

The Supreme Confession

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 16.

B. The thesis of the New Testament is the identity of Jesus Christ.

II. Jesus asked his disciples who the people thought that he was.

A. Some claimed that Jesus was John the Baptist come back from the dead to announce the coming Messiah.

B. Others said that he was Elijah. The Jews believed that Elijah would come back from the dead as Messiah. (Malachi 4:5)

C. Others said that he as Jeremiah. The Intertestamental books of Maccabees record the prophesy that Jeremiah would get the ark of the covenant and return.

III. There are no human categories that Jesus could fit into, so he presses the disciples with the same question. Their eternal destiny depended upon it.

A. Peter says that he is the "Christ, the Son of the Living God."

B. Peter was the spokesman. He articulated the consensus of the group.

C. Early on it was revealed that Jesus was the Christ by John the Baptist and the miracles that Jesus performed. (John 1:34)

D. Jesus was not only the Son of Man, he as the Son of God meaning that he was equal with God. (John 5:17-28).

E. We can only know Christ by divine revelation. (Matthew 11:27)

F. The Father revealed Jesus through Jesus himself.

G. Jesus words and his works reveal who he is.

IV. The purpose of the whole Sabbath system was to point to Christ. Christ brings the final rest. (Matthew 12:8, Leviticus 23, Luke 4, Hebrews 4)

V. The confessor receives all the blessings of heaven.

Application Questions:

1. What does it mean to say Jesus is the "Christ, the Son of the Living God?"

2. What does it mean that others were viewing Jesus in terms of John the Baptist, Elijah and Jeremiah?

3. How is Jesus the final rest for mankind? Explain.
