



Barnes church of Christ

6001 Gardner Drive

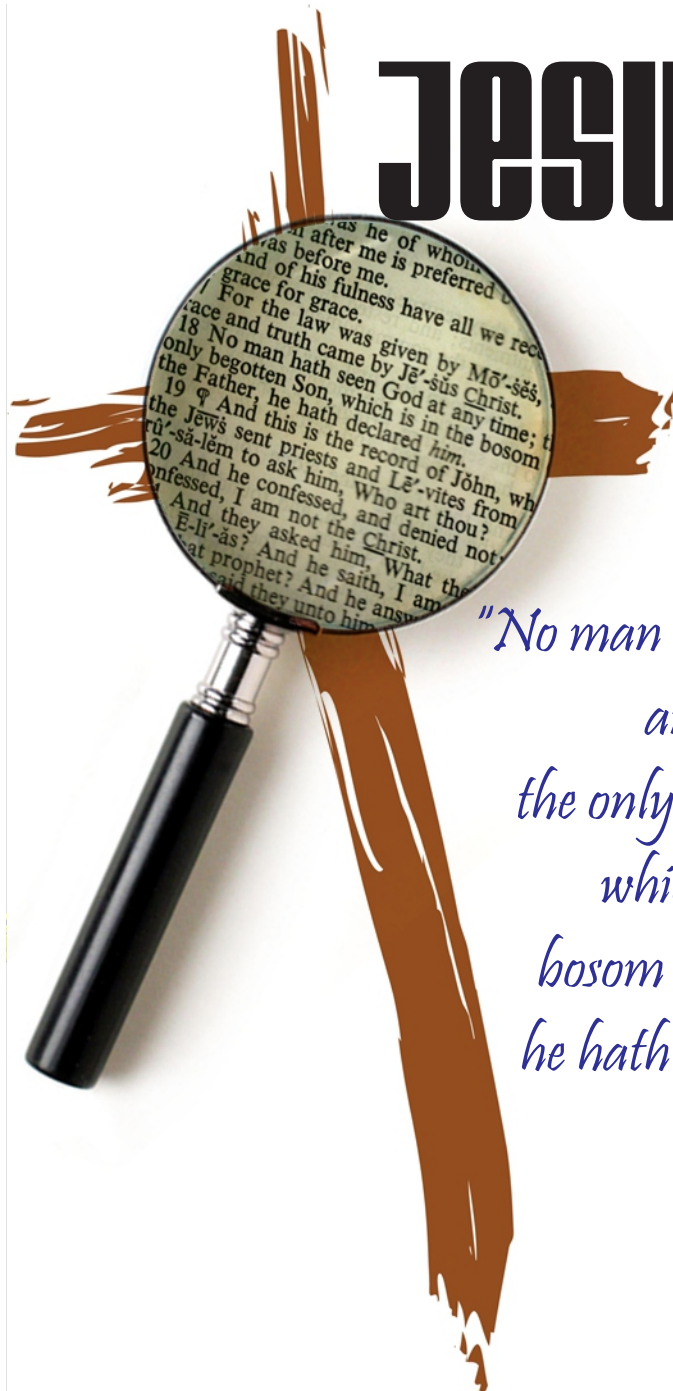
Oklahoma City, OK 73150-9533

405 736-1001 [www.okcsbs.com](http://www.okcsbs.com)

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies Lectures

# LECTURESHIP

# JESUS IS..



*"No man hath seen God at  
any time;  
the only begotten Son,  
which is in the  
bosom of the Father,  
he hath declared him."*

*John 1:18*



# *Dedication*



**Samuel Shemwell**

This year's lectureship book is lovingly dedicated to Sam Shemwell. Sam was born in Bumpuf Mills, TN, September 15, 1926. He was baptized in by H. M. Corwell, on June 20, 1945.

Sam was drafted into the United States Army in 1945 and after being discharged returned home and for the next 25 years he lived in Tennessee. In 1970, he and his first wife Cathrine (1926-2003) moved to the Oklahoma City area and Sam started working at Tinker Air Force Base and they became members of the Barnes church of Christ. In 2004, Sam and Ledonia were married.

Sam has served the Barnes church of Christ in a number of ways through the last forty-two years. He has served on the "Board of Trustees," attended the "Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies" until his health would not allow him to continue, but even then, he has continued to support the school.

Sam also served as the video man for the "Oklahoma City Lectures" for many years, being in charge of reproducing tapes for all who desired them. However, he is best known for mowing the grounds around the church building. Sam mowed the yard, wearing out lawn mower after mower, until they finally wore him out.

Sam is one who has lived his eighty-six years and counting, with these words ever before him:

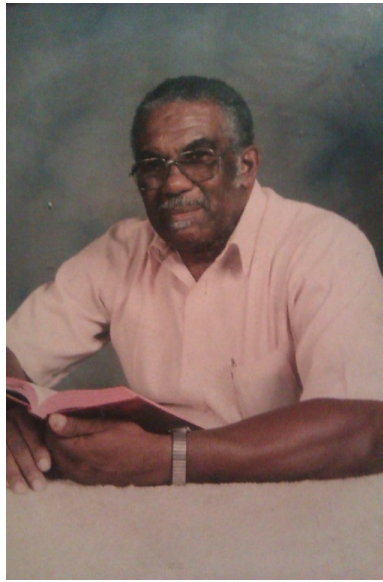
*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,"*

(Psa. 119:105)

It is an honor to dedicate the "23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lectureship" book to Samuel Shemwell, a faithful servant of "the King of king and Lord of lords."



