

## Observations Concerning God's Going Out of His Way to Repeatedly Identify His Son

**First**, just as the Lord revealed to the shepherds through His angel who Jesus was and how they could find Him (see Luke 2:11-12), so also did the Lord repeatedly identify Him in the course of Jesus' life and ministry. God wants people to accurately identify His Son. He wants them to know about Him, yes; but He also wants people everywhere to know *Him*. God has gone out of His way to eliminate confusion about who Jesus is.

**Second**, God revealed the identity of His Son to specific people who, in turn, shared this important information with others. We are reminded of Paul's admonition to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also." Certainly, the identity God's only Son is one of Christianity's foundational teachings.

**Third**, encounters with Jesus are personal, not theoretical or strictly academic. Yes, they make sense and are reasonable, but they involve *interacting* with the one true God. After they went to the stable and found Jesus, the shepherds "went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had *heard* and *seen*, just as *had been told them*" (Luke 2:20, emphases added). In John 1, John wrote about "what we have *heard*, what we have

*seen with our eyes*, what we have *looked at and touched with our hands*, concerning the Word of Life" — that "life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us" (1 John 1:1-2, emphases added).

**Fourth**, if we are open to receiving the truth about who Jesus is, if we want to know Him and are willing to search for Him earnestly, just as the shepherds, Zacchaeus, and others did, we will find Him (see Matt. 13:10-17). As God told His people in Jeremiah 29:13, "And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

We certainly ought to marvel over who Jesus is and all He has done for us, but we need not wonder about these things. We have a confidence that truly is out of this world. We know who Jesus is, and we know what He has done for us because God has revealed these truths to us! (See Luke 24:46-48; John 1:1-4,10-14; 3:16-17; 11:25-26.)

**Fifth**, we have a responsibility to tell others who Jesus is and what He came to do, just as others told us — and just as the shepherds shared the good news about Jesus after returning to their fields from Bethlehem. They would never again be the same.