

Hi Church Family and Friends,

I want to review what we've been focusing on in Colton Community Church the last seven weeks. It's actually WHO we've been focusing on: Jesus!

In our series, "The 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus: Getting to Know Our Savior Better", we've looked into the gospel of John to see what Jesus said about Himself. Throughout the gospel, Jesus describes both His divine and human natures. In Exodus 3:14 NKJV, when God called Moses to confront the Pharaoh of Egypt, Moses asks God for His name and, "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " So, when Jesus describes Himself using the phrase, "I am..." He is using a short-hand way to describe Himself as God with us, the great "I AM"! The gospel begins with this revelation; John 1:1 NKJV "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." But Jesus also reveals Himself as the fully human Son of God in the flesh. John 1:14 NKJV] states, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." Jesus describes both His divine and human natures in order to reveal His unique function as the one and only Savior of the world, the sole mediator between God and lost humanity. 1Timothy 2:5 NKJV states, "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." Likewise, 1 Timothy 3:16 NKJV states, "...God was manifested in the flesh..." Lastly Paul wrote in Galatians 3:20 NKJV, "Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one." This is the mystery of our faith! Jesus is fully divine and fully human and was sent into the world by the Heavenly Father to save sinful humanity from their sins.

In every self-description Jesus uses, in the I AM Gospel of John, Jesus compares Himself to earthly things that describe not only the relationship Jesus has with the Father as God from eternity, but each metaphor Jesus uses also offers people a word picture describing how He wants to personally connect them to the Father. Whosoever will *believe* that the Father has sent His Son to save them, and then will *receive* Jesus into their lives by faith, that person *becomes* born again into eternal life. Those born of God's Spirit are granted entrance into the relationship shared between the Father and the Son. By the work, presence, and power of the Holy Spirit, whenever anyone puts their faith and trust in Jesus, cries out for forgiveness and surrenders to Jesus, confessing Him as the Lord of their lives, Jesus comes! Jesus forgives! As Jesus's blood washes the repentant soul's conscience, the Holy Spirit goes where Jesus's blood has cleansed, and the believer is simultaneously connected, in that moment, with the Heavenly Father. God's Spirit moves in and witnesses to the born-again believer's spirit that they are a child of God! The Father and the Son make their home in the heart of the new Christian! Hallelujah!

Let's look below at a summary of the seven "I AM" messages of Jesus.

prayerfully,
Steve