**What Think Ye Of Christ? Mt. 22:42**

Scripture Reading: Mt. 22:41-45

**Introduction:**

A. What we think and how we think are most important.

 1. No one is better than the thoughts of his heart. Prov. 23:7; 2 Cor. 10:5

B. Bible teaching on any subject must determine what we think about it.

 1. Some let their preacher do their thinking. Cf. Jno. 7:25ff

 2. Some let their parents do their thinking. Mt. 10:32ff

C. What we think about Christ is crucial.

 1. The Old Testament looked for and declared in prophecy the coming Messiah. Finally, when Jesus did come, He did not fail in any respect. He died for all, that all might live; all can be complete in Christ.

 a. That is what men should think of Christ!

**I. What Think Ye Of The Claims Of Christ?**

 A. What were the claims of Christ?

 1. He claimed to be the Savior of the world. Lk. 19:10; 9:56 KJV

 2. He claimed to be the Son of God. Mt. 16:16ff; Jno. 9:35-37

 3. He claimed to be the King of kings. Jno. 18:37; Mt. 28:18

 B. What some have thought about the claims of Christ.

 1. The unbelieving Jews thought Him to be an impostor.

 a. Regarded Him as a blasphemer at the beginning of his ministry. Mk. 2:7

 b. Scoffed at his divine sonship as he died on the cross. Mt. 27:40

 2. Modernists today think of Him only as a human philosopher.

 a. They deny His virgin birth, miracles, atonement, resurrection, etc. yet pay lip service to him as a teacher and philosopher.

 3. Premilleniallists think of Him as a weakling...

 a. They teach that Jesus came to earth to establish an earthly, material kingdom. When the Jews opposed Him, He postponed the kingdom and subsituted the church.

 b. This means He could not do what He came to earth to do.

 C. Why is it important what we think of the claims of Christ?

 1. A refusal to believe His claims will condemn us. Jno. 8:24

 2. A failure to confess Him before men means eternal condemnation. Mt. 10:32-33

 ***3. No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the claims of Christ.***

**II. What Think Ye Of The Commandments Of Christ?**

 A. What are the commandments of Christ for those in the world.

 1. As given by Christ: Faith, repentance, baptism. Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46, 47

 2. As preached by the apostles: Faith, repentance, baptism. Acts 2:36-38

 3. As obeyed by sinners: Faith repentance, baptism. Acts 16:31-33; 18:8

 B. What some have thought of these commands.

 1. Jews thought these were too narrow.

 a. Taught: Faith + Repentance + Baptism + Circumcision = Salvation. Acts 15; Gal. 2 cf. Rev. 22:18

 2. Some today think these commands are too comprehensive.

 a. Some think: Baptism - Faith = Salvation. Practice infant baptism.

 b. Some think: Faith - Baptism = Salvation. Practice faith only.

 (1) These think Jesus had the wrong order and the text should read: “He that believeth and is saved should be baptized.”

Or does it read??? “He that believeth and is NOT baptized shall be saved.”

 (2) These disparage the idea of “baptism for the remission of sins” saying it is a work of merit, a mere figure, and opposed to grace and faith.

 C. Why is it important what we think of the commands of Christ?

 1. We will be judged by the word of Christ. Jno. 12:48

 2. We will staand condemned if we do not obey the gospel. 2 Thess. 1:7-8

 ***3. No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the commands of Christ.***

**III. What Think Ye Of The Church Of Christ?**

 A. What is the church of Christ?

 1. It is the body of Christ. Col. 1:18; the one body of Eph. 4:4; The body of saved people. Eph. 5:23

 2. It is the kingdom of Christ. Mt. 16:18ff; Col. 1:13ff

 3. It is the family of God. Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15

 4. It is the temple of God. Eph. 2:20-22

 B. What some have thought of the church.

 1. Some thought it was a sect. Acts 28:22

 a. “Sect” *hairesis*:

“a division or group based upon different doctrinal opinions and/or loyalties and hence by implication in certain contexts an unjustified party or group” (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

“a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets (a sect or party): as the Sadducees, Acts 5:17; the Pharisees, Acts 15:5; 26:5; the Christians, Acts 24:5,14 (in both instances with a suggestion of reproach); 28:22 (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, PC Study Bible formatted Electronic Database. Copyright © 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

 b. “Sectarianism” is condemned. 1 Cor. 1:10ff; 4:17; 7:17

 2. Some think the church is non-essential.

 a. They say, “Christ saves, not the church.” I don’t want to be a parr of the church.

 b. Who does Christ save??? The church. Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47

 c. If the church is non-essential, why did Christ die for it??? Acts 2:28

 3. Some think the church existed once as a separate body, but does not exist today as such...

 a. They say, “Christians in all churches.”

 b. Is it possible for 100 people to obey the gospel and refuse to join any human denomination? What would they be??? Members of Christ’s church!!!

 c. Illustration: A blueprint, though lost for years, if found can be the means of restoring the original building. When we obey the N.T. pattern, all we have is Christ’s church.

 C. Why is it important what we think of the church of Christ?

 1. The church bears the closest relationship to Christ.

 a. It is His Body. Eph. 1:22-23

 b. It is His Bride. Eph. 5:22ff

 c. It is His Kingdom. Mt. 16:19

 2. *“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” Ps. 127:1; cf. Mt. 15:13*

 ***3. No one can think more of Christ than he thinks of the church of Christ.***

**Conclusion:**

 A. What think ye of Christ?

 1. His claims?

 2. His commands?

 3. His church?

 B. What does Christ think of you and me?

 1. He died for us!!!