# IN MEMORY OF



***D. C. (David) Johnson***

**July 27, 1932 - March 19, 2012**

“Brother D. C.” as he was lovingly called was to speak for the first time at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oklahoma City Lectures. He was the first one to send his outline in, with photo, and a brief biography. His untimely death has taken from us the opportunity to hear him preach. To Josie, his wife of 39 years, his family: 10 children; 30 grandchildren; and 49 great-grandchildren. and the Grant & Maple Street church of Christ, we express our deepest sympathy. D.C. was born in Normangee, Texas to the late Wesley and Dollie Mott Johnson. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He preached for over 50 years and for the last thirteen years he served 21 years at the Grant & Maple Street church of Christ in Pauls Valley, OK. The conclusion of his prepared sermon for our lectureship read as follows:

*May I leave this with you Lam. 3: 21-25*

*This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.*

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his  
compassions fail not.*

*They are new every morning: Great is thy faithfulness.*

*The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

*The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh  
him.*

*In His Name*

*D.C. Johnson*



The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Oklahoma City Lectures as a truly great theme this year: “Jesus is.” These lectures will give the listener and the readers of the Lectureship Book the opportunity to learn more about Jesus! We can never know too much about Jesus! The subjects under study will take us through the Bible and bring before us the “golden chain,” the core subject of the entire inspired book: “Jesus Is.”

The eternal nature of the “Word made flesh,” the promises of the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament. Jesus is the prophesied King of his kingdom, the head of his church, he is the Passover that brings forgiveness, he is the way, the truth, and the life that leads to eternal life, and the “heir of all things” prophesied by the prophets of the Old Testament. But, it does not end here, Jesus the “only savior,” the only “high priest,” the “only Mediator between God and man,” he is “the light of the world,” the final Judge, and he is the subject of whole the Bible: “he is coming, he is here, and he is coming again!” These subjects take the reader from Genesis through Revelation calling attention to the “Word made flesh,” who dwelt among the human family as one of us.

The apostle Paul laid the challenge before every soul: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:5-12). Please notice that the apostle begins in verse five with a challenge and in verse twelve, he ends with a challenge! Between the two challenges: 1) have the mind of Jesus, and 2) work out your own salvation; he reveals the answer in Jesus, a humble obedient spirit even unto death.

Facing every soul are the fearful words of the “wise man” of the Old Testament, as he wrote: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.” (Ecc. 12:13-14). Every soul, of the age of accountability, will face the Judge, in the final judgment! Between birth and death, it is human kind’s responsibility to serve his creator! It will not do for man to plead, “I never knew!” The inspired apostle wrote: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20). The evidences of our Creator are all about us! There is no acceptable “excuse” for not knowing that God exist!

But, to the objector, who cries, “How can I know God?” Paul answers, speaking of Jesus: “Who is the image of the invisible God,” (Col. 1:15). To this John, the apostle, tells us: “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18). Yes, humankind can know “the invisible God” by studying and come to knowledge of Jesus. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Oklahoma City Lectures will aid you in such a noble effort.

-- Frank R. Williams  
Lectureship Director



## **Introduction to the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies**

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The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies (OKCSBS) began its work in 1991. Presently there are three men laboring in this work: Marion R. Fox, director; Frank R. Williams, dean of students; and Mike VonTungeln, instructor.

Classes have been conducted in various locations in Oklahoma. The work is centered in Oklahoma City with classes being conducted in congregations in the Oklahoma City area. The Barnes church, where the school is located, is an excellent location for this work. Classes have been conducted in Binger, Chandler, Hydro, Maysville, Piedmont, and Tuttle in the recent past. Other congregations have contacted us concerning our conducting classes in their building.

The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies is designed to prepare men to be leaders in the Lord's church (elders, preachers, deacons, teachers, etc.) and women to serve in the church (teachers, etc.). The curriculum is Bible-centered and is designed to prepare the student to become an independent student of the word of God. It is the intention of the faculty at Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies that our students should not be taught "what to believe," but "how to learn from the Scriptures the will God."

The full-time curriculum consists of four years of classes, one night per week presently (subject to change to two nights). Students seeking advanced options may choose to attend extra courses in Greek and other subjects. Also, part-time or audit students may choose to just take one course per night at their convenience. By stretching the course-work out into a four-year format there is a greater maturation in the learning process than in a two-year program. In addition, students can take advantage of our night schedule by continuing in secular work without needing to raise support from the church. By offering a schedule that fits people's busy lives, we allow our students to immediately increase their usefulness in local congregations.

Mike VonTungeln, Frank R. Williams and Marion R. Fox have experience as preachers, elders, and as faculty members in other preacher training schools.

We believe in the inerrancy and absolute authority of the Scriptures. We invite anyone to check out our school by contacting us and attending our classes. We are available to make presentations about our school to any congregation.

For more information, contact:  
Marion R. Fox, director  
1001 Twisted Trail  
Oklahoma City, OK 73150  
[marionfox@okcsbs.com](mailto:marionfox@okcsbs.com)





## A Word from the Dean of Students

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The school year, 2011-2012, has been hit with more absences any other year of late memory. The reason for this, our students who work at secular jobs, have had to work longer hours. Yes, even the economy of the nation has reach into the efforts of our students to attend classes. Some, who deeply desired to take part in study, were unable to attend all together; while others had to cut their time in class; and still others have reached class late. Our students have families to provide for, and jobs must not be lost! But, all together, our students have put forth great efforts to study and learn the word of God, “which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

This year are students have studied the following subjects: Hebrews, I and II; Exodus through Joshua, I and II; the United Kingdom and the Divided Kingdom; Introduction to the Bible, I and II; the Biblical Flood, I and II; Advance Greek, I and II; and on Monday nights, Islam and Greek for Beginners. This adds up to 227.2 hours of teaching! Brethren, here is a soul searching question: “How many hours have you spent in a deep study of the Bible and related subjects? Remember, a number of these students come to class after working eight to ten hours a day. Some have even had to work part of the weekends. No one can honestly question the desire of our student to study and learn the word of God!

