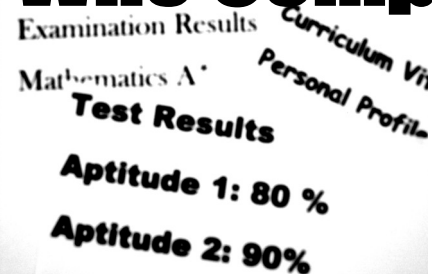


Who Compares ?



Some people are regularly in the public eye and are often greatly admired by others. They may be sportsmen or women, film or TV stars, politicians, or people who have done good charitable deeds. Others may have a particular admiration for a certain religious leader. They look to them as being the one who shows them the right way to believe and behave.

Many would like to copy or follow the lifestyle and activities of these 'household' names. But with so many 'celebrities' and individuals vying for our attention, is there someone who, stands out above all others? Someone who can clearly be seen to be the one who should truly have our all attention and devotion?

Full of Grace

Some 2000 years ago a man lived

among men and women and was closely observed in his daily living. They heard him speak, watched Him as he related to those who were around Him, they saw him eat and sleep. They saw Him when he was weary and tempted. They observed as He was treated spitefully by others and as He experienced great suffering and pain. What did they say having seen Him in all these situations? Did they see anger, and someone who was irritable or vengeful? No, here was someone who at all times was "...full of grace..." (John 1:14).

Full of Truth

This man was someone whose word carried an extraordinary authority and power. When He had spoken on one occasion "...the people were astonished at His teaching, for he taught them as one having authority..." (Matthew 7:28,29). Here was one who would faithfully tell the truth, to help men and women to understand what their true need was, even though He knew it meant He

would be all the more hated and ridiculed by the religious authorities of his day (John 5:18).

No Sin

Unlike many who've said one thing and then done another, this man always practised *all* that He had preached. All men and women regularly fail God in some way and at some point in their lives. However, this man was the only one who could say even to His *enemies*, "which of you convicts me of sin?" and then find that that there was nothing about Him or in His life

which could be used to condemn Him. There were those who stated, having seen Him at 'close quarters' and in every situation, he was "...the Righteous..." one (1John 2:1).

Full of Compassion, Patience and Love

Who would mix with those who were considered the rubbish of society, in order that he might bless them and do them good (Matthew 9:11-13)? Who was it that would touch disease ridden lepers and those with sickness in order to heal them? Who would patiently persevere with His own followers though they were self-

ish and argumentative (Luke 22:24)? Who was it that was taken up with the needs of others, would weep with concern, and pray for the forgiveness, of those who killed Him (Mark 8:2, Luke 19:41; Luke 23:34)?

God in the Flesh

Who was it who claimed to be God (John 10:30), who then by his life and works showed that what He claimed could not be

denied? Who had power to prevent the wind from blowing, could raise the dead and forgive sins? Who was it

"Which of you convicts me of sin?"

who said, "...I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..." (John 10: 17, 18)? Having said such words, who then gave Himself into the hands of those who would crucify Him in order that He might die on the cross? Who would save sinners from the punishment their sins deserved, by suffering in their place? Which man has come back from death, having been raised the third day, showing God's acceptance of His work?

Who is this person? Who is it

who stands alone as being the one who far exceeds any other person who has ever lived? Who's words, life, example, death and resurrection are unique?

Peter speaks of this wonderful person and says his name is "... Jesus Christ of Nazareth..." He goes on and says, "nor is there salvation in *any other*, for there is *no other name under heaven* given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4: 10,12).

The World's Rejection

Jesus Christ is the one through whom the world was made. Yet, though he made the world and though no other person compares to him, as a rule the world does not want him.

Generally men and women want to look to all sorts of others as the ones worthy of their admiration and devotion. Yet they won't even give Christ "the time of day".

However, the true Christian has found the true 'pearl of great

price' or the 'diamond amidst the glass'. They have come to know and love the one who alone was, and is "...full of grace and truth..."

They are convinced that Christ is unique amongst men. But more than that they know they have come to know this person, individually and personally as their

Saviour. Ask them, "Who is like Christ?" and they will reply, "No one."

"...who far exceeds any other person...?"

Have you come to see, "The Glory of the Lord"?