John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you , the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

 I am going to make a statement and I want you to really think about what I have said. “If you are going to call Jesus a liar, then why do you want to insist that He is your Savior or that He is anything to you or the world? Take that in. Let me repeat it so that perhaps it can sink in all the more. “If you are going to call Jesus a liar, then why do you want to insist that He is your Savior or that He is anything to you or the world?

 What do I mean by that statement? Well, there are a number of things for us to consider in answering that question but I hope that before we are done here, you will grasp my point and the seriousness that this point is. Our theme will be: **Jesus the Christ…God!**

 There are a number of verses here that are so very important to understand in order to answer the question I have put before you. To begin, let’s take some pertinent words of Jesus to heart. For instance, take a closer look at what Jesus says of himself. **“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that you Son may glorify you…And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began…for they knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”**

 Please note a few things. Jesus, clearly states that God is his Father! Not maybe, not it could be. Not, “I was adopted by you” or “I am the imagination of those around me.” Jesus clearly and precisely calls God, **“FATHER.”** To go on from there, Jesus makes a few other startling points. Jesus prays for glory from the Father, please note, **“the glory I had with you before the world began.”** With those words Jesus is referencing His eternal being, His awareness of heaven and His awareness of the glory that is His in heaven. You might even recognize that in these words Jesus is indirectly speaking of his state of humiliation, that He is aware of what He set aside (the full use of his heavenly power and glory) in order to be in this world! Dear people, the only way to take those words is to grasp that Jesus has stated clearly that He is God’s Son, yes, the eternal Son of the Eternal God and thus is God himself!

 Now, don’t miss one other important statement here. **“For they knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”** Let that sink in. The disciples of Jesus and those who were followers of Jesus (perhaps a reference to the 120 gathered on the day of Pentecost?) all were clearly aware of and absolutely believe in the fact that Jesus came from God, is God and came to accomplish the work of God!

 Now, what do we do with this? I submit that there is really only one option here. You are to believe what Jesus has said! You are to believe that He is the Son of God, **“the fullness of the deity in bodily form”** (Col 2:9). You are to believe that Jesus completed the work the Father has given Him and that Jesus has been glorified once again, just as He was before He came! There is no escaping the power and revelation of these words. Jesus has clearly told us He is God and our Savior!

 Now, you can deny these words. If you do, we will have to agree, here and now, that Jesus was clearly, on a deep level, delusional, with a deep psychological illness that today would certainly land him in a home somewhere. Now if Jesus is that delusional, why do you even care about what He has said or about what he supposedly has done? This really goes back to that quote I shared with you a while ago from C.S. Lewis, where he says that you either have to believe in Jesus as the Son of God or we have to agree that Jesus was just one big liar! And that is what is at issue here. Either you believe Jesus to be God or whenever you deny this understand you are calling Jesus a liar and really, a fraud!

 Of course, there are those who would claim that neither of these things is true. They liberal claim is that Scripture has been embellished. That pious men have added things over the centuries to make Jesus look better, seem better and be better (and I assume they mean “better than he really was” for nothing else makes sense in their argument). But let’s look at this claim, that the Bible is not a clear and error free record of Jesus, that the Bible misrepresents Jesus and therefore cannot be trusted.

Note what Jesus says. **“For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent…I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of this world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them.”**

Dear people, all of these verses clearly are dealing with the revelation of God, yes, the Word of God and that Jesus is that revelation, that what Jesus imparted to these men was and is God’s very truth! And please remember that elsewhere Jesus made it clear that the entire Old Testament was about Him and what He would be and do. In other words, the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is from and the complete and true revelation of God. That God, with His Holy Spirit, gave a true and error free history of His salvation from beginning to end.

 So what do we do? Well, again, I submit that you either believe what Jesus has said here that He is the revelation of God, the very Word of God or you must grasp that you have declared Jesus a liar. And if Jesus is a liar, why would you want to believe in Him?

