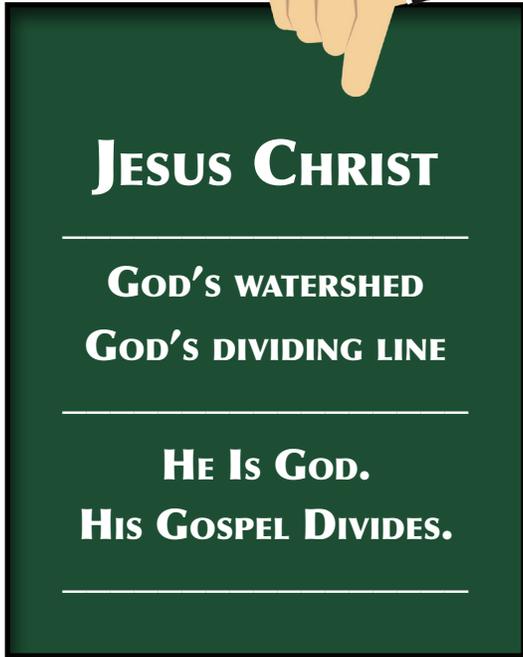


**WATERSHED**

A watershed is a crucial dividing point, line, or factor; an important point of division or transition between two phases, conditions, etc.; an important period or factor that serves as a dividing line.



**JESUS CHRIST**

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**GOD'S WATERSHED**  
**GOD'S DIVIDING LINE**

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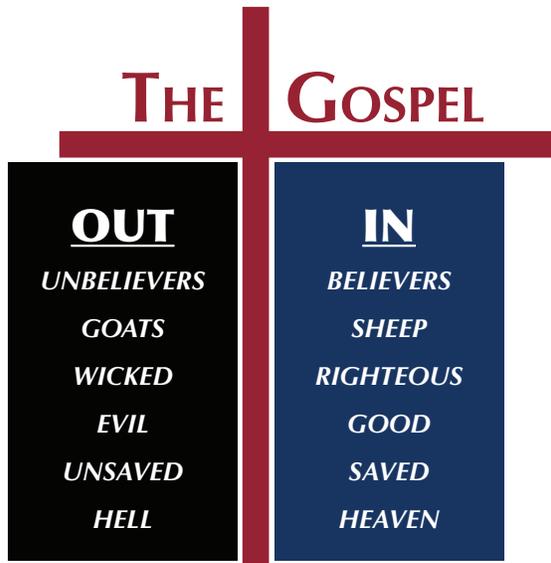
**HE IS GOD.**  
**HIS GOSPEL DIVIDES.**

**LINE OF DEMARCATION**

A line of demarcation is a separation—a dividing line—between things deemed to be distinct.

**HOW DOES GOD DECIDE**  
**WHO "GETS IN"?**





**GOD “DRAWS THE LINE”  
AT THE GOSPEL!**



But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8–9 ESV).

## THIS JESUS IS GOD

### 1. **THE BELOVED SON IS THE VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.**

- (Colossians 1:15a ESV) He is the image of the invisible God.
- (Hebrews 1:3 ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and **the exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
- (John 1:14 ESV) And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- (John 14:8–11 ESV) Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the

Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

### 2. **THE BELOVED SON IS THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION—THE SURPASSING, FOREMOST, SUPREME, MOST PROMINENT HUMAN PERSON IN ALL OF CREATION.**

- (Colossians 1:15b ESV) ... **the firstborn** of all creation.
- (Romans 8:29 ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be **the firstborn** among many brothers.
- (Hebrews 1:5–6 ESV) For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”
- (Revelation 1:5 ESV) And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, **the firstborn of the dead**, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

### 3. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY, THROUGH AND FOR THE BELOVED SON.

- (Colossians 1:16 ESV) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
- (Hebrews 1:2 ESV) But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- (John 1:2–3 ESV) He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- (John 1:10 ESV) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

### 4. THE BELOVED SON IS FIRST—PREEMINENT—IN EVERYTHING.

- (Colossians 1:17a ESV) And he is before all things.
- (Ephesians 1:21–23 ESV) Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### 5. IN THE BELOVED SON ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.

- (Colossians 1:17b ESV) ... and in him all things hold together.
- (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

### 6. THE BELOVED SON IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

- (Colossians 1:18a ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church.
- (Ephesians 5:23–24 ESV) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

### 7. THE BELOVED SON IS THE BEGINNING FRUIT—THE FIRSTBORN FRUIT OF THE RESURRECTION—SO THAT IN EVERYTHING HE

### IS PREEMINENT.

- (Colossians 1:18b ESV) He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
- (Revelation 1:5 ESV) And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

### 8. THE BELOVED SON IS GOD—IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD WAS PLEASED TO DWELL.

- (Colossians 1:19 ESV) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.
- (Philippians 2:5–6 ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
- (Hebrews 1:3 ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

### 9. GOD RECONCILED ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF BY THE BELOVED SON—MAKING PEACE BY THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS.

- (Colossians 1:20 ESV) And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- (Ephesians 2:12–14 ESV) Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.
- (Ephesians 2:16–17 ESV) And might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
- (John 14:27 ESV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- (John 16:33 ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have

overcome the world.”

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (Hebrews 13:20–21 ESV) **Now may the God of peace** who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, **through Jesus Christ,** to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **HIS GOSPEL DIVIDES**

### **1. CHRIST’S GOSPEL IS A SWORD THAT DIVIDES.**

- (Matthew 10:34–39 ESV) Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** 35 **For I have come to set a man against** his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
- (Luke 12:51 ESV) **Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.**

### **2. CHRIST’S GOSPEL DIVIDES THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK FROM THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK.**

- (Revelation 20:11–15 ESV) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. **Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books,** according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one

of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 **And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

### **3. CHRIST’S GOSPEL DIVIDES THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS.**

- (Matthew 25:31–34, 41, 46 ESV) When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and **he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** 33 And he will place **the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.** 34 **Then the King will say to those on his right,** “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” 41 **Then he will say to those on his left,** “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

### **4. CHRIST’S GOSPEL DIVIDES THE RIGHTEOUS FROM THE WICKED.**

- (Malachi 3:18 ESV) **Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked,** between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.
- (Ecclesiastes 3:17 ESV) I said in my heart, **God will judge the righteous and the wicked,** for there is a time for every matter and for every work.
- (Psalm 1:5–6 ESV) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; **for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

### **5. CHRIST’S GOSPEL DIVIDES THOSE WHO BELIEVE FROM THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE.**

- (John 3:16–18 ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**