

August 19, 2012

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY OF CHRIST

John 5: 39-40

In this context of scripture Christ is speaking about the things that ōtestifiedö (things that ōbore witnessö) of Him while He walked on the earth. **John**, the Baptist, ōbore witnessö of Him.

Look at John 5: 31-33 **“If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.**

32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.”

All of Christŕs ōworksö, His miracles, as well as, the ōworksö that ended at the Cross ōbore witnessö of Him.

Look at John 5: 36 **“But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.”**

His Father ōbore witnessö of Him.

Look at John 5: 37 **“And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me.”** (At His baptism and at His Transfiguration)

But, long BEFORE His Incarnation, Christ had His witnesses. **He** had all the Old Testament SCRIPTURES. **In our** context He mentioned the ōwritingsö of Moses.

Look at John 5: 45-47 **“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.**

46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”

Then, after His resurrection, His disciples were doubtful and wondering and confused about what was happening. **And**, Christ used the SCRIPTURES (O.T.) to open their understanding.

Look at Luke 24: 44-45 **“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,”

Christ did not point His disciples back to His virgin birth or His miracles; nor, (even) back to the Cross. **He** pointed them to the SCRIPTURES. **The** SCRIPTURES testify of Christ. **If** ANY would learn of Christ the SCRIPTURES are where they MUST look.

Now, look at John 5: 39-40. **This** is where we will focus our attention for the rest of this message. **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**

40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” Explain!

Today, we will consider just one thing from this context. **We** will consider WHO it is, (WHO is this), that sinners WILL NOT come to?

WHO will sinners NOT come to? **They** will NOT come to the Christ TESTIFIED OF in the scriptures.

The SCRIPTURES ðtestifyö of Christ. **They** ðbear witnessö of Him. **This** is the language of a courtroom. The prosecuting and the defense attorneys call ðwitnessesö. **These** ðwitnessesö TESTIFY either for or against the one on trial.

The SCRIPTURES ðtestifyö of Christ. **The** ðtestimonyö they give IDENTIFIES Him. **The** ðwitnessö they ðbearö of Him DISTINGUISHES Him from the ðmany antichristsö John spoke of (I John 2:18).

The scriptures IDENTIFY and DISTINGUISH Christ in such a (thorough) way that those who go by the SCRIPTURES (i.e. those who judge by the SCRIPTURES) will not be deceived. **Like** a ðwitnessö in a courtroom is sworn to do, the SCRIPTURES (always) tell the truth.

And, WHAT do the scriptures ðtestifyö of Christ. **What** ðwitnessö do they ðbearö of Him? **They** ðtestifyö several things. **They** FIRST ðtestifyö WHO He is. **They** ðbear witnessö that He is God and Man in one Person. **How** important is the constitution of Christ's Person? **It is VITAL**.

Jesus Christ is a UNIQUE Person. **There** is no other like Him. **He is** the ONLY Person with two DISTINCT natures. **He is** both God and man in one Person. **He is** not PART man and PART God; but FULLY man and FULLY God.

His two natures are not comingled. **They** are separate. **In Him** infinite deity and true (sinless) humanity exist in perfect harmony. **Look** at some scriptures which declare Christ to be God and man in One Person.

Look at Romans 1: 1-4 “**Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,**

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

Christ was ðmadeö of the seed of David. **That** speaks of His humanity. **But**, He was DELCARED (not made), to be the Son of God. **He was** always the (eternal) Son of God. **That** speaks of His deity.

Look at another SCRIPTURE that ðwitnessesö Christ to be God and man. **Look** at Isaiah 9: 6 “**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”**

ðA child is born.ö A **virgin** did conceive and bear a child. **But**, a Son was (not conceived but) GIVEN. **He was** formed in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit without the aid of man. Christ was prophesied in Genesis 3: 15 to be the ðwoman's seedö. **He was** not (physically) connected to (not a son of) Adam.

Look at John 1: 1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.”

And, John 1: 14 “And the Word was made 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.”

Christ is the eternal Word, coequal with God, the Father, and God, the Holy Spirit. **He was** ðin the beginningö. **I.e. He** is eternal. **He was** ðmade fleshö. **The** eternal Word took into union with His deity true (sinless) humanity (body and soul).

One more scripture, look at Galatians 4: 4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

God (the Father) ðsent forth His Sonö. **That’s** His deity. **The** Son was ðmade of a womanö. **That’s** His humanity.

The Christ of the Scriptures is One like no other. **He is** truly God (infinite Deity). **He is** true (sinless) humanity (body and soul). He is God and man in one (glorious) Person.

It is VITAL that Christ be both God and man. **There** had to be a sacrifice, a death, an offering. **There** had to be the shedding of blood (without which there is no remission of sins). **God** (absolutely considered) is spirit. **He** has no blood to shed. **He** is infinite. **He** cannot die. **The** shedding of blood and death are to be attributed to Christö’s humanity though they are true of His whole Person.