 Let’s just confront a few interesting things here. Let’s take a simple statement that so many like to make today. “I believe in God, but I don’t believe in church!” What does God’s Word say? Yep, what does Jesus say? Please note that Jesus had the habit of church! If God’s Son felt the need for church, then why don’t you? Or let’s consider what we learned in Bible class the other day from the book of 1 Tim. (3:15): **“which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”** This passage says that God is behind the church, it is his possession! God is the source and power behind Church. And then we hear that this church is **“the pillar and foundation of the truth!”** Dear people, if that is not your church, because it has abandoned God’s Word, then find a church that IS what God says it is, the pillar and foundation of the truth. And since God says this is so, then why do you think you don’t need the church and its truth? We are back to that, “Because God is a liar!” Please note that such a statement is really an admission that you don’t believe and trust in God, His Word or Jesus!

 How about this one: “Jesus didn’t say anything himself about THAT!” In truth, Jesus didn’t say anything about a lot of things. He didn’t have to. Jesus makes it clear He came to uphold the Law of God, to keep it holy and perfect and to fulfill it perfectly. More than that, the Words Jesus gave to His Apostles and Evangelists, in accord with the promises Jesus made about the Holy Spirit and the Spirit’s work of giving them the truth means that what they wrote is what Jesus said and upheld. The Bible is God’s Word. So, study God’s Word, yes, both Old and New Testament and you will understand and grasp God’s point of view on lots of things. Now, I hope you have a church that rightly divides and understands Law and Gospel, for that is so important. But do know one thing, there is not a single portion of the Old Testament or of the Law that Jesus declared we should throw out and ignore!

 In truth, your statement that “Jesus didn’t say…” is you declaring the Bible is not God’s Word and that Jesus is a liar. And if that’s true, why do you care anything about what the Bible says? And if the Bible is nothing more than lies and embellishments, why do you even have a religion that you claim is based on the Bible or on Jesus? I am not even sure why you bother with the Bible or why the world is so obsessed with disproving the Bible? In fact, that such is true of the world, is probably the best reason to dig into the Bible all the more because it is clear the world is out to do nothing more than destroy and undermine the true faith of God.

 And what is the true faith about? Is it about living the right life and doing the right thing? Is it just a cleverly disguised psychological need buried in us through evolution? Yet note, if evolution is true then life and this world really has no meaning and purpose whatsoever! Maybe you should actually pay attention to what Jesus said, **“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”**

 Faith is about the true God. What God has revealed about life, living, dying and eternity. That’s what it is to know God. To know His grace and love. To know how this world got so messed up and silly in what it does. To know God’s plan to take care of the problem of sin, death and hell. To know that God has clearly, precisely, truthfully and accurately revealed himself and His Son in His Word. (And as I said even last week, if you don’t believe the Almighty God can inspire His Word without error then you don’t believe in God!)

 Yes, faith is about Jesus. How Jesus came to into this world in order to be our Savior from sin. That means that Jesus upheld the Law of God, kept the Law perfectly, went to the cross to suffer and die on our behalf for sin, that we might have eternal life, true life restored to us. That has got to be the point of Jesus, because anything short of that is calling Jesus a liar! If you don’t believe in sin, then leave Jesus alone. If you don’t believe in heaven and eternal life, then leave Jesus and the Bible alone and do your own thing. Stop trying to prevent me from believing in God and eternal life! Stop trying to force your beliefs upon me and trying to get me to abandon the Bible. Because in truth, as a Christian, the only thing I am going to do to you is declare what God says about Jesus, sin and salvation. We are going to preach! Why do you have to kill us or destroy us because we want to preach about Jesus and salvation?

 Faith is about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead! This is our whole hope and comfort. Jesus died for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead and because of that resurrection we know everything about Jesus is true! And when (as in our verses) your hear words like: **“they were yours, you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word,”** those words are not about living right or following this or performing that. Those words are about faith in Jesus and his resurrection. About believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior. Those words are about the promises of the Father fulfilled in Jesus…you know, the truth of Jesus found in our text: **I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”** In the resurrection of Jesus the whole hope comfort and wonder of God’s gift of salvation and life is brought to bear on the world.

 There it is. These words of Jesus clearly invite you to make up your mind. Either He is God and Lord, our Savior from sin or Jesus is a liar and has no bearing on life at all. Me? I believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that just by faith alone, I have eternal life in his name!! That’s what Jesus says in His Word. Amen!