“*The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies*” is fulfilling our motto: “... the things that thou hast heard...the same commit thou to faithful men (the Greek, *anthropos*: male and female), who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). Our students, of varying ages, both male and female, are preparing themselves to grow spiritually, and to teach others. Our preacher students are preaching by appointment, and one is now preaching full-time.

One of the important points about “*The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies*” is that all four of the men who are now serving the Barnes church of Christ as elders, have taught classes this year. Two of these men are also students, showing their desire to increase their knowledge of the word of God, and their willingness and ability to teach when needed. The need arose this year due the “dean of students” continuing health problems. Next school, 2012-2013, we are looking forward to the return to the class room of Mike VonTungeln, who serves the Ridgecrest church of Christ as an elder.

As “*dean of students*,” I would like to commend our students for the great effort and for the enthusiasm for learning which they show class after class! This year, we have one student who will speak on “*The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oklahoma City Lectures*.” For a numbers of years now, we have shown our confidence in our students by having them speak on our lectureship.

Frank R. Williams, dean of students



## Our Faculty

*Marion Fox, director*

Marion is a graduate of the Elk City School of Preaching and has preached for over 40 years and now serves as one of the elders of the Barnes congregation. His college degrees include: an A.S. (1963) from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, a baccalaureate (1965) and doctorate (1991) from Oklahoma State University, and masters (1969) University of Illinois. He has completed upper division Greek courses at Oklahoma Christian College. He has been a college professor (engineering-science division) and a National Science Foundation fellow in engineering, physics, and semiconductor manufacturing. Marion has authored several books and has engaged in several debates on various subjects.



Marion has served as a teacher for the Elk City School of Preaching; Elk City, Oklahoma 1973-76; Westside School of Preaching; Duncan, Oklahoma 1976 (Fall); Oklahoma School of Bible/Preaching; McLoud, Oklahoma 1977-1981; Great Plains School of Bible/Preaching; Elmore City, Oklahoma 1989-91; Rocky Mountain Audio and Video Bible Institute; Selmer, TN: 1999- 2005; and Online Academy of Biblical Studies; Dyersburg, TN: 2000-2005. Marion has served as Director of the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 1991-present.

Marion has held gospel meetings and preached by appointment in fourteen other states. He preached and lectured at two state universities in Russia on scientific evidences for the existence of God and lectured on the existence of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in England. Marion has authored six books.



## Our Faculty

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### ***Frank R. Williams, dean of students and instructor***

Frank works full-time with school and the Barnes church of Christ and now serves as one of the elders of the Barnes congregation. He adds more than forty years of preaching experience to our staff. He attended the Northside School of Preaching in Harrison, AR, graduating in 1972 with a Masters in Sacred Literature. In 1977, Frank made an evangelic trip to India where about 200 people obeyed the gospel. He served as local preacher for churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Missouri and wrote weekly articles for four local newspapers. He has preached daily on three radio stations. He has preached in gospel meetings and lectureships in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Missouri, Georgia, Iowa and Tennessee and has preached at four congregation in California. He has had articles published in The One Heart Journal, Gospel Advocate, Firm Foundation, contending for the Faith, The Gospel Standard, The Gospel Journal, and edited The Spirit of Restoration for three years. He has written a weekly bulletin article for nines. Also in this experience is three years in the U.S Army where he served in the Army Security Agency. Frank has taught at the following schools: Northside School of Preaching (Harrison, AR.) 1971-1972 and 1975-1976, Wetumka School of Biblical Knowledge (Wetumka, OK.) 1992-1995, and Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies (Oklahoma City, OK.) 1995 – Present.



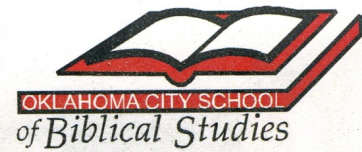
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### ***Mike VonTungeln, instructor***

Mike is now taking a sabbatical. He brings to the school years of experience in working in the church and has served as an elder in the Ridgecrest church of Christ, Midwest City, OK for ten years. Mike attended Panhandle State University, Pepperdine University, Hawaii Pacific University and received the following degrees: BS in Chemistry, MA in Education, and an MS in Information Systems. Mike has also taken classes at the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies. Mike is not a full-time preacher, but he did share the pulpit in Kailua, HI from 1996-2000.



# One Heart



*A Quarterly Journal  
Produced by the  
Oklahoma City School of  
Biblical Studies*

Dear Reader:

The One Heart Journal was originally conceived of as a much needed avenue to spread the news about the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies. In the first issue, the eight page, black & white journal went out and was well received. Less than one hundred addresses were sent copies of the first issue.

Almost seven years later, the Spring 2012 issue of One Heart mailed out about 465 addresses and bundles were sent to congregations by our students for local members. The original eight pages have been extended to twelve, and beautiful color cover has been added. While this is still small compared to many brotherhood papers, we believe things are moving in the right direction.

