

Session 1

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 1

DVD 00:00 to 07:50

The Early Church

“You can’t have a reliable salvation wrapped up in an unreliable history”

Acts 4:1-12 – *by what authority?*

Roman polytheism

Jewish monotheism

Persecution of Christians

Exclusivism – *“no other name”*

Evangelism – *“by which we must be saved”*

“True Christianity will always clash with contemporary culture on these two counts: exclusivism and evangelism”

The Church Today

Pluralistic society – *“one among many”*

Ridicule of Biblical Christianity

1 Peter 2:20

Increasing attacks in media

Opposition to Biblical Creation

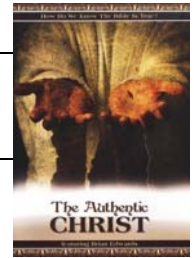
Foolish attacks on Authority of Scripture

Dire predictions of terminal decline of the Church

“But--increasing numbers of Christians are taking the Bible seriously—and take the Bible seriously we must”

DISCUSSION *session 1*

The Authentic Christ – The Early Church & The Church Today



1. How did Peter and John present Christ to the Jewish leaders at their trial as recorded in **Acts 4:1-12** ?

2. Why were **Christians** particularly persecuted under Roman rule ?

3. *“True Christianity will always clash with contemporary culture on these two counts: exclusivism and evangelism”* says Brian Edwards. What is **“exclusivism”** and how is it related to persecution of the Christian faith ?

What are some examples in our society today? In America? Abroad?

Read **John 14:6** and explain how this relates to exclusivism... (cf Acts 4:1-12)

4. What is **“evangelism”** and how is it related to persecution of the Christian faith today ?
What are some examples ?

Read **1 Peter 2:19-21** and **1 Peter 3:13-17**. If you haven't been persecuted, have you been evangelizing ?

5. Brian Edwards notes **“increasing attacks in the media”** on 1) opposition to Biblical Creation, 2) foolish attacks on the Authority of Scripture, and 3) dire predictions of the terminal decline of the Christian Church.

Which of these do you encounter most in your daily life ?

How do you respond?

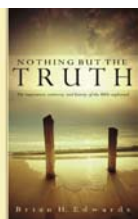
How can the books and DVDs by Brian Edwards and others help you respond ?

6. Brian Edwards says, **“Increasing numbers of Christians are taking the Bible seriously—and take the Bible seriously we must.”**

What does he mean by “taking the Bible seriously” ?

How do you take the Bible seriously ?

7. **What are you going to do this week *with what you learned today* ?**



Additional Resources

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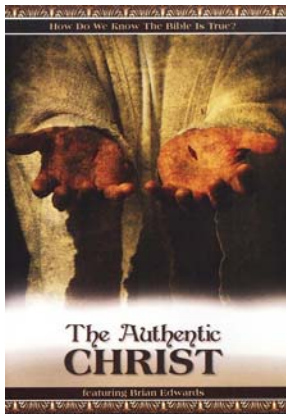
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HOW do
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Session 2

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 2

DVD 06:40 to 14:23

The Jesus of History

“You can't have a reliable salvation wrapped up in an unreliable history”

National Geographic – “Gospel of Judas”

“Evangelicals” watering down the Gospel ?

Acts 4:1-12 – “no other name”

Liberal German scholars / Richard Dawkins

“Jesus Seminar” scholars

“The Da Vinci Code”

“Soviet Encyclopedia”

Mythical Jesus

Tacitus & Suetonius

Josephus

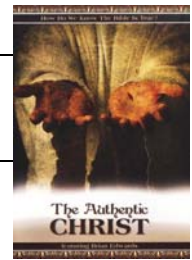
Historical conspiracy theory

The Jewish Talmud

“The evidence demonstrates beyond doubt that Jesus lived as a real figure of history”

DISCUSSION *session 2*

The Authentic Christ – The Jesus of History



1. Brian Edwards says, “You can’t have a reliable salvation wrapped up in an unreliable history”
How do common **attacks on the authenticity of Scripture** try to discredit the history of Jesus ?

Why is the “Gospel of Judas” a fictitious book ?

Which “Gospels” has the church recognized throughout its history and why ?

Can people enter Heaven without Jesus Christ ?

How was this claim answered in last week’s session about exclusivity and evangelism ?

What is the ongoing influence of certain liberal German scholars ?

