

GOD THE SON – Hope Bible Church of Tampa - May 24, 2020

In the next three weeks we are going to talk about God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Now this is a trinitarian view of God and no other religion but Christianity has this view, that there are 3 persons in one God, that there's the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But Christianity is true, what the Bible says is true, and there are really three persons in one God. It's a wonderful and most amazing truth, that as Christians, we have a relationship with God, but also and more so, we have a relationship with three different persons. And yes, they have the same character and purpose, but they have different roles they play. 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 28:19-20

Well today, we are going to talk about God the Son, that is, Jesus Christ.

And we have lots to talk about, and so let's get started. First, who is Jesus?

- John 1:1-2. Jesus is the Word. And we read that the Word was in the beginning, meaning that Jesus existed since eternity past. We read that the Word was with God, which means He had a relationship with God the Father, and the gospel of John talks a lot about this intimate relationship Jesus had with His Father (John 5). Then it says that the Word was God, which means Jesus was God and of course, He is still God. This is vitally important that we understand that Jesus is actually God, not just a prophet or a good teacher, but God Himself. John 7:40-44

Now the word "Word" has to do with communication, for as you know, we communicate with words. The point being made is that God sent His Son to this earth to communicate to us. And Jesus communicates to us by His life and by His words, and this is how we learn what God is like, and how we can have a relationship with God.

- John 1:3. Then we read that Jesus is the Creator, that is, He made you and me, and everything in the world. And just the fact that Jesus is your Creator should cause you to have a special bond, a special connection with Him. Colossians 1:16

John 1:4 – Jesus was and is life. When we talk about life, we are talking about how He is the source of all life, and we just saw that as the Creator, He is the source of physical life. He is also life in that He is spiritual life, and He's completely full of spiritual life, of all that is good, right and true, of love, joy, peace and holiness. And He's eternal life, for He is an eternal being. And so eternally, from the past into the future, He possesses this spiritual life.

- He is also the source of spiritual life, for He is the only One who can give us spiritual life, a relationship with Him that results in a life of goodness, righteousness, truth, love, joy, and peace, a life of meaning and purpose, and a life that is eternal. John 5:24, 7:37, 10:10

John 1:14. Here we read that Jesus became a man, this of course, speaking of the Christmas story, when Jesus came into this world by being born as a baby. Now Jesus Dwelt, lived among the Jewish people. He had brothers and sisters and lived in Nazareth for 30 years, and then for three years, He traveled all over Israel, and met and talked to thousands and thousands of people.

And He was full of grace and truth, that is, Jesus had this spiritual life, a life that was a continual display of holiness, power, love, joy, mercy, and wisdom. And the gospels talk extensively about Jesus' life and character, and give many examples of what He was like.

John 1:29 – Jesus is the Lamb of God, the Lamb meaning that He would be the sacrificial Lamb, the person who would pay for our sins, who would die for our sins, so that He could give us this spiritual life, this relationship with God.

- John 1:34 – Jesus is the Son of God, and He is the Son in that He is the Son of God the Father, the One who is actually and literally Jesus' Father. John 5:18-24

- John 1:38 – Jesus was a Rabbi, a word that means teacher. More than anything else, when Jesus was on earth, He was known as a teacher. John 20:16-17

- John 1:41 – Jesus is the Messiah, the Hebrew word that's translated as Christ in the Greek. And the word Messiah or Christ means anointed one, and was used to speak of those who were set apart for God and, in particular, those who were priests. Jesus is the High Priest.

- John 1:49 – Jesus is the King of Israel, One who will defeat all the enemies of Israel, and rule over her, which we will see in the upcoming millennial kingdom.

- John 1:50 – This Jesus is also the Son of Man, for Jesus was and is fully man. Jesus usually referred to Himself as the Son of Man. Luke - 80 times

What was Jesus' role, what did He do when He was on earth?

- Mark 1:14-15. He was a preacher, He was proclaiming the gospel, the message of forgiveness, the message of eternal life, which could only be obtained through Him.

- Mark 1:16-20. Jesus was a disciple maker – for three years He was training and raising up disciples, and most specifically, ones were called the 12 apostles.

- Mark 1:21-22. Jesus was a Teacher, as I said before, and He was a perfect teacher, the best teacher in the world, and He taught with wisdom, authority and conviction.

- Mark 1:23-27. Jesus was one who could cast out demons. He had supreme power over the devil and his demons, and would demonstrate this power by casting demons out of people.

- Mark 1:29-34. Jesus was a miracle worker, a perfect healer of all kinds of diseases.

- Mark 1:35. Jesus was a prayer warrior, One who consistently and daily prayed to God, His heavenly Father, asking Him for strength and wisdom.

- Mark 2:9-11. Jesus was a forgiver of sins, and the only One on earth who had the right, the authority, and the power to do this.