The Spring 2012 issue saw a change in the physical size of the Journal. This change was made to reduce the work in preparing the paper for mailing. This will also allow an increase in the number of pages; thus, the number of articles in future issues. As the number of pages and articles are increased, we will not reduce the quality of the articles. Sound biblical writers will be asked to write articles! It is our deepest hope that we can finally get four issues of the Journal mailed out each year. Subjects will be assigned to writers months in advanced so each will have time to study and write, quality articles!

It has never been our desire to add just one more paper to hundreds already produced by the churches of Christ. It has been said: "the churches of Christ have more papers per member than any other religious group!" This Journal was intended for a specific purpose: to demonstrate the level of teaching and soundness of doctrine taught at the "Oklahoma City of Biblical Studies. Inside each issue you will read articles by our faculty representing the kind of material they present in class on a regular basis. However, we are now reaching out to seek other sound brethren to write. A number of these are speakers on our lectureship. As the "Annual Lectureship" is a work of the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies.

The Journal also allows us an opportunity to keep students, supporters, and area congregations informed about upcoming events and the class schedule for the school. We intend for the school to be a benefit to the church in the central Oklahoma area, and to do that we need more people to be aware of what we offer.

Just like the school, the One Heart Journal is made available at no cost to subscribers. Loving members of the Lord's church contribute to the work and make it possible to publish and mail the Journal every quarter so that no subscription fee is ever necessary.

If you would be interested in receiving One Heart individually or for your congregation, please let us know so that an appropriate arrangement can be made. More people receiving One Heart mean more people are learning about the school and potentially participating in its work and growth.

In His Cause,

Benjamin J. Williams and Frank R. Williams, Editors, One Heart Journal



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# Jesus Is King of His Kingdom

*Jonathan Sumerlin*



*Jonathan Sumerlin was born in Freeport, TX, in 1982. He is married to Priscilla Sue and they have one son, Jackson Lee. They are members of the Eastside church of Christ in Midwest City, OK, where they been members for the last eight years.*

*Jonathan as attended “American Military University” receiving an “Associates” in Personnel Administration and he is a student at the “Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies.”*

*He has been preaching for two years and has preached at the Barnes church of Christ a number of times. This is his first time to speak on the “Oklahoma City Lectures.”*

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**Colossians 1:13 “who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love” (ASV).**

**King** - “A male sovereign or monarch; a man who holds by life tenure, and usually by hereditary right, the chief authority over a country and people” (dictionary.com).

**Kingdom** - “State ruled by a king or queen” (dictionary.com).

*Note: There comes to mind two kings that truly fit this description of what a king is. Yet both having his own style and characteristics.*

**1. ALEXANDER THE GREAT** (historyofmacedonia.org)

- A. Born in 356 BC in Pella, ancient capital of Macedonia
- B. Son of Philip II, King of Macedonia + Mother Olympias, princess of Epirus
  - a. Growing up he watched his father win victory after victory transforming Macedonia into great military power
- C. Age 13 he had a private tutor named Aristotle for three years
  - a. Teaching him: science, medicine, and philosophy
- D. Age 18 he was given a commanding post among senior generals
- E. Age 20 he became king
- F. Most known being brilliant on the battlefield

## MP 1: JESUS WAS/IS BRILLIANT ON THE BATTLEFIELD

*Note: Jesus was able to use his resources in order to increase his kingdom!*

### SIMILARITIES

#### A. Apostles

**Luke 6:12-16 “And it came to pass in these days, that he went out into the mountain to pray: and he continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples; and he chose from them twelve, whom also he named apostles: Simon, whom he also called Peter, and Andrew and his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew, and Matthew and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.”**

##### 1. Simon the **Zealot**

- a. **Zealot** is one who is zealous for God
- b. **Zealot** is also one who was against Roman rule in Israel
- c. Given the opportunity a zealot would threaten, injure, or even kill a Roman or one working for them

*Note: Similar to terrorists in the middle east who threaten, injury or even kill an American for being over in their country. In their mind Americans are oppressing them and that is their way of rebelling.*

##### 2. Matthew or Levi (Mark 2:14 & Luke 5:27)

**Mark 2:13-14 “And he went forth again by the sea side: and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them. And as he passed by he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the place of toll, and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.”**

- a. **Tax collector** or **publican**
- b. In Capernaum collected taxes for Herod Antipas (Roman empire) from the Hebrew people
- c. Despised by the Hebrews because **publicans** would cheat their own to get rich

*Note: You remember Zacchaeus? **Luke 19:2 “And behold, a man called by name Zacchaeus; and he was a chief publican, and he was rich.”** Zacchaeus was probably in charge of an entire district and Matthew would be one of the tax collectors in the district. Like the mob. Given Matthew's occupation and Simon being a Zealot, under normal circumstances they would have been enemies. Yet, for the Lord's work they were both very useful.*



## Jesus Is King of His Kingdom - Jonathan Sumerlin

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3. Simon no doubt would have had the courage to stand up for the Lord
4. Matthew gave Jesus an “in” to the other tax collectors and sinners

Mark 2:15-17 “And it came to pass, that he was sitting at meat in his house, and many publicans and sinners sat down with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with the sinners and publicans, said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth with publicans and sinners? And when Jesus heard it he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

### DIFFERENCES

- B. Jesus did not use force or violence in order to win souls
  1. He used his ability to relate to people in order to win them over
    - a. Healing people, loving people, telling *parables*
- Purpose of *parables*

Matthew 13:11 “And he answered and said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”

- My favorite example: Matthew 13:47-50 “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was filled, they drew up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good into the vessels, but the bad they cast away.”