What is the ongoing influence of the liberal “Jesus Seminar” scholars ?

What is the message of “The Da Vinci Code” book and how should Christians respond ?

What did the “Soviet Encyclopedia” have to say about Jesus Christ ?

Why do some people today claim that Jesus never lived ?

2. Brian Edwards says, “The evidence demonstrates beyond doubt that Jesus lived as a real figure of history”
How do **ancient historical documents** confirm that Jesus of Nazareth walked the earth ?

What did the historian Cornelius Tacitus say about Jesus ?

What did the important Jewish historian Josephus say about Jesus ?

What did the Jewish Talmud say about Jesus ?

3. Read **John 1:1-18**. If you take the Bible seriously, what does this passage tell you about Jesus Christ ?
(*next week, we’ll look at several Scripture passages about the life of Jesus*)

Who is Jesus Christ ?

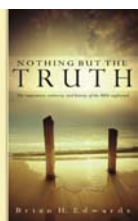
Why did He *come* ?

How do we *know* He came ?

Why do some people *not* receive Him ?

Why *do* some people receive Him ?

4. **What are you going to do this week with what you learned today ?**



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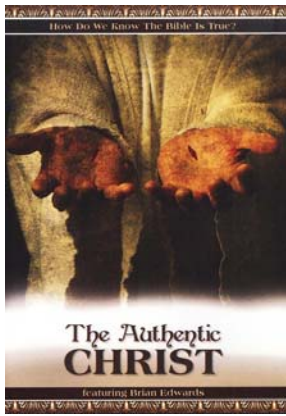
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Session 3

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 3

DVD 14:17 to 21:19

The Jesus of Reality

*“To believe in the Jesus of history you don’t actually need your Bible.
To understand the Jesus of history you can’t do without your Bible.”*

Myth = made-up story not historically true

Liberals = Bible “myth” communicates important religious “truth”

2 Peter 1:16 = eyewitness accounts

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 = according to the Scriptures

Luke 1:3-4 = carefully investigated, orderly account, certainty

John 21:24; 1 John 1:1 = eyewitness testimony

Reports circulating in first century

Gospels = authentic history, recording unique details

John 8:6 = Jesus wrote on the ground

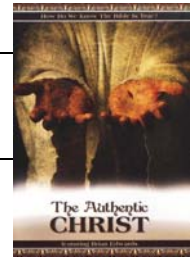
C.S. Lewis = “never would an apparently meaningless bit of information be recorded unless it really happened”

John 1:44-45; Luke 3:23 = Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph

*“These are marks of authentic narratives and again and again you’ll find them in the Gospels.
The authentic Bible—from beginning to end the mark of a book that is unique”*

DISCUSSION *session 3*

The Authentic Christ – The Jesus of Reality



1. What are some **examples of narratives** in Scripture that *non*-evangelicals would likely call “**myths**”—made-up stories not historically true but which communicate important religious truths?

How would you counter the claims of such critics?

2. **How does Scripture** approach the historical figure of Jesus – demonstrating authentic history, not myth?

How does the Apostle Peter counter the idea of “myth” in **2 Peter 1:16-21**?

How does the Apostle Paul counter the idea of “myth” in **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**?

How does Luke, companion of the Apostle Paul, counter the idea of “myth” in **Luke 1:3-4**?

How does the Apostle John counter the idea of “myth” in **John 21:24** and **1 John 1:1**?

3. **How do the details** of the Gospels and Biblical accounts demonstrate the authenticity of those accounts?

How does the Apostle John report authentic history in **John 8:6**?

How do John and Luke report authentic history in **John 1:44-45** and **Luke 3:23**?

Can you think of **other examples** of significant details which were not discussed in the lecture?

Brian Edwards says “*These are marks of authentic narratives and again and again you’ll find them in the Gospels—from beginning to end—the mark of a book that is unique*”

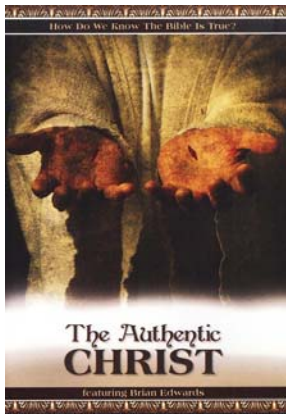
Why is it important that all of these reports were **widely circulating** in the First Century AD?

