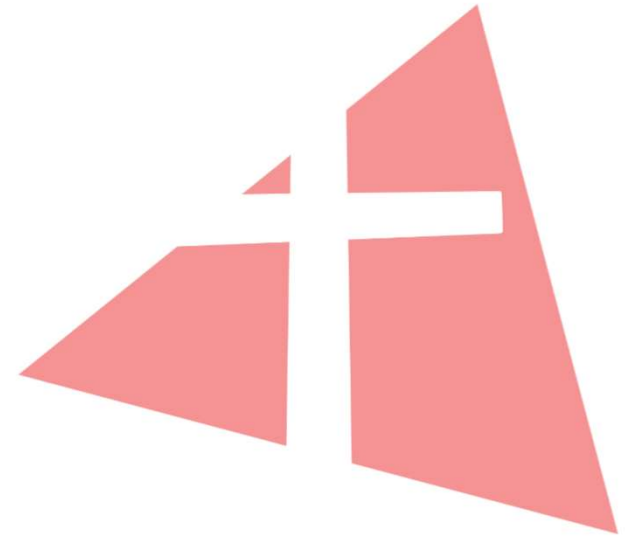
JESUS' CLAIMS

- I created each person, therefore I offer meaning, fulfillment and purpose to every single human being



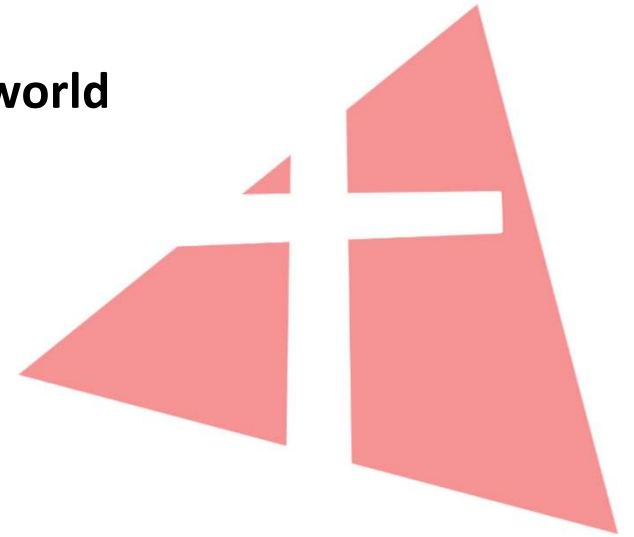
JESUS' CLAIMS

- I offer a personal relationship to every single person on earth



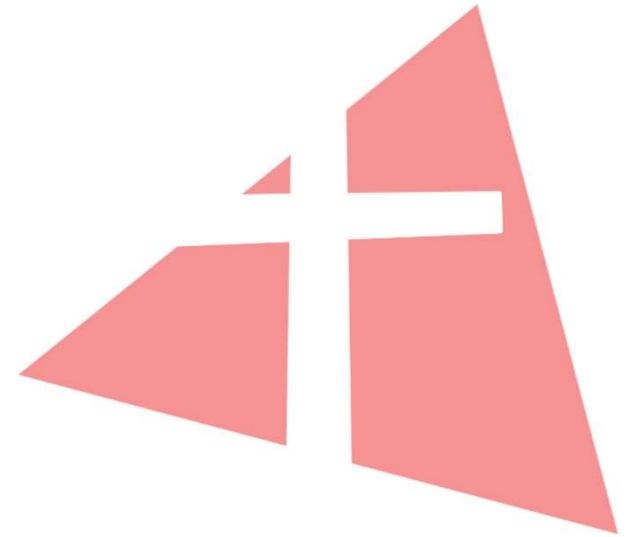
JESUS' CLAIMS

- I will come again to end the life we know it and create a new world



POSSIBILITIES

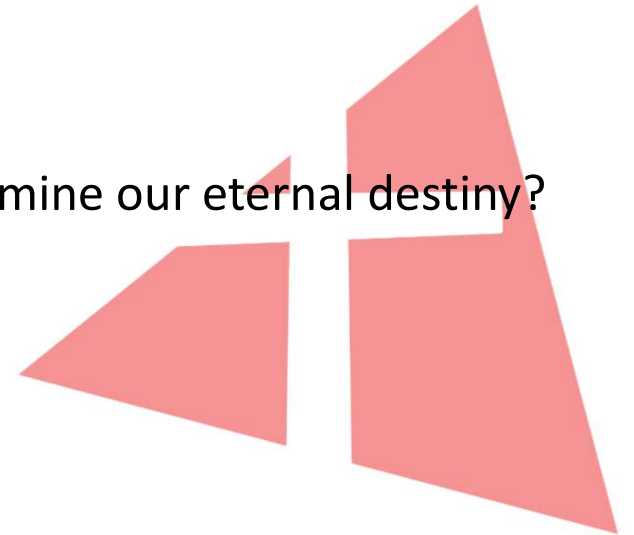
- Jesus was lying
- Jesus was deluded
- Jesus was right



