

“Who do you say I am?”

Who was Jesus exactly? And who got the answer right?!

Taking potshots at Jesus Christ is nothing new but why do Christians do it? Like the Christian minister who stated in a national newspaper she “can no longer believe in a single person who could bring about the salvation of the world” because, she said, “the belief that following Jesus will bring eternal salvation and that the Bible is the literal word of God, have all been stroked out.”

They’ve “all been stroked out?” They have? Not in the minds of Christians they haven’t. Belief in Jesus being the only source of universal salvation exactly as the Bible says, is what defines Christianity.

Some in the Christian fold, however, want to redefine Christianity and even Christ himself. Tom Harpur, author of “The Pagan Christ,” for instance, believes Jesus was a myth. John Spong, a Bishop no less, says the miracles Jesus performed are fiction. And the bestselling Da Vinci Code talks of Jesus being a mere mortal, nothing more.

I wonder, then, how each of these authors would’ve answered Jesus when he put the question to his disciples, “[And you - who do you say I am?](#)”

Would Harpur have rolled his eyes when Peter answered, “[You are the Christ, the Son of the living God?](#)” Or when Jesus asked if his closest disciples were going to abandon him and Peter answered, “[Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,](#)” would the minister mentioned above have raised her hand in objection?!

I’m beginning to wonder, though, how Christians in general would answer those two questions, having seen what Spong and Harpur have done to Christian friends of mine, one of whom told me in no uncertain terms the other day that “Jesus wasn’t God.” So, I asked her “in whom, or in what, she rested her hope instead, then?” and she answered without batting an eye, “The divine within me.”

Thank you, at least I have an inkling now as to what’s happening. Unfortunately, even Christians are falling for the same old lie the Devil hoodwinked Adam and Eve with. Eat off the forbidden tree, the Devil said, and humans could have all the powers of the divine within them. They could depend on their own natural spirituality; no need for God, no need to follow his instructions, just listen to “the divine voice within.”

And today it’s the same old lie, just gift-wrapped a little differently for the modern, “trendy” Christian. I mean, who needs Jesus when “God” is already within you? And who needs a Saviour, who needs the Bible and who needs to be Christian when all we humans need do is “light the spark of the divine within” for enlightenment and salvation?

Unfortunately, it worked on Adam and Eve and it still works like a charm today as bright, articulate people pour boiling oil on the core beliefs of Christianity while, amazingly, they still call themselves Christian!

I wish they'd be honest and not call themselves Christian. Call themselves "spiritual" if they wish, or "dabblers in religion," or even "cosmic theologians" like Tom Harpur, but please, don't use the word Christian. The term "Christian" is reserved purely for those who believe what the Bible says about Jesus; that Jesus was both human and divine and it was only by Jesus dying on a Cross and coming back from the dead that our relationship with God, broken by sin, could be restored.

I can understand non-Christian religions not accepting Jesus or not believing the Bible is divine in origin, but Christians? Come on, not Christians, surely? Because, if Jesus wasn't God, Christians ask, in whom do we humans rest our hope of salvation instead? And if the Bible isn't God's Word, what other book can the human race depend on for the words of eternal life?

It's the answers to those two questions that define Christianity.

And on both scores, according to Jesus, Peter's answers were right.