On the other hand, the sin Christ bore by imputation was against an infinite God and required an infinite payment (infinite punishment; eternal death). **It was** Christö’s deity that gave that infinite value to His sacrifice and death. **One** who was MERELY God or MERELY man could not have put away sin or brought in everlasting righteousness. **That** work required One who is God and man.

One more thing before we leave this subject. **It is** NECESSARY for those who come to Christ and rest their eternal salvation in Him to understand that the Person they are coming to and resting in is both God and man. **No other** Person could have satisfied the law and justice of God. No other Person could have put away sin. **No other** Person could have established an everlasting righteous of infinite value. **No other** Person could have glorified God in the full, free salvation of ungodly sinners.

To worship and trust a ðsaviorö who is not God and man in One Person is idolatry. **It is** to worship and trust ðanother Jesusö. **It is** to worship and trust ðyou know not whatö. **No** sinner has worshipped the Savior ðtestified ofö in the SCRIPTURES until they worship the One who is God and man.

The FIRST way the Scriptures IDENTIFY and DISTINGUISH Christ: **They** ðbear witnessö of His Person (WHO He is). **They** declare Him to be God and man.

The SCRIPTURES ðtestifyö of Christ. **They** ðtestifyö of His Person. **They** ðtestifyö WHO He is. **The** second thing the SCRIPTURES ðtestifyö is WHAT Christ HAS DONE. **He** HAS DONE a work. **He has** ðFINISHED the work His Father gave Him to doö. **What** is that ðworkö?

In the Old Testament we can see that ðworkö prophesied. Look at Daniel 9: 24 “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

The New Testament declares the ðworkö FINISHED. Look at Hebrews 9: 26 “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

Christ bore the sins of His people in His body on the tree. His death õput awayö EVERY sin He bore. He suffered the FULL punishment Godø Justice demanded for that sin. Those sins are õput awayö so completely that they will never be brought up again in the court of Godø Justice. East from West.

These sins CANNOT be charged to the sinners who committed them. And, Godø wrath can NEVER fall on those sinners because their sins were charged to Christ. And, He drank the cup of Godø wrath in FULL. These sinners CANNOT perish. Their sins are õput awayö. To think that ANY sinner Christ died for could perish is a CONTRADICTION of the SCRIPTURES that õtestify ofö Him. How could a sinner perish whose sins were õput awayö by the death of Christ? Christ’s death õput awayö the sin of EVERY sinner He died for.

Also, look at Romans 4: 23-25 “Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

Christ was õdeliveredö up to the Cross because the sins (õoffencesö) of those He represented were imputed to Him. He was õraised from the deadö because by His obedience unto death, He had õput awayö those sins and established the (One) Righteousness by which God declares every sinner in Him FOREVER Righteous. He was õraised againö because He had established (in time) the Righteousness by which God had justified His people from eternity.

This ðworkö is DONE. It is not BEING done. It is FINISHED. In John 17 (in anticipation of the Cross), Christ said, ðI have FINISHED the work which thou gavest me to doö. In John 19: 30 His last words from the Cross were, ðIt is FINISHEDö. And, the Father declared Christø work FINISHED when He raised Him from the dead.

The scriptures õtestifyö of Christ. They õtestifyö that He is the God-man. They õtestifyö that He has õput awayö the sin of and established Righteousness for every sinner He was given. Those sinners are justified by His Righteousness imputed. That ðworkö is (already) DONE. Now, thirdly, the SCRIPTURES õtestifyö WHO Christ did this ðworkö FOR.

Christ was not acting as a private person. I.e. He was not acting on His own behalf. He did not do what He did for Himself. He came as a Representative. He came as the Surety of those His Father had õgiven Himö.

Look at John 17: 1-2 “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”

In a Covenant made before time (called the Everlasting Covenant of Grace), The Father chose a people and ðgaveö them to His Son. **What** does it mean, He ðgaveö them? **It** means He ðentrustedö them to the Son.

Now, we know something about ðentrustingö (\$\$\$ to banks; children to daycare; children to educators. **The word** ðgaveö has the same meaning here.

The Father chose a multitude of sinners unto salvation. **He** ðentrustedö the COMPLETE salvation of THOSE He chose to the Son. **He** appointed the Son the Surety of THOSE sinners. **He** made the Son responsible to do EVERYTHING necessary (meet EVERY condition, fulfill EVERY requirement) to bring THESE sinners to Final Glory.

What Christ did in His obedience unto death, He did for THOSE sinners He was ðgivenö. **The** ðworkö He ðfinishedö was (exclusively) for THEM. **The** salvation He ACCOMPLISHED by His obedience unto death was THEIR salvation. **He** ðput THEIR sin awayö. **And**, the Righteousness He established by His obedience unto death is the Righteousness by which the Father declares THEM Righteous in His sight. **THESE** sinners are holy, unblameable, and unproveable in Godø because of Christø Righteousness imputed ALONE.

These are those who were ðchosen in Christ before the foundation of the worldö.

Look at Ephesians 1: 3-4 “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him.”