4. **What are you going to do this week with what you learned today?**



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HOW do
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Session 4

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 4

DVD 19:02 to 26:04

The Jesus of Prophecy

Prophecies of Jesus' life are recorded hundreds of years before fulfillment--an impossible point for critics to overcome

The authentic Bible—from beginning to end the mark of a book that is unique”

John 1:44-45; Luke 3:23 = Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph

Micah 5:2 = the birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Isaiah 7:14 = the virgin birth of Christ

Zechariah 9:9 = Messiah rides a donkey

Psalms 41:9 = betrayal by a friend

Psalms 22 = details out of Jesus' control

Psalms 22:7-8 = mocking

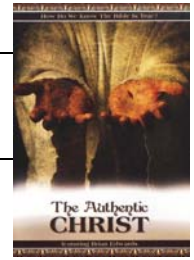
Psalms 22:15-16 = crucifixion

Isaiah 53:7-9 = details of his death

“Were the prophets all liars and deceivers, or were they eyewitnesses?”

DISCUSSION *session 4*

The Authentic Christ – The Jesus of Prophecy



1. **Prophecies** are predictions made long before something happens (cf Isaiah 45:21).
The level of detail and ancient records of Scripture make prophecies impossible to counterfeit.

Why can skeptics not effectively discredit the witness of Biblical prophecies?

What role does this have in **evangelism**?

2. Scholars have identified more than 300 prophecies made hundreds of years before Christ, which confirm His life...
*How do these examples confirm the **authenticity** of the narratives about the life of Christ?*

Micah 5:2...John 7:42...Matthew 2:1, 5...

Isaiah 7:14...Luke 1:34-35...Matthew 1:20-25...

Zechariah 9:9...Matthew 21:1-7...John 12:12-16...

Psalms 41:9...John 13:18-19, 21-27...John 18:2-5...

3. What are the **New Testament fulfillments** to the following prophecies from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53...

Psalm 22:1...

Psalm 22:6-8...

Psalm 22:14-15...

Psalm 22:16-18...

Isaiah 53:7...

Isaiah 53:9...

Isaiah 53:12...

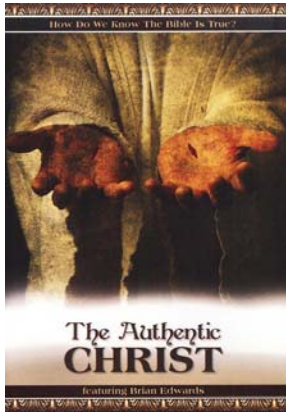
4. What other examples of OT prophecies and NT fulfillment can you identify?

5. **What are you going to do this week *with what you learned today*?**



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Session 5

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 5

DVD 26:04 to 37:31

The Jesus of Authority

Jesus may have been a great orator, but the uniqueness of His claims was what made Him like no one else

John 5:18 – “God, My Father” = deity

John 8:58 – “I AM” = deity = equality with God

Luke 5:20-21 – forgiving sins = deity

Either asinine fatuity or He was God, the One sinned against

John 8:45-46 – free from sin = deity

“Which of you convicts me of sin?” And two thousand years later only the grubby minds of cheap novelists and dirty filmmakers can do anything about it. There’s nothing in history – this man is unique, perfect.

Luke 15:2 – “this man welcomes sinners”

“– a beautiful testimony to Jesus, and if that were not true neither you nor I would be here”

The Jesus of Calvary

Father, forgive them

Behold, your mother

Today, you will be with Me

Pilate – I find no fault in Him

Thief – he has done nothing wrong

Centurion – truly, the son of God

Mocking crowds –

God the Father –

For the first and only time in all eternity there was a divorce between God the Father and God the Son

Propitiatory penal sacrifice of Christ – the heart of the Gospel

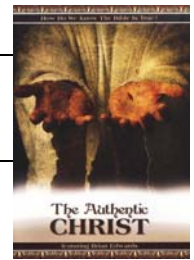
Romans 3:23-25, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 4:10, Hebrews 10:10 etc

- when the Father laid all your guilt and sin upon the Son
- and turned His back to the Son so that He might feel all that I deserved
- He turned the just anger of God away by taking our guilt and punishment on Himself
- So that we can go free – that’s the Jesus of Calvary

Propitiation – “don’t let go of it. Never forget it. Be broken in your heart because of it. Thank God for it.”

