

Subject: *Jesus is the Christ*
Scripture: *Matthew 16:13-20*

The most important thing the church has ever done or will ever do is to proclaim and defend the truth about who Jesus is and what He did because apart from His person and work there is no Christian faith and no hope in the world.

We are considering the names and titles of Jesus because they are significant in understanding who He is and what He does. Names and titles were extremely important in Bible times. Names had great significance and titles carried weight. If we're not careful, we hear some names and titles so frequently that they become familiar to us and lose their special meaning. One of these titles is "Christ." This was a title that was often used in connection with another title "Son of God." The Christ and the Son of God were understood to be one and the same person. Look again at Peter's confession in verse 16. Some people anticipated and longed for the coming Christ, so they were primed and ready to receive Him.

John 1:41 *He (Andrew) first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*

Others were eager to reject Christ. When Jesus was on trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin, they grilled Him because they wanted to know His real identity.

Matthew 26:63 *And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*

At the end of John's Gospel he tells us the reason why he wrote that book.

John 20:30-31 ³⁰ *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

The title of "Christ" was a significant title that could belong to only one person. In this message I want us to explore what the Bible says about Jesus as the Christ.

1. The UNIQUE IDENTITY of Christ

The title "Christ" appears 539 times in the New Testament. It is equivalent to the Old Testament title, "Messiah." Both Messiah and Christ mean "the anointed One." John the Baptist wanted to be sure that Jesus was the Christ.

Matthew 11:2-6 *Now when John (the Baptist) had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

John would have known for sure that Jesus was the Christ because He fulfilled the verses of the promised Messiah.

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*

When Jesus preached His first sermon in His hometown of Nazareth, He went into the synagogue and read this same scripture from the scroll of Isaiah.

Luke 4:20-21 ²⁰ *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.* ²¹ *And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

Jesus is the one and only Christ the world will ever know. He predicted that many people would make false claims to be the Christ and they would deceive many people in the last days.

Matthew 24:4-5 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

The Apostle John said this was happening even in his lifetime.

1 John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

The word “antichrist” means someone who is opposed to Christ and tries to take the place of Christ. There is one Antichrist and many antichrists.

2. The UNIQUE MINISTRY of Christ

The title Christ (Messiah) means “the anointed One.” In the Old Testament there were three offices that involved a holy anointing with oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit authorizing them and setting them apart for God’s purpose and giving them wisdom and power for their assignment. These three kinds of men were prophets, priests, and kings. They pointed to what Jesus would be and what He would do.

A. Jesus is God’s chosen Prophet

As a prophet, He speaks to men on behalf of God. He reveals God’s will to us. His role as Prophet is related to His title as “the Word.” Peter understood this. **John 6:68** *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.* This role was prophesied by Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:15** *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;* This was fulfilled in **Acts 3:20-23** *And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*

B. Jesus is God’s chosen Priest

As a priest, He offered the perfect sacrifice of Himself to God and He continues to intercede for us. His role as Priest is related to His title as “the Lamb.” He is the perfect priest. All other priests first had to offer a sacrifice for their own sins and then for the sins of the people. He offered the perfect sacrifice, once for all.

Hebrews 10:12 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

All the Old Testament priests could not sit down because their work was never done. There were no chairs in the tabernacle or the temple. But when Jesus went to Heaven he sat down at the Father’s right hand. His work of sacrifice was done. That’s why He said on the cross, “It is finished.” He ascended back to God the Father in heaven to intercede now on our behalf.

Hebrews 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

C. Jesus is God’s chosen King

As a king, He rules over us and over all things. He is seated at the Father’s right hand, the place of power and authority. He rules now and He will rule forever. This is so important it’s mentioned twice in the Model Prayer, which is a short prayer.

Matthew 6:10 *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

That means we want His rule in our world and in our personal lives. As God’s authorized prophet, priest, and king, Jesus meets our three great needs:

- As Prophet, He provides instruction because we are ignorant.
- As Priest, He provides salvation because we are sinful.
- As King, He provides oversight and protection because we can’t govern ourselves.

3. The UNIQUE AUTHORITY of Christ

Before Jesus left earth and went back to Heaven, He said, **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

A. We obey what He says as Prophet

Matthew 7:29 *For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Matthew 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

B. We rest in what He does as Priest

My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed

*I trust the Ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*

C. We submit to what He does as King

To be a Christian you must acknowledge and receive Jesus Christ as all three. You must say, "Lord, You are God's prophet and I will listen and learn from you and your Word. Lord, you are God's priest and I will rely on your shed blood and trust you to intercede for me. Lord, you are God's king, and I will surrender my life to you and obey you."