### 2. King Sejong the Great (koreanhero.net & asiasociety.org)

- A. Born in 1397
- B. Age 22 became king of Korea
  1. Chosen over his brother due his lack of leading a life style unfit for a king
- C. While he was king he made major amendments to the law
- D. Ruled under the ideas of Confucian
  1. A set of moral and ethical standards
- D. Founded the Han’gul alphabet
  1. Because of this it is one of the easiest Asian languages to learn
- E. A strong advocate of education, book, and culture
- E. Most known for his compassion for the people he ruled over
  1. It was even said that that in times of drought or famine he would not eat along with his people
- F. During the time of his rule was referred to as the Golden Age in Korea

## MP 2: JESUS SHOWED/SHOWS COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE HE RULES OVER

*Note: To be compassionate is to have sympathy, mercy, or empathy for others.*

### SIMILARITIES

#### A. Compassion

*Mark 8:3 “I have compassion on the multitude because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat.”*

#### B. Mercy

*John 8:10 “And Jesus lifted up himself, and said unto her, Woman, where are they? Did no man condemn thee?”*

### DIFFERENCES

*Note: Unlike those public figures who have changed laws and bent the rules in order to satisfy their subjects, our king will never compromise. It is not like buying a car where the sticker price is what they want but, the dealer will take what they can get. Jesus wants exactly what he is asking and nothing less. There is no middle ground. It bothers me to see parents negotiate with children to get them to behave. The parent is compromising their child to behave.*

#### C. Jesus' compassion and mercy will come to an end

*Matthew 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doth the will of my father.”*

#### D. People think that he will bend the rules just for them

1. Jesus is the way, truth, and light

*1 John 1:5 “This is the message which we have heard from him and announce unto you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”*

1. No one gets to the father except through him

### MP 3: ALL KINGS AND KINGDOMS WILL COME TO AN END EXCEPT FOR THE LORD'S

#### THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE!

*Note: There have been some long standing kingdoms and empires that have thrived. Yet, all have fallen and will fall but, His will not!*

*John 18:36-37 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world : if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end I have been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."*

- A. Jesus is King by birth
- B. Appointed by the Lord

*Luke 22:29 "and I appoint to you a kingdom, even as my Father appointed unto me."*

- C. Subjects of His are not made by location/by obeying the gospel
  - 1. People have always gotten confused of what is required

*John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

*Note: Unlike those who die and are no longer a part of a worldly kingdom, Christians still are and will be!*

*2 Thessalonians 4:16 -17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven , with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we forever be with the Lord."*

- D. We will be changed

*1 Corinthians 15:53 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."*

*Note: All of this is made possible because he died on the cross for us.*

*Colossians 1:14 "in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins."*

*Note: No other king can offer that!*

**Jesus Is King of His Kingdom - *Jonathan Sumerlin***

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# Jesus Is the Word Made Flesh

*Benjamin Williams*



*Benjamin Williams, the son of an Oklahoma gospel preacher, began preaching as a teenager himself across the state of Oklahoma. In 2005, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Astrophysics, having emphasized studies in cosmology and related topics. He studied as a student and then served as an instructor at the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies, eventually serving as the editor for the One Heart Journal produced by the school. For three years, he taught as an adjunct instructor in Physics, Meteorology, and Astronomy for OSU-OKC and Tulsa Community College. He has also worked with young people in religious settings as director of the Faith Week session of camp at Frog Road Christian Camp and serving on the camp's board of trustees. Currently, Benjamin is the pulpit minister for the Glenpool church of Christ and is working toward obtaining a Master of Divinity degree from Oklahoma Christian University. Ben writes weekly articles on science, history, and faith on his internet website, [www.darkcanopy.com](http://www.darkcanopy.com). Alongside of him in all these efforts are of course his wonderful wife and help mate Selene, and the God-given blessing of their adorable son, Lucas.*

## John 1:1-3, 14

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. John 1:1-3

- a. While the reader of John would be familiar with the written word, John introduces to us the Living Word.
  - a.i. This Word is God in every sense, not “a god”, but rather divine.
  - a.ii. This Word coexists with God and is coequal with God.
  - a.iii. This Word is preexistent.
  - a.iv. This Word is Creator.
- b. This remarkable passage would deserve the study of a person’s lifetime even if it stood all by itself. However, it does not.

#### B. John 1:14

## **Jesus Is the Word Made Flesh - *Benjamin Williams***

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- a. In the same way that all things “came to be” by the Word in verse 3, the Word Himself came to be flesh. His preexistent state took on at some definite point in time a new state or form.
  - b. Clothed in flesh, the Word dwelt among men, acting and behaving for all intents and purposes as a man.
  - c. This fact was witnessed by John and others (the apostles) who declare this decisive fact as a foundational truth of the New Testament.
- C. Could these things be?
- I. Could Jesus Be a Man?
- a. The Historical existence of Jesus of Nazareth has been fully confirmed by history.
    - a.i. Josephus (First Century)
      - a.i.1. Josephus is a Jewish historian who writes about Jewish history, especially in first century Palestine.
      - a.i.2. *Testimonium Flavianum*: “Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works – a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”<sup>1</sup>
      - a.i.3. This passage has become highly controversial since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, primarily because skeptical scholars have a hard time believing that a Jewish historian would have written such a thing. However, it is admitted even by moderately skeptical researchers of this text that “the

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<sup>1</sup>Whiston, p. 576. From *Antiquities* 18.3.3

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*Testimonium* is present in all the Greek manuscripts and in all the numerous manuscripts of the Latin translation, made by the school of Cassiodorus in the sixth century; variant versions in Arabis and Syriac have recently been added to the large inventory of indirect witnesses.”<sup>2</sup>

