Identity is everything. I am amazed that when a bank is robbed, many of us are able to describe the robbers, their physic, age, gender, wardrobe and race. We can recap the event, and all we need to know almost in its entirety, and in many instances, with no substantial mistakes. Law enforcement will take the next step of the investigation and tell us who the people are who robbed the bank. Law enforcement will be able to tell us everything about the person(s) in detail!

What about Christ's identity? When Christ was on earth, He spent much time with the people and made bold claims about His identity and authority. All of this information is written in a book called the Bible. If the question was introduced to you, what would you say? What question... "Who do you say He is?"

<u>Jesus is God</u> : John 10:30 NLT – (30) The Father and I are one." Some thought He was a wise man, or a great prophet. Others thought He was a madman. Some could not decide and some did not care. John 10:30 means He claimed to be nothing less than God in Human flesh.

<u>Jesus is Holy</u> : Isaiah 6:3 NKLV – (3) And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!" James 1:13 NLT – (13) And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Colossians 2:9 NASB - (9) For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. Hebrews 4:15 NLT – (15) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same challenges we do, yet he did not sin.

<u>Jesus is the Savior</u> : John 1:12 – NLT – (12) But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 1 Peter 3:18 NLT – (18) Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. According to scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: There is no man who does not sin (1 Kings 8:46). All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And we are incapable of changing our sinful condition. Jesus is the only one who can forgive and transform us, thereby delivering us from the power and penalty of sin.

<u>Jesus is the only acceptable object of saving faith</u>: Acts 4:12 NASB – (12)"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

<u>Jesus is the Lord</u> : Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (John 1:3; Colossians 1:6). Therefore He owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience and worship.

<u>Jesus is the Judge</u>; Acts 17:30-31 NLT – (30) "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. (31) For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

Now the time has come for us to either believe or deny His teachings. What is written above is just a brief description. It is easy to memorize a definition, but "Who do <u>you</u> say He is?" Your response to Him and his teachings will determine not only your values and lifestyle, but your eternal destiny as well.

SCRIPTURE READING PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK When you fear God, you have nothing else to fear.