- Mark 10:42-45. Jesus was a servant, and He was always serving people, and serving His disciples. And to say Jesus was serving meant that He was sacrificing His life, laying down His life, and ultimately, He died on the cross to pay for our sins.

What was Jesus' character? What kind of person was He?

- Mark 1:23-24. Jesus was a pure and holy person, completely and always holy. He never sinned, never did anything wrong, and in fact, He did everything right.
- Mark 1:40-42 - Jesus was compassionate. He deeply cared about people and what they were going through, and was deeply moved when people were suffering. Matt. 9:36, John 11:33-35
- Mark 2:5 – Jesus was forgiving. Jesus loved people and wanted to forgive their sins.
- Mark 2:5-8. Jesus was omniscient, for He knew what people were thinking, which again, is evidence that He was God.
- Mark 4:35-41. Jesus was powerful – He had power over all of creation, and here we see His power over the wind and the waves, over the storm.
- Mark 11:15-16. Jesus was zealous, was a very passionate person, was extremely excited and energized to do what was right.
- Mark 11:27-30. Jesus was wise, was filled with truth and wisdom. And He knew what was right and wrong, and He was wise in how He communicated the truth.
- Mark 14:34-36. Jesus was humble and He humbled Himself before men. Most importantly He humbled Himself before His heavenly Father, for He was willing to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do, even die on the cross. Philippians 2:8 - *"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*
- Mark 14:37-38. Jesus persevered - Jesus never gave up. During His entire life, He kept persevering for God, and we especially see this when He went to the cross and died for us.
- Mark 15:37. Jesus loved people, and greatly so. Jesus' whole life was a clear and vivid demonstration of His love for us, but the greatest way that He showed His love for us is that He suffered and died on the cross - He gave up His life for us. John 13:1, 34-35
- Jesus was also patient, courageous, sacrificial, giving, and gentle, but we don't have time to look at all of these character qualities today.

What was Jesus Christ's primary purpose when He was on earth?

- Mark 10:33-34, 45. Christ's primary purpose on earth was to die for our sins, to be punished for our sins, and then be raised again, so we could be forgiven of our sins, be given eternal life, become a child of God, and then live with God forever.
- Romans 3:23-26. This says that God was satisfied by what Christ did for us, and therefore, could redeem us, could deliver us from sin and death, and could then declare us righteous, and forgive us from all our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 3:18. *"Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."*

But how is a person forgiven, how does a person come to know Christ? It is by repentance and faith (Luke 5:31-32; Luke 13:5; Luke 15:10, 21). We see that a person needs to repent of his sins, needs to sincerely and humbly admit to God that he has sinned against Him, and be sorry that he has sinned against God.

It is by faith, by believing Jesus died and paid for his sins (John 3:16, 5:24). But first and foremost, it is God's work in the heart of a person. That is, a person gets saved because God chose to save him, and then called him, and worked in his heart, drawing that person to Himself, and then gave that person the faith to believe in Christ. John 6:37, 44; Ephesians 2:8-9

Once you are saved, you begin this relationship with Jesus Christ, the most important relationship you could ever have. (Philippians 3:7-10). Now in the gospel of John we have what are called the "*I ams*", and they speak of how Christ wants to bless your life and fill your life with His life and draw you close to Him. Jesus says that He's the living water, the bread of life, the light of the world, the resurrection and the life, the way and the truth, the vine - and all these speak of how Jesus wants to give you what is good, and wants to bless your life. When you see how Christ wants to have this close relationship with you, wants you to depend on Him, then you'll be a most blessed, encouraged and satisfied Christian.

As you see more and more that Christ is your Savior and your Lord and your Brother and your Friend and your Husband, then you will love Him, and want to be in His presence all the time. You will want to do whatever He wants you to do. And you will have a very close relationship with Him, a most joyous and satisfying one. John 14:21, 23

I think of Mary "*who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to Him.*" Luke 10:39
- I think of the apostle John, and he speaks of himself as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved.*"
- There's Paul, who loved Christ and knew the love of Christ. In 2 Cor. 4:14, Paul says, "*For the love of Christ controls me*", and in Phil. 3:10, he says, "*I want to know Christ.*"
- Indeed, Mary, John and Paul all knew and loved Jesus Christ, and had this great relationship with Him. Might we all have this same desire to know Christ, and have this close relationship with Him. Then you will be a glad, joyful and most encouraged and fruitful Christian, and you will be able to say, "*Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.*" Spurgeon M & E – 12/26/20

At this time, Jesus Christ is seated in heaven, at the right hand of the Father. And He's most excited about and focused on the church. He's building the church, and nothing will stop Him from building her up in just the way He and the Father have planned. He is our Shepherd, and He loves us deeply, prays for us, and watches over us. Psalm 23:1, 6

- Now Jesus Christ is super-excited about coming back to earth to rapture the church. He is looking forward to having the whole church be with Him, where He can show His love and glory to her like never before. 1 Thess. 4:16-17, John 17:20-24, Job 19:25-27