### a.ii. Tacitus (Second Century)

a.ii.1. Tacitus has been called “the most consistently reliable ancient Roman historian”.<sup>3</sup>

a.ii.2. He writes that Christians were named after “Christ who had been executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius”.<sup>4</sup>

### a.iii. Babylonian Talmud (Fifth Century)

a.iii.1. Babylonian Talmud is the collected rabbinic literature of the Jewish community in Babylon.

a.iii.2. A rebellious disciple is derided in the Talmud as one “who publicly burns his food like Jesus of Nazareth”.<sup>5</sup> It has been suggested that this metaphor described one who distorts Jewish teaching.

a.iii.3. The Talmud also states that “Jesus the Nazarene practiced magic and led Israel astray,” an entirely unnecessary comment unless the Jewish rabbis felt compelled to explain the persistent fact of Jesus’ miracles.<sup>6</sup> Other passages state that he learned his magic while his

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<sup>2</sup>Meier, p. 88

<sup>3</sup>Blomberg, p. 251

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, p. 250. From *Annals* 15.44

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, p. 255. From *Sanhedrin* 103a

<sup>6</sup>Ibid. From *Sanhedrin* 107b

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family was in Egypt, a falsehood that nonetheless confirms the Biblical narrative that Jesus spent time in Egypt as a child.

a.iii.4. Another interesting Jewish tradition is that Jesus was born after his mother Mary was raped or committed fornication with a Roman soldier named Pandera.<sup>7</sup> This is another unnecessary claim unless explained by the need of Jewish rabbis to explain away the fact that Jesus was not the biological son of Joseph.

b. The Gospel accounts demonstrate clearly the human attributes of Jesus.

b.i. Jesus was born, Matthew 1:25

b.ii. Jesus was the result of a traceable human family, Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

b.iii. Jesus was a child who grew into a man, Luke 2:52

b.iv. Jesus ate food, John 21:12-14

b.v. Jesus wept, John 11:35

b.vi. Jesus perspired, Luke 22:44

b.vii. Jesus had a body that could be pierced, John 19:34

b.viii. Jesus died ("breathed his last"), Mark 15:37

c. The remainder of the New Testament clearly demonstrates the humanity of Jesus.

c.i. Romans 5:17 (ESV) For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

c.ii. 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

c.iii. 1 John 4:1-3 (ESV) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.



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Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

### **II. Could Jesus Be God?**

#### **a. What We Don't Mean ...**

##### **a.i. Divine as in exceptionally good**

a.i.1. We cannot count the number of exceptionally good men in the Bible and in history.

a.i.2. Furthermore, Christ cannot be merely exceptionally good if at the same time He is claiming to be merely exceptionally good. He is either lunatic, liar, or lord.

##### **a.ii. Divine as in exceptionally great**

a.ii.1. Emperors and great warriors in antiquity might describe themselves as gods or sons of gods.

a.ii.2. Christ is not only self-described as deity, but also “was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 1:4, ESV). The Father verbally made this proclamation on two other occasions (Matthew 3:17; Luke 9:34-35).

##### **a.iii. Divine as in the sense of figuratively indwelt by deity**

a.iii.1. Christians are metaphorically indwelt by God (Eph. 4:6; 1 John 4:15; John 14:20; Romans 8:9).

a.iii.2. Matthew quotes Isaiah to assert that the incarnation of deity in Jesus of Nazareth was unique in human history (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14).

#### **b. The Case for the Deity of Christ**

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### **b.i. Jesus Is Creator**

b.i.1. As discussed in the introduction, the Word made flesh is divine in nature and is in every sense God (John 1:1-2, 14). The passage also identifies Christ as Creator, saying, "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3, ESV).

b.i.2. In addition to calling the Son the "radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3, ESV), the Hebrew writer declares that Jesus was instrumental in creating the "worlds" (probably "ages") and that He "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:2-3, ESV).

b.i.3. Likewise, Paul declares that while the Son is the "image of the invisible God", but that He is emphatically the Creator. "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:15-17, ESV) The Son of God is both Creator and Sustainer of the Universe.

b.i.4. Of all the muddled truths of the Old Testament, one clarion truth is sounded unequivocally – There is one God who created all things (Genesis 1:1). No first century Jewish person could have spoken, heard, or read the statements above without concluding that Jesus is God.

### **b.ii. Everlasting God**

b.ii.1. Micah declares that the Messiah would be "from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2, KJV)

b.ii.2. This is in agreement with Paul's statement that Christ is "before all things" (Colossians 1:15-17) and with Jesus' own statement that He had preceded Abraham (John 8:56-58).

b.ii.3. Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

b.iii. He (Jesus) Is Me (God)

b.iii.1. Referring to the pierced side of Jesus that we have already mentioned in reference to Jesus' humanity, Zechariah prophesied: "... when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced." (Zechariah 12:10, ESV) God, speaking through the prophet, states that when they look upon Jesus, the one who was pierced, they are looking at "me". (John 19:34-37)

b.iii.2. The same inversion of person takes place when Mark applies Malachi's prophecy, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me ..." (Malachi 3:1, ESV), to Jesus by saying, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way ..." (Mark 1:2, ESV). In the applied prophecy, "he" meaning Jesus is equating to "me" meaning God.

b.iv. I AM

b.iv.1. God declares Himself to Moses by saying "I AM THAT I AM" and offers that as His own declared name (Exodus 3:14).

b.iv.2. Jesus makes a statement strongly tied to that expression, saying, "Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58). The Pharisees attempt to stone him in the following verse.

b.iv.3. Other overlooked passages may subtle hints at this same title. While Jesus is walking on the sea, He calls to the disciples, But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27, ESV). However, the phrase translated "it is I" (εγώ εἰμι) is identical to what is stated in John 8:58. Literally, Jesus says, "I am, do not be afraid."

b.v. How Is He His Son?

b.v.1. We may conclude with the logical argumentation of Jesus himself. It was a well-known fact that the Messiah would be the son of David. However, Jesus argues that if Messiah is merely the son of David, then David should not call him "Lord" (Matthew 22:42-46; Psalm 110:1).