CHRISTMAS

○ Do we celebrate the birth of

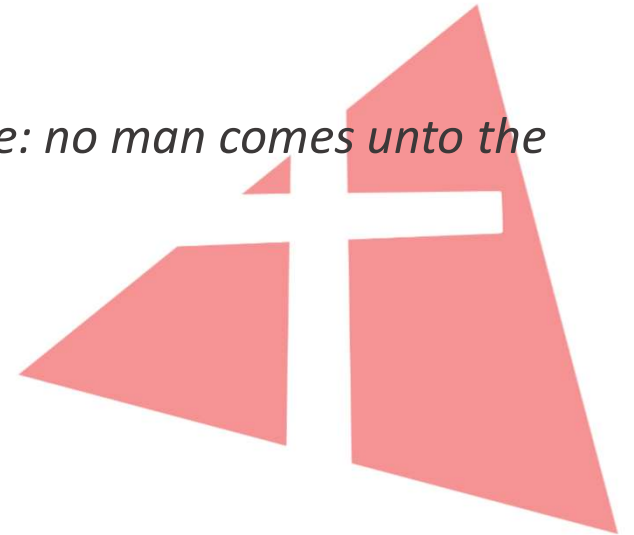
- The most evil person who has ever lived?
- The craziest person who has ever lived?
- The person who will personally judge you and me and determine our eternal destiny?



TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

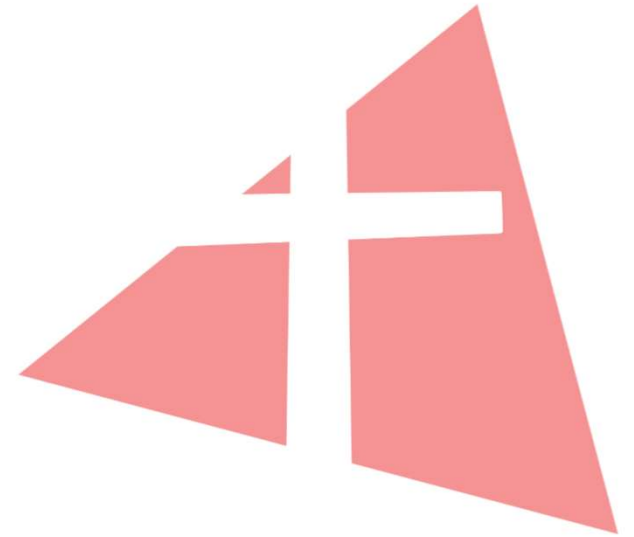
- **Jesus didn't leave the door open for "other religions"**

John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.



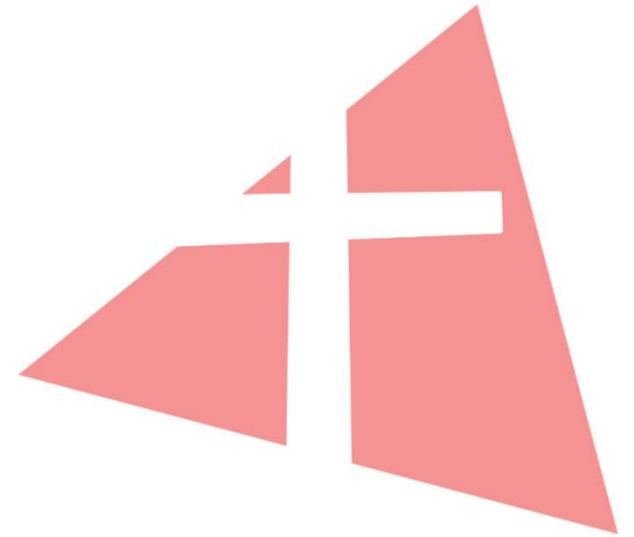
TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

- Jesus cannot be “just for some people”