These are those sinners who will NOT BE left among those who WILL NOT come to Christ. **These** start out among those who will not come. **But**, Christ will deliver them from that way. **That** brings us the last thing we will look at today concerning what the SCRIPTURES ðtestifyö of Christ.

The scriptures ðtestifyö of Christ. **They** ðtestifyö that He is the God-man. **They** ðtestifyö that He has ACCOMPLISHED the salvation of every sinner He was given. **They** ðtestifyö of the ðworkö He has ALREADY done. **They** ðtestifyö WHO He did this ðworkö for.

And, last of all, the scriptures ðtestifyö WHAT Christ is doing NOW. **They** ðtestifyö what He is doing in these ðlast daysö (the time between His 1st & His 2nd coming). **Thankfully**, all will not end up among those who ðwill not come to Christö. **By** Godø mercy and grace, those chosen in Christ, those redeemed by His blood, will be delivered.

Christ is the ðgood Shepherdö and has ðlaid down His life for His sheepö. **He has** redeemed them by His blood. **But**, these sheep are scattered all over the world in every generation. **They** are wandering in the wilderness of false religion. **They** are scattered among those ðwho will not come to Christö.

They don’t know who their Shepherd is. **But**, they will. **They MUST.** **As** their Shepherd, Christ is seeking them out and bringing them into the fold. “**He** ever liveth to make intercession for them.ö (Heb 7:25).

Look at John 10: 16 “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

He MUST bring them. He MUST (He will) bring them into the fold. Every sheep will know their Shepherd. Every redeemed sinner will know their Redeemer.

Look at John 10: 14 “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

Christ (already) knows His sheep. And, by the end of this age each of His sheep will know Him. They will know that He is their Shepherd. Each of His sheep will (in each generation) ðcome to Himö.

Look at John 6: 37-40 “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The glory of the Father and the glory of the Son depend upon ALL the sheep coming to their Shepherd. They MUST come. And, they WILL come. He WILL ðraiseö them ALL up ðat the last dayö.

And, they will follow Him.

Look at John 10: 27-30 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and my Father are one.

The sheep will rest their complete salvation in Him. They will each know that God declares them righteous because of Christ’s righteousness imputed to them.

This age is all about Christ bringing His sheep to their Shepherd. He MUST bring them. And He WILL bring them. And, how does He bring them? He teaches them.

Look at John 6: 45 “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

He brings each of them the same way He brought His disciples after His resurrection. He teaches them the SCRIPTURES that ðtestifyö of Him.

He brings each of His sheep to their Shepherd by opening their understanding to the SCRIPTURES that ðbear witnessö of Him. He sends them a Gospel preacher and then sends the Holy Spirit to convince them of their NEED of the Savior and the salvation declared in that message.

Coming to Christ is (without a doubt) the single most important step any sinner will take in this life. **It is** (without a doubt) the most important decision any sinner will make. **Failing** to come to Christ, then, must be the worst.

Today we have been considering the **FIRST** prerequisite to taking that step and making that decision. **You CANNOT** call on one you haven't believed in. **You** cannot believe in one you've never heard of. **And**, you **CANNOT** hear without God sending you a Gospel preacher.

We have looked at the Christ testified of in the **SCRIPTURES**. **We** have seen **WHO** He is (God and man in One Person). **We** have seen **WHAT** He has (already) done.

He has (already) put away the sin and established the Righteousness by which God declares **EVERY** sinner He died for (eternally) Righteous in His sight.

We have seen **WHO** He did this work for (those chosen in Him before the world began; **those** whose (complete) salvation the Father entrusted to Him). **And**, we have seen **WHAT** He is doing now. **He is** calling His sheep to their Shepherd.

The testimony of the Scriptures concerning the Person of Christ (**WHO** He is and **WHAT** He has done) is so precise, so particular that anyone believing the **SCRIPTURES** cannot fail to see that **THIS** Christ is **NOT** the Savior we have in our minds by nature.

So, the question is **NOT** will you come to Christ? **Every** Christian religion urges sinners to come to Christ. **The** question is will you come to **THE** Christ testified of in the **SCRIPTURES**? **Will** you come to the Christ the Gospel has declared to you? **Will** you turn from (repent of) the Christ you **THOUGHT** you had before you heard the Gospel that bears witness of **HIM**.

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY OF CHRIST. **WHO** will sinners **NOT** come to? **They** will **NOT** come to the Christ **TESTIFIED** of in the scriptures.

At the final judgment, there will be present two categories of sinners. **These** categories have different names in the Bible. **They** are called sheep and goats; saved and lost; those who have done good and those who have done evil. **And**, in today's lesson: **those** who come to **THE** Christ the **SCRIPTURES** testify of and those who will **NOT** (Those who refuse to) come to **HIM**.

I will close by encouraging you as Moses did those of his day.

Look at Deuteronomy 30: 19 **"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:"**

Choose life. **Choose** Christ. **Choose** to come to **THE** Christ testified of in the **SCRIPTURES**.

By Mark Pannell