

LOOKING UP

July-August 2022

*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

The Genuine Article

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Jesus said that He is the only Way, and Truth, and Life, and that no one comes to God the Father any other way than through Him. Given then, that the stakes are nothing less than eternal presence with God, or an eternity cast away from Him, this is the most important news that the world needs to hear. Everyone needs to hear that Jesus is the Way to salvation. Yet, even as this news is spread, some of it is unreliable.

Unfortunately, there are many who use the name of Jesus, yet speak of someone other than the Jesus of whom the Bible speaks. And this shouldn't surprise us. The Bible told us that this was going to happen. Jesus Himself said that, "many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray." (Matt. 24:5) He also warned, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15) In other words, the world will be subject to hearing the news of "counterfeit Jesuses." One of the great challenges is that these

cont. on pg 2

Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

pretenders, as well as false teachings about the Lord, are not only widespread but they are very appealing. After all, one of the things that is true about our fallen nature is that we are easily deceived. And this is especially true when we are presented with something that we are prone to desire. So false teachings of Jesus often take advantage of this natural weakness. For instance, some preach of a Jesus who is always waiting to give you what you want (i.e. health, wealth and a long life), just as long as you can drum up a great enough level of belief that this is true. Alternatively, since we are also prone to thinking that God must require something from us in order to be saved, others will present us with a Jesus who will save us... just so long as we go through the right steps and jump through the right hoops.

The variety of false teachings about Jesus is as endlessly varied as the human imagination is capable of conjuring them. Which is why we need a sure-fire way of spotting them (and teaching others to do the same). It's said that, as they train their agents to spot counterfeit currency, the United States Secret Service never actually shows new recruits a counterfeit bill. Instead, they are given nothing but the genuine article. They handle and study real money so extensively, that the moment they actually come into contact with a fake, the differences are unmistakable. That's exactly what we as Christians are to do. And this is what we teach others to do. We study and "handle" the genuine Jesus so much that we can spot a fake from a mile away. This means that we read the Bible, which is the only place that we can learn the truth about Him. And we place ourselves under Gospel-centered, biblically sound pastors and teachers who proclaim Him constantly. Who point us to the One (the only One) who is our Way, and our Truth, and our Life.

Dear Christian, rejoice that God has made Himself known to us in the Bible, and specifically in Jesus, who loves us and gave Himself up for us so that we can be assured of having eternal life.

Looking Ahead

July 15th
Red Cross Blood Drive

July 20-22
Vacation Bible School

August 18-21
ALC Youth Camp

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran Church

2103 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

Church (360) 693-2620
Pastor Jason Salmi (360) 342-7317