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b.v.2. The argument clearly demonstrates that Messiah, and therefore Jesus of Nazareth, is not merely a human descendant of David. What else then could he be? The profound argument left the audience of Bible scholars speechless.

### III. Could Christ Be Both God & Man?

#### a. Questions That May Be Beyond Our Comprehension

a.i. Because Jesus is inherently a unique person in all of human history, He stands without analogy and in some parts beyond adequate description.

a.i.1. At what point in Jesus' childhood or adulthood did Jesus become aware that He was deity and not merely human?

a.i.2. Were the divine and human components of Jesus acting separately or did they act in unison? In other words, could Jesus think as a human at times and as God at others?

a.i.3. If deity is all-knowing (a true statement), how can Jesus be said to learn "by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8)?

a.i.4. Skeptics and believers alike will have these and many more questions.

a.ii. However, these questions, while sometimes fascinating to speculate about and other times destructive to fret over, should not undermine the clear teaching of Scripture on this topic.

a.ii.1. The fact that Science cannot produce at this time a coherent Quantum Theory of Gravity does not mean that gravity does not work or that objects on the Earth's surface do not fall.

a.ii.2. The fact that a Christian cannot always answer every question about the incarnation of deity does not prove that Jesus is not both God and man.

a.ii.3. Reality can exist without my ability to explain it.

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### **b. The Necessity of the God-Man**

- b.i. What we can establish is that the fact of Christ's human and divine nature is absolutely necessary to the eternal plan of God.
- b.ii. The justice of God necessitates that man pay his own debt (Ezekiel 18:4,20). The love of God necessitates that God pays man's debt. Only in the God-Man can this dilemma be resolved (John 3:16; Romans 5:5-8).
- b.iii. The unspeakable grandeur of God forever separates Him from mortal man. As Job lamented, "For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both" (Job 9:32-33, ESV) Only in the God-Man can any relation exist between the two (1 Timothy 2:5).
- b.iv. The eternal purpose of God is perfect in its wisdom and unknowable by the unaided human mind (Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 10:23). While divine revelation aids us in our attempt to reason with God and comprehend His plan (Deut. 29:29), it is only in the form of Jesus Christ, the light of the world (John 1:4-13), that eternal purpose of God can be understood in part or in the whole (Ephesians 3:11-12).

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. To conclude, we will allow John to reassert affirmatively the very fact with which both he began our study and we began our outline.
- B. 1 John 1:1-3 (ESV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life -- the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us-- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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## Jesus is the Only High Priest

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### **(Hebrews 4:14-16)**

"Jesus *is*..." What a wonderful and incredible title! What an intense and incomparable truth! What a vital and life-giving statement! Jesus *is*...! He is indeed, the way, the truth and the life – and *no* man comes to the Father except through Him! He is indeed, the *only* mediator between God and man; and the one and *only*, *King* of kings and *Lord* of lords! And He *is*, just as importantly, the *only* High Priest... ..But I'm not sure that in today's 21<sup>st</sup>-century America we can as readily comprehend the complete significance, or understand the full magnificence, of that incredible blessing, as easily as we can perhaps discern and determine some of the other things that the holy word of God says that Jesus, our beloved Lord and only Savior, *is*.

My text tonight is Hebrews 4:14-16, which states: ***"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."***

But in an effort to help us to better understand the incredible impact of that passage and the infinite, soul-strengthening blessings which it holds for us, I think it is only fitting that we actually begin with just a bit of the very storied origin, history, and heritage, of the God-instituted office, of the Jewish High Priest...

Let us begin with an Old Testament passage wherein Moses summarizes for us, what being a member of the priesthood literally consisted and was composed of. In Numbers 16 where Korah and his rebellious cohorts confronted Moses and God's first High Priest Aaron, ***"They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'You take too much upon yourselves, for all the***

*congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?’” (vs. 3) (Although of course God was the One who had chosen and set Moses and Aaron apart for His service.)*

*“So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face; and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, ‘Tomorrow morning the Lord will show you who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near Him...’” (Vss. 4-5). In this passage we see the divinely-dictated and fundamental condition, qualification, and function, of the Jewish priesthood in general.*

1. Their condition? They were chosen or set apart to God.
2. Their qualification? Maintaining holiness.
3. Their function? Drawing nearer to God than others were allowed to (cf. Exodus 19:22, 30:18-21), specifically because of their election, holiness, and separation to God’s service.

And the High Priest was meant to be both the pinnacle and epitome of that particular group; the culminating point and apex of the Jewish priestly hierarchy.

