

Jesus

People continue to acknowledge Jesus as one of history's great and influential figures. He lived 2000 years ago, in what is now modern-day Israel. Before his three years of public ministry he worked as a carpenter.

Jesus' teaching was revolutionary. In fact, his Sermon on the Mount is recognized as one of the greatest speeches ever given. Jesus' biggest claim was that He is God (John 8:58, 10:36, 14:9, 20:26-29, Rev 1:17). He said he could forgive sins, something only God can do (Mark 2:5-10). Yet the Jewish Prophets had predicted that God would come to earth in human form (Isaiah 9:6) many hundreds of years earlier.

It's not fair or reasonable to say he was a good moral teacher, but dismiss his claim to be God.

Jesus healed the sick, showed compassion to the

weak and lost and described himself as the saviour of sinners (John 3:17). He predicted that his death would pay for the sins of the world. He was killed on a Roman cross at the insistence of an outraged Jewish leadership. Yet, after three days, and in accordance with his prediction (Mark 10:34), Jesus rose from the dead. After his resurrection, He commanded his followers to tell the world about Himself and the kingdom of God (Matthew 28:19-20).

Ever since then, Christians have taught salvation through Jesus based on his death and resurrection. Jesus said and did incredible things but is He truly humanity's saviour or just deluded? He is too significant and impressive to simply ignore. His life and death demands a response. It's not fair or reasonable to say he was a good moral teacher, but dismiss his claim to be God. Jesus was either:



1 Lord 2 Liar 3 Lunatic

Choose one



BALLOT PAPER

JESUS

Lord

Liar

Lunatic

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Place a tick in **ONE** of the boxes only

Vote Jesus as Lord!

Jesus said he is Lord. He taught with authority and declared that he had the power to forgive sins (Mark 1:22, 2:9). He calmed storms and walked on water. He healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead (Mark 1:21-34, 5, John 11:1-44). When Jesus gave up his life on the cross, he did it to pay the penalty for our sins. And when he rose again from the dead, Jesus showed that he is the Lord of life, death and everything. He was no madman and he was no deceiver. Jesus is Lord over everything – including you.

Vote Jesus was a liar

We believe Jesus was a liar. He gave some wise advice, told some clever parables and did a few magic tricks, but in the end, he was a fraud. He got addicted to his power over people, and kept making bigger and bigger claims to keep his fame going. His lies got so big, they got him killed. But it didn't stop there. After he was crucified, his followers joined in and made even more outlandish claims. They said he was perfect, they said he was God in the flesh and they said he had risen from the dead. And they spread these lies all over the Roman empire so that thousands of people came to believe them. Unfortunately, for many of them, believing these lies also got them killed.

? Doesn't make sense. Why would his followers get killed for something they know is a lie? Besides, everything he said came true.

VOTE JESUS WAS A LUNATIC

We believe Jesus was mad. He certainly said some crazy things —like “I am the vine; you are the branches,” “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved” and “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 15:5, 10:9, 14:6). He spoke in riddles so people wouldn't understand him (Mark 4:11-12). He had conversations with evil spirits. He even said he saw Satan. He claimed to be God, and said that he would rise from the dead. If someone in the office said

this, you'd think they were mad.

Many Jews thought he was insane (John 10:20), even his own family (Mark 3:21). He was obviously mad as a cut snake and got what he deserved.

Hmm... lots of very smart and balanced people have thought Jesus is quite sane. He silenced critics with powerful logic. The Jewish authorities were so threatened by his teaching and miracles that they plotted to kill him. Most of all he predicted with amazing accuracy the manner of his death and resurrection. Jesus the madman doesn't fit.

Voting is compulsory.

“Whoever is not with me is against me.”

Matthew 12:30

How will you vote in this federal election? The election will stop the nation. It will dominate the newspapers, radio and television. And it should stop us. The outcome is significant for our nation.

In the end, it all comes down to our vote. We, as the people of Australia, decide who has power over us for the next three years. So it's worth spending some time talking it over.

There's another vote that has bigger consequences. And it's a debate that will cause arguments and debates whenever it's raised. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't have the discussion.

It's the vote on whether we'll accept Jesus as our Lord. It's a choice to accept what he promises to us - eternal life. You have three options. Jesus said he was God. Was he lying? Was he a lunatic? Or was he telling the truth?

Voting against Jesus means we reject his offer of eternal life. We'll spend eternity without him. So it's a huge decision.

God has made voting compulsory. He wants us to choose a future of eternal blessings in Christ.

His polls are open right now.