

HOW 'JESUS CHRIST' HAS BEEN USED TO MISLEAD PEOPLE

By Nino Boezio

The name of Jesus Christ has become very well-known throughout the world. Christian churches and doctrine form a major part of our cultural and religious mosaic.

However, anyone who begins to deeply examine the Christianity of today could become very confused, troubled and discouraged.

There are thousands of Christian churches all claiming to be Christian, but have different corporate names and maintain a varied assortment and inconsistent set of doctrines. The churches do not cooperate and may even compete. Historically, wars have also been fought between Christian churches.

The forms of worship also vary. At church services, the devotional atmosphere could range from very emotional to quite serious, in others ritualistic to musical. The Christian ministers also dress differently, contingent on the ties that particular church holds to tradition and the sense of connection to the past.

In addition to the differences listed, one of the things that puzzle many is how the Christianity of today is feeble, somewhat boring, does not stir people to any sort of action, and does not contain a powerful message. Many conclude that the quality of the followers of Christianity has simply changed from those that existed 2,000 years ago.

However, upon greater scrutiny, one will find that the persona of Jesus Christ as taught today is extremely different from what the bible records. Today, Jesus is often portrayed as weak, a bit of a rebel, and simply had some witty sayings. He was totally fine with sinners continuing to sin and was teaching an anti-Bible anti-Jewish message.

What has happened in the past 2,000 years should be easy to understand.

Jesus Christ's name has remained associated with many organizations that have departed substantially from His teachings of 2,000 years ago. Using Jesus' name gives the aura of respectability and credibility. It will bring a person's guard down, since the person will not normally suspect that someone using Jesus' name shouldn't be trusted and isn't functioning as a true representative of Christ.

In addition, after hundreds of years pass, a connection to the past is broken such that a new generation doesn't know how things used to be. Likewise, new ministers professing Christianity may be sincere and not realize that the fundamental beliefs were altered over the centuries.

Jesus remarked in *Matthew 24:5 (NKJV)* *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many"*. Some have misinterpreted this verse to mean that there will be individuals who will claim that they are some sort of reincarnated version of Jesus. This is not a correct rendering. It is referring to those who will come claiming to be Jesus' representative, yet not truly reflecting Jesus or His teachings at all.

Jesus Christ and everything He represents, was and is always to be powerful and life changing. People haven't truly changed, but the packaging of what true Christianity is has been altered significantly, while still retaining the Jesus Christ label upon it. Some today would call this fraud and false advertising, for you are not receiving the true product.

Being involved with anything that is not the true reflection of what Christ brought will ultimately be a waste of time. It would therefore be useful to better understand what Jesus taught and compare it to what we see today. A claimed association to Jesus Christ does not mean you are getting the real thing.

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