

Lesson Three: Jesus Christ

Jesus of Nazareth was more than the son of a carpenter. He was in fact God incarnate in human form. He is the second person in the Trinity who came to live among us, die for us, and resurrect that someday we might be able to live with Him forever. In many respects, what we believe about Jesus impacts the very heart of our Christian life.

- I. **Incarnation** - His miraculous birth. - "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).
 - a. Implies a preexistence of Christ. - He lived before his birth. In a discussion with the Pharisee in John 8:58 when they couldn't understand Him talking about Abraham as if He knew him Jesus said "before Abraham was I AM.
 - b. Suggests some voluntary limitations.(Philippians 2:5-8)
 - c. Explains why Jesus was necessarily born of a virgin.
 - i. Rom 5:12, Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 1:18
- II. Christophanies - **preincarnate** appearances of Christ.
- III. Kenosis is a Greek word which means "**emptied**" (Phil 2:7).
 - a. Veiling His glory. (John 17:1-5; Matt 17:1-2)
 - b. Accepting the limitations of being human. He hungered, thirsted, He became weary
 - c. Voluntarily giving up the (independent use) of His relative attributes.
- IV. Why Christ set aside His **eternal glory**.
 - a. As act of love (John 15:13).
 - b. So He could reveal His Father to us (John 1:14, 18; 14:7-11).
 - c. The only way He could provide salvation (Rom. 5:12-21). Turn to passage.
 - d. He humbled Himself as an example (Phil 2:5).
- V. The nature of Christ.
 - a. The human nature of His mother and the divine nature of His Father. What part did Mary play?
 - b. He did not inherit a **sin nature**
 - c. Christ knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21), was without sin (Heb. 4:15), did no sin (1 Peter 2:22), and there was no sin found in Him (1 John 3:5).
 - d. Jesus was both completely **human** and completely **divine**.
 - e. This union of natures was **complete** not partial.
 - f. This union of natures was **permanent**. (Acts 1:11; Heb 13:8)
 - g. This union of natures has **continued** beyond the resurrection of Christ.
Christmas is forever! (Heb 7:24; 1 Tim 2:5)
- VI. The death of Christ.
 - a. Christ's death was a **substitute** for Christians. (John 1:29; Heb 2:9)
 - b. Christ's death was redemptive - "**to purchase.**"
 - c. Christ's death appeased or satisfied God - **propitiation** (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 4:10).
 - d. Christ's death **reconciled** the world to God (2 Cor. 5:19).

VII. The resurrection of Christ.

- a. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was more than **reviving** a physical body. Not just resuscitation.
- b. His resurrection involved **renewing** life. It will never end. (Acts 2:24; Romans 6:9-10)
- c. His resurrection involved the **reunion** of the body and spirit.
- d. His resurrection subjected the power of death (1 Cor. 15:54-55).
- e. His resurrection returned Him to the **glory** which was rightfully His (Heb. 7:24). (John 17:1-5 above.)
- f. His resurrection is the basis upon which He grants **spiritual life** to believers (Rom. 6:4).
- g. Jesus was resurrected to receive a **glorified body** (1 Cor 15:42-44).

VIII. The ascension of Christ.

- a. Marked the end of His self-limitations.
- b. Allowed His glorification (Heb. 12:2).
- c. Allowed His **exaltation** (Acts 2:36).
- d. Marked the entrance of **humanity** into heaven (Heb. 7:24).
- e. Marked the beginning of His new ministry as our **advocate** (1 John 2:2) and **intercessor** (Heb 7:25).
- f. Also:
 - i. Allowed for sending of **Holy Spirit** – (John 16:7)
 - ii. Spiritual **gifts** were given to men – (Ephesians 4:8)
 - iii. Went to prepare a place for us – Jn 14:1-6

IX. The present ministry of Christ.

- a. Today, Jesus continues His ministry to us as our intercessor and our advocate. (1 John 2:2; Heb 7:25)
- b. Today Jesus holds all things together. (Colossians 1:15-17)
- c. Today Jesus **Heads the Church**. (Colossians 1:18)

X. Christ and the Christian life.

- a. The indwelling presence of Jesus in the believer is the **basis** for a victorious Christian life and effective ministry. (Galatians 2:20)
- b. Living for and serving Christ is not so much what we do for Him, but rather what we allow Him to do through us. (Philippians 4:13) *I can do all things --- through Christ.* (Ephesians 6:10) *Finally brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.*