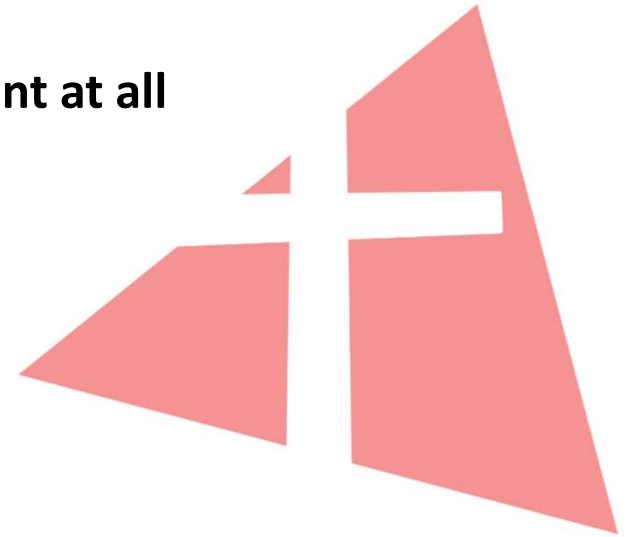
TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

- Jesus cannot be a “great religious teacher”



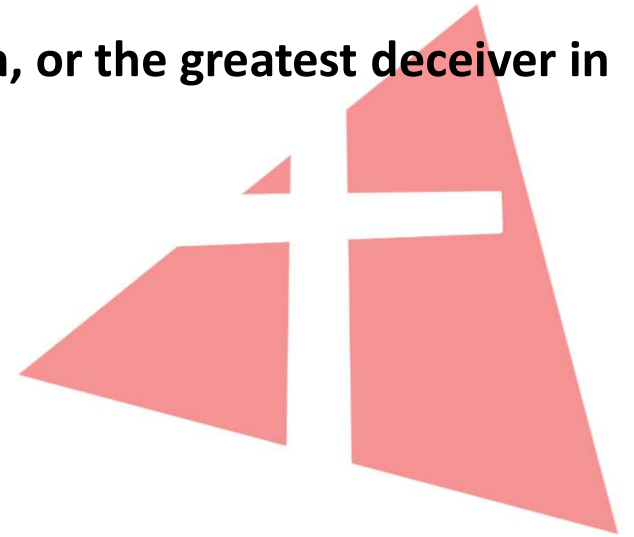
TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

- **Jesus is either right in everything He said, or He is not important at all**



IN SUMMARY

- **Jesus is the person who will determine our eternal destination, or the greatest deceiver in history**



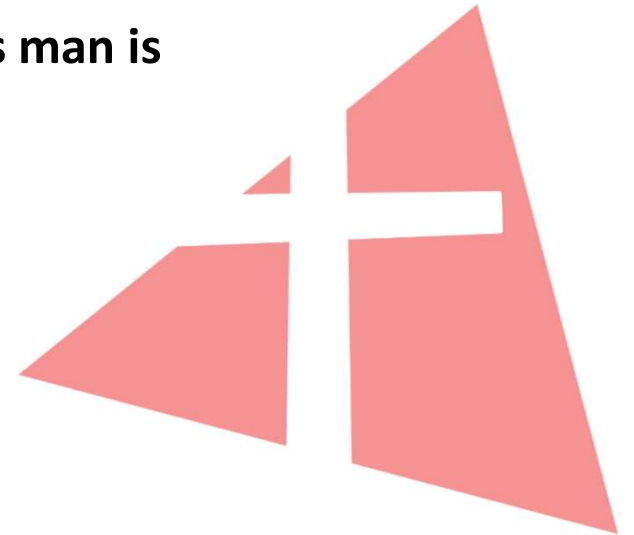
BACK TO CHRISTMAS

- If I didn't believe that Jesus is who He says He is, I could NOT celebrate Christmas



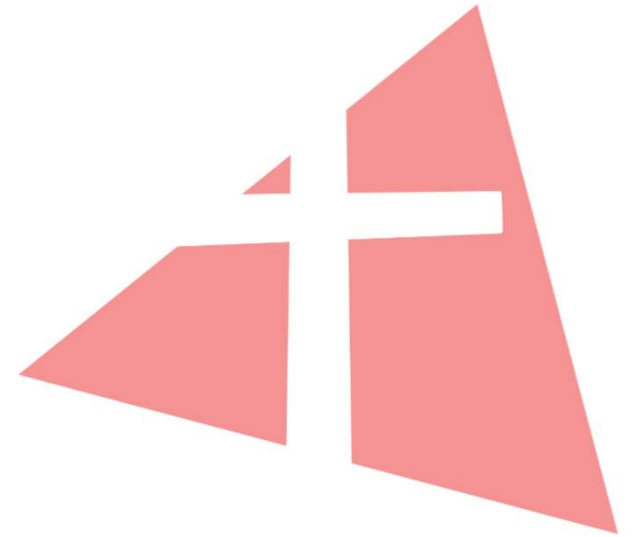
WHAT'S NEXT?

