

What Now?

A year ago on April 10, 2004, we began our series of newspaper articles. The second article, on April 24, 2004, raised the question, "Who is this one called Jesus?" and was, in fact, the title given to the article. We set forth some of the things this man from Galilee said that have serious implications for eternity and universal application to all men. They are startling claims. If they are true, they strike to the core of every human being. They remind us of our mortality. They scratch the sore of our fear of eternity and what lies therein. They address those things that we tend to bury into the deepest recesses of our minds, covering them with layers and layers of pointless diversions, empty ambitions, and selfish pursuits. Jesus spoke words that uncover the soul and expose it to the frightening elements of an unseen world.

Jesus does more than draw our attention to our fear of the unknown future. He also brings us a message of hope. He uncovers our fears, not because He wishes to scare us, but because He came to help us to deal with a real danger. He knows that to deal with fear, we must face its reality. To protect ourselves from something that can do us serious harm, we must first realize that we are in harm's way. Only then can we act to conquer what we fear; what can hurt us; what can kill us eternally. Jesus provides an explanation for the things that really matter to us, the reason we exist, where we are going, where we would like to be, and how we might get there.

What we find in the world is a persistent resistance to that which we want the most, such things as security, hope, love, beauty, goodness, and peace. What we need the most, we often spend a lifetime running from. We allow doubts to deter us from this Jesus, the Christ. We let doubters and skeptics to feed our confusion and keep us from God. We let careers, recreational pursuits, worries, and complexities of life to consume all our precious time until we have none left to learn of and follow the One who can get us safely out of this world. We know we are leaving it, but we cannot turn our attention from it. We seem to have a fatal attraction toward everything that will not last and an aversion to that which will. What is the basis for all this doubt, uncertainty, and hostility toward Jesus Christ, and preoccupation with temporal things that bring no peace? This question cannot be answered at this moment, but the articles we have been presenting for the past year in this newspaper have provided a foundation for the exploration of it. We have given you in approximately twenty-five articles a foundation for confidence that there is a God and that the Bible is His revealed message to man. [Note: If you wish to review these articles go to www.christ4today.com. Click on ARTICLES/STUDIES. Click on GOD REIGNS TODAY! (newspaper articles).] We believe we have set forth a clear and certain case for the existence of God and the authority of the Bible. Now we are ready to present an explanation of what God has revealed to us. There is no substitute for reading and studying the Word of God itself, but we all need help in understanding it.

We propose in the weeks ahead the ambitious task of presenting an

overview of the message of the Bible. While it will ultimately contain those things a man must do to inherit eternal life and gain the preservation of his soul, it will go far beyond that. We will present to you that the message of the Bible is more about God than it is about man. You will see into the mind of the marvelous God that created the world we inhabit. You will see why He sent His Son (really God Himself) into the world to suffer and die for the sins of man. You will be presented with an explanation of our world that does not take away pain and suffering, but places it in a perspective that gives it understanding. You will be shown a life that provides hope in the present world and brings peace to the most troubled heart. You will be invited into a love relationship with your Creator and into a family of His people where you will always belong, where you will be comforted as well as provide comfort to others, and where you can be loved and love in return. If you would like to hasten this process, contact us by one of the means below. Otherwise wait as the story unfolds. May God bless us in this task.