

Morning Sermon December 1, 2019

“Believe, Christ, the Son of God!” John 20:24-31

<sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31 (NKJV)

When I was twenty years old and in college, I remember reading a survey Moody Magazine did of cults. Now, I only remember one cult specifically: A Mushroom cult: the question was asked, “Do you believe in Jesus? Mushroom cult – “Yes.” What do you believe about Jesus? Mushroom cult – “Jesus was a Mushroom!”

What is the content of true saving faith?

I. Jesus is the Christ –

1. Believe that Jesus -

Jesus Ἰησοῦς (יֵשׁוּעַ) Jeshua, later form for יהושׁע Joshua; meaning Jehovah saves –

<sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

Just as Joshua in the OT brought God’s people into the Promised Land, Jesus will save us from sin and bring us to Heaven!

2. Believe that Jesus is the Christ –

Χριστός<sup>a</sup>, οὐ m; Μεσσίας, ου m: (literally ‘one who has been anointed’) Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996).

A. He is the Anointed One, because He is anointed according to the prophecy of Scripture -

**61** “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, ... Isaiah 61:1–2 A (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and

stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: Luke 4:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

<sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” <sup>20</sup> Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:18–21 (NKJV)

B. Jesus is the Anointed One, because He rolls into one the three OT anointed offices of Prophet, Priest and King –

<sup>22</sup> For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. Acts 3:22 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” <sup>6</sup> As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; Hebrews 5:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ” Matthew 21:5 (NKJV)

C. It is important we understand these offices as they relate to our recreation in God’s image –

We were created and are being recreated in knowledge, righteousness and holiness –

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

C1. As Prophet Christ renews us in the knowledge of God –

<sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18 (NKJV)

C2. As Priest Christ offers Himself up as a perfect offering, attaining for us the righteousness of God, and He prays for us –

C3. As King ... “Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, (Acts 15:14–16) in ruling, (Isa. 32:22) and defending us, (Isa. 32:1–2) and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies. (1 Cor. 15:25, Ps. 110” W.S.C. Question 26

*In carrying out of these offices Christ, as Spirit Anointed, and giving us His Holy Spirit: Christ teaches us, redeems us, and sanctifies us, preparing us for eternal life.*

II. Yet we are also to believe, Jesus is the Son of God

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1. This is what John started with –

**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1–2 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

2. Ultimately, this is what Thomas saw, when He believed –

<sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” <sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” John 20:27–28 (NKJV)

3. This is what Jesus says we are “blessed” to believe –

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29 (NKJV)

III. To excite true saving faith in us is the purpose of John’s writing –

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that

you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

1. True saving faith is not a momentary thing, it (if given time) should grow –

A. Note, in John 8, some seemingly “believe” yet they do not abide in Jesus’ Word, proving themselves to be children of the devil!

<sup>30</sup> As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup> Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> ‘I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.’” John 8:30–38 (NKJV)

B. Indeed their faith was partial, they seem to believe what Jesus says about Himself, but not what He says about them ...

<sup>44</sup> You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV)

2. God’s Word is the Seed of Saving faith –

<sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, <sup>24</sup> because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*” <sup>25</sup> But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV)

3. The New Birth is needed for us to see and desire God’s Kingdom –

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)

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