- Every person has the freedom to choose who they believe this man is
- But we can't all be right



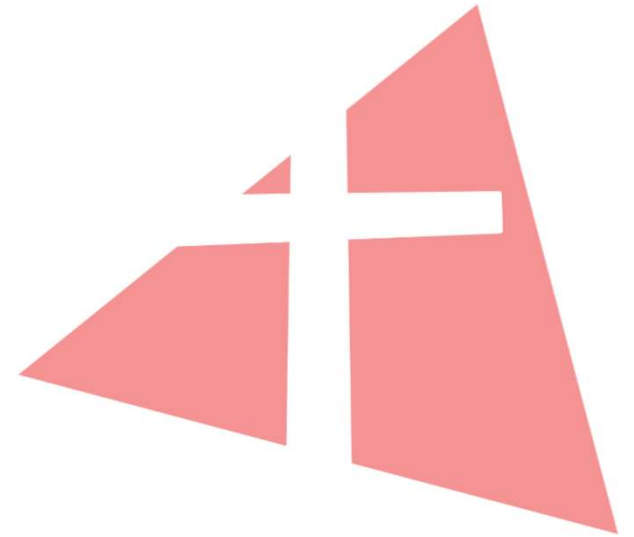
IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDES

- I could never find out
- I'll do it later
- It's not that important
- I don't have time for this
- I'll just ignore this topic
- ...



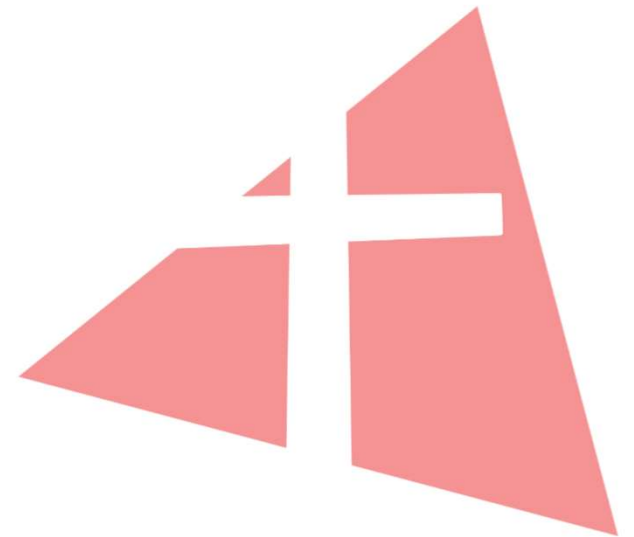
LEGITIMATE RESPONSES

- I don't believe that Jesus is who He says He is, and this is why
- I do believe that Jesus is who He says He is, and this is why
- I don't know today, but I'll find out



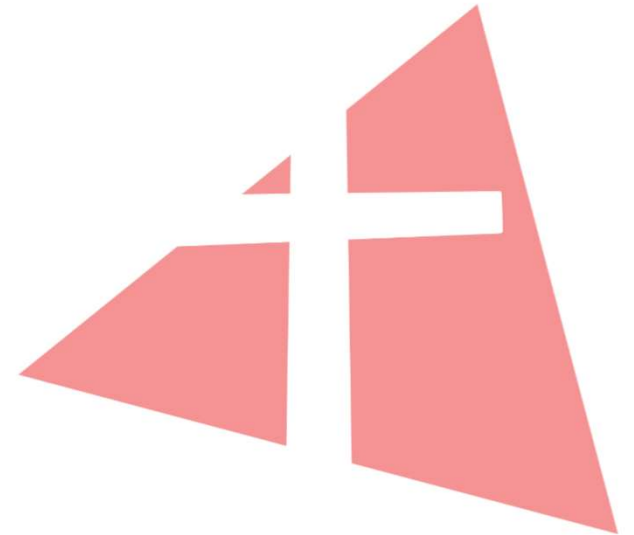
STUDY HISTORY

- **Historic research of Jesus' life, esp. his death and resurrection**
- **Historic research of Jesus' impact on the world**
- **Historic research on the Bible**