DISCUSSION *session 5*

The Authentic Christ – The Jesus of Authority & of Calvary



1. The Jewish leaders had no confusion about **Christ's claims to deity**.
How do the following texts demonstrate how they understood Christ as claiming to be God?

John 5:18

John 8:58

Luke 5:20-21 and **Mark 2:5-6**

John 8:45-46 (cf 1 **John 1:8**)

2. How do these passages demonstrate the unique love of **Christ as divine**?

Luke 23:34

John 19:25-27

Luke 23:42-43

3. How did these people declare the **innocence** of Jesus? Why was He crucified anyway?

John 19:4 and **Matthew 27:19**

Luke 23:39-41

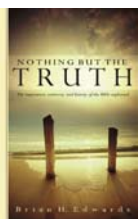
Mark 15:39

4. Compare **Matthew 3:17** and **Matthew 27:46** – What is the significance of the “**silence of heaven**” at Calvary?

Explain the “**propitiatory penal sacrifice**” of Christ at Calvary?
(Romans 3:23-25, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 4:10, Hebrews 10:10 etc)

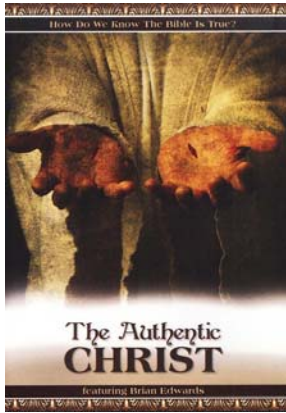
*What are the four things Brian Edwards says **we must do about it**?*

5. **What are you going to do this week *with what you learned today*?**



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Session 6

Brian H. Edwards

“The Authentic Christ” – part 6

DVD 37:31 to 47:37

The Jesus of Eternity

“Jesus came from eternity, He lived for eternity, and He promised eternity for all those who become His disciples”

John 8:58 – deity and eternity

John 3:14-15

John 11:25-26

John 14:2-3

Hebrews 1:2-3

“Jesus does not reflect of the glory of God—He IS the glory of the Father”

Creator of all things

Sustainer of all things

“Exact representation – the actual reality of the exact character of God Himself”

Radiant reality of God’s glory

All that the Father is, Christ is

Miracles – done by God in human form – showing that He was God, but we saw Him as a man

“When Jesus came to His creation He came just as we needed to see Him—the Jesus of eternity”

The Jesus of Necessity

“There is something compelling about Jesus Christ – and we must respond to Him”

The facts demand it

The life and ministry of Christ insist upon it

The death and resurrection of Christ compel it

Many choose to deny Christ and doubt the record of the Bible

Islam – Mohammed irrelevant

Christ – we must accept all or nothing

Was Christ a good moral teacher, but not God ?

C.S. Lewis

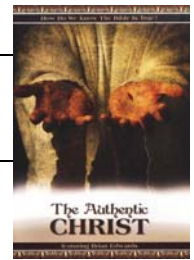
Jesus is a liar, a lunatic, or He is your Lord. There are no other options.

What is He to you ?

Rev 5:9-13 – “no other name”

DISCUSSION *session 6*

The Authentic Christ – The Jesus of Eternity & of Necessity



1. Edwards says the Jewish leaders had no confusion about **Christ's claims to deity**.
How do the following texts demonstrate how they understood Christ as claiming to be God?

John 8:58

John 3:14-15

John 11:25-26

John 14:2-3

2. How do **Hebrews 1:2-3** and **John 1:1-3** demonstrate the divinity of Christ by His deity and His eternity?

Explain why Brian Edwards says *“Jesus does not reflect the glory of God—He IS the glory of God.”*

3. Brian Edwards says we **MUST** respond to Jesus Christ – because of the facts about His life, ministry, death and resurrection. **Why must we accept “all or nothing” that Scripture claims about Christ?**
4. Many people think they can believe that Christ was a good moral teacher, but not God. **Is this an option?**

Explain why C.S. Lewis says Jesus could only have been a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord that He claimed to be.

What is Christ to you?

5. Read **Acts 4:12** and **Revelation 5:9-13**

How is the authority of the name of Jesus Christ presented in these passages?

Does it matter to God whether we receive the authority of His Son for our lives?

How have you accepted the authority of Christ and His Word? *Why?*

6. **What are you going to do this week with what you learned today?**



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