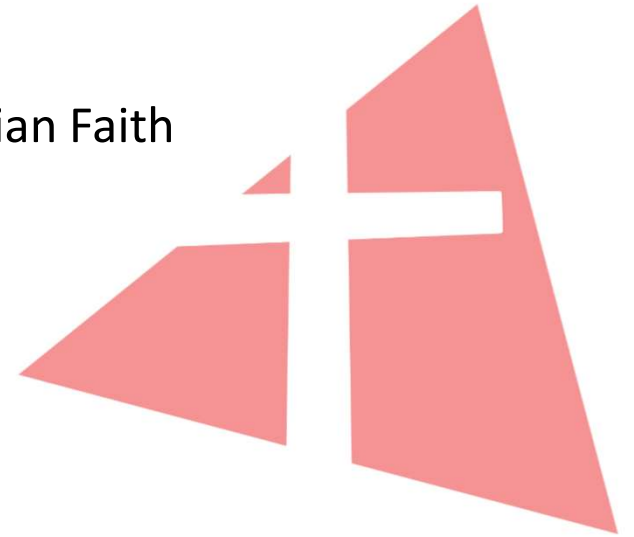
STUDY JESUS' OFFERS AND CLAIMS

- What was He after?
- What did He offer?
- What did He want from us?



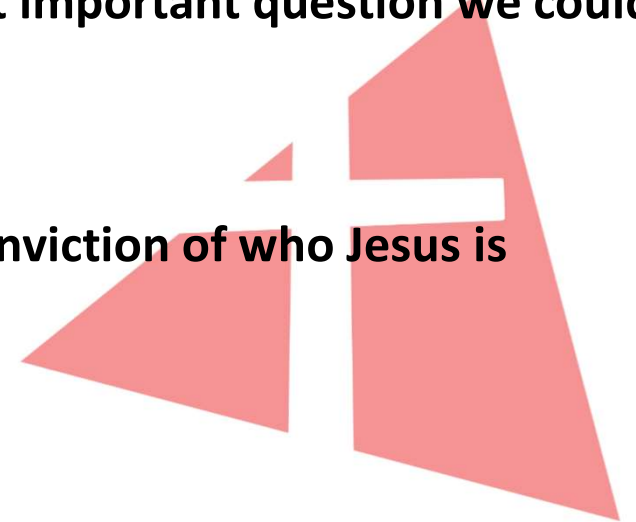
LEARN FROM OTHER CHRISTIANS

- **Join a church until you made your decision**
 - This church welcomes those who want to explore the Christian Faith



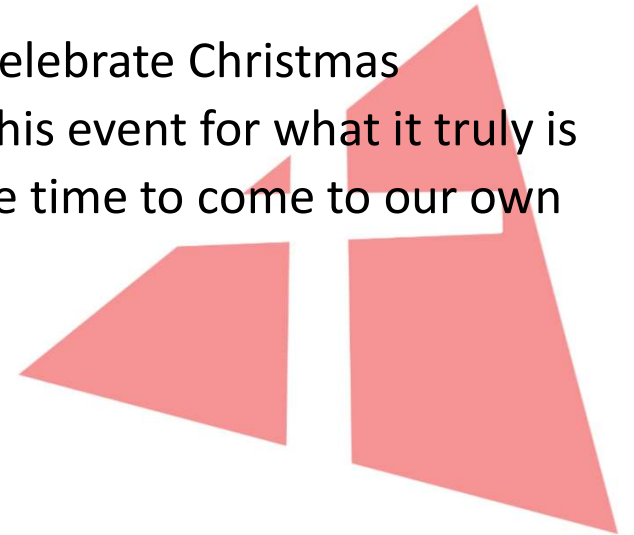
SHOULD I EVEN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

- It depends
- Celebrating just the “cultural stuff” means we ignore the most important question we could ever answer
- We should come to our personal conviction on “who Jesus is”
- What we do with Christmas will be a result of our personal conviction of who Jesus is



SHOULD I EVEN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

- **Our personal conclusion on “who Jesus is” should influence what we do with Christmas today**
 - If we conclude that Jesus is NOT God, then we should NOT celebrate Christmas
 - If we conclude that Jesus is God, then we should celebrate this event for what it truly is
 - If we don't know about this man today, we need to make the time to come to our own conclusion



SHOULD I EVEN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

- **Ask the more important question first**
- **Our choice**
- **Our responsibility**
 - If Jesus is who He says He is, then your personal answer to this question will determine whether you spend eternity in heaven or in hell