And just as a side note; as we study tonight, please pay particular attention to the glaring realities of this eternal truth relative to the priesthood in general and the High Priesthood in particular: God’s priests have to be ***wholly devoted, to holiness***. And certainly we see the same distinctive demands of ourselves as God’s N.T. people, because we “***...are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...***” (I Peter 2:9). As such, we are to be holy in all our behavior, because He is holy (See I Peter 1:13-16; Titus 2:11-14). Let us note throughout, that God demands adherence to His absolute ideal; that He demands acute attention to detail and reverential obedience to the divinely-dictated, pure and perfect patterns as put forth in Scripture in all things. We must be holy and wholly obedient just as Moses, who was commanded to carry out in its finest and most infinite and intimate details, the pattern for the tabernacle and everything connected with it because of the implications inherent in the institution of the New Covenant, its worship, and its supreme and superlative High Priest Jesus Christ (See: Hebrews 8:1-6, 9:23-26, and 10:1-4). “***Pattern theology***” is ***proper theology***.

Now, having established that, let us consider the following from the ***New Unger’s Bible Dictionary***: “*The Aaronic priesthood was instituted in order to maintain fellowship between the holy God and the sinful nation, to bring the people’s gifts and sacrifices before God, and to convey God’s gifts, mercy, salvation, and blessing to the people. By an act of free favor God*



*committed the priesthood to one particular family—that of Aaron (Exodus 28:1), which priesthood they received as a gift (Numbers 18)... This divine preference was confirmed by the miracle of the budding rod (Numbers 17) and the priesthood as a heritage to the descendants of Aaron. The qualification, namely, holiness, was represented in outward form by the act of consecration and the robes of office... Holiness is essential to fellowship with God, and Aaron and his sons, no less than the people whom they were to represent before God, were stained by sin. As the sanctity imparted to them by their consecration, their official robes, and other legal requirements, which fitted them to serve at the altar, was only of an outward character, it follows that these could only have had a symbolical meaning. It was doubtless intended that they should symbolize the sinless character of the human priesthood at the same time they served as a type of the perfect priesthood of the true and eternal High Priest.”*

Please turn with me to Exodus 28:1-3: ***“Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”***

At that point, God then goes on to give an incredibly detailed description of the divinely-demanded design, including the exact specifications of what He wanted for the High Priest's garments. And as previously alluded to, just as Moses had been commanded to construct the tabernacle and all of its furnishings according to the divinely described and delivered pattern (Exodus 25:8-9) which was shown to him on the mountain (Exodus 25:40, 26:30), which he did (Acts 7:44), so too, was he to make everything according to God's exact design when it came to the High Priest's garments. This, because the details all had a divine purpose as they pointed to the great High priest to come, Jesus Christ.

For instance, in Exodus 26:9-12, we see that the divine design called for two onyx stones, engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel, to be attached to the shoulders of the High Priest's garments. This perhaps signifying that when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to appear before God as a mediator and one seeking to sacrificially reconcile the people to God, he “carried” or “bore” them into the presence of God. The apparent allusion to what our blessed Savior does for us as He “...***always lives to make intercession for [us]...***” (Hebrews 7:25) before the throne of God, is a blessing both incredible and incalculable.

Secondly, we see in God's pattern of the High Priest's garments in Exodus 26:15-30, His exact specifications for the "breastplate of judgment," which distinguished the High Priest as the supreme, human, judicial representative of Israel.

And it is worthy to briefly mention at this point, that not only was the Jewish High Priest considered the supreme judicial representative of Israel before Jehovah God, but that he was also considered as the supreme civil head of the people, as well as the supreme head of state, all at the same time. This might be akin in some folks' present-day minds, to perhaps possessing the power and authority of the Pope, the President, the Supreme Court's Chief Justice and the respective heads of congress all rolled into one! The power, influence, affluence and authority of the office of the High priest can clearly be noted as we study the accounts of the events which took place:

- I. With Jesus and Peter in the palace and courtyard of Caiaphas the High priest in Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18.
- II. As we see Peter and the apostles pursued, persecuted, and prosecuted by the High Priest and his council cohorts in Acts 4 and 5.
- III. With the story of faithful Stephen; as he was first interrogated by the High Priest, and then mutilated and martyred because of his righteous response in Acts 7.
- IV. When we see Saul of Tarsus as he obtained letters from the High Priest to pursue and apprehend the disciples of Jesus from as far away as Damascus (Acts 9:1-2), which he later reiterated in his retelling of the tale as recorded by Luke in Acts 22.
- V. In Acts 23:1-5, wherein we see even the apostle Paul display some seemingly uncharacteristic restraint and respect for the authority of the office of the High Priest, in response to the High Priest's command that he be struck with a blow to the mouth.

But, back to said breastplate... The fact that it, too, was also to be engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies to appear before almighty God on behalf of the people, symbolized the fact that he was to bear the people upon his heart as he interceded for them before Jehovah God: ***"So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually. And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually"*** (Exodus 28:29-30).

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Wherever we read throughout the account of that final, fatal evening spent with His disciples in chapters such as John 13-18; or of His greatest of all love and sacrifice in places such as Romans 5; or even of His eternal activities and perpetual pleadings for us as our Great High Priest throughout the book of Hebrews; it becomes quickly obvious to even the most casual of observers, that Jesus Christ both had and has us, both in and on His heart, in everything He does for us before the Father. I absolutely love the implications of the wording of Hebrews 7:25, wherein it indicates to us what His life's purpose is... It states that He always lives, **TO** intercede for us! We and our plight, are truly always on the heart, of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ!

And thirdly, please note that in Exodus 28:36-38, we see the exact specifications and pattern regarding the pure gold plate which was to be attached to the High Priest's turban. This golden "diadem," or "crown" (Exodus 29:6), with the inscription "HOLINESS TO THE LORD," would indicate that the High Priest who wore it was indeed, a "crowned one among his brethren, the supreme spiritual head of the priesthood." (It is worthwhile to note at this point, the elaborate silver and gold crown of the High priest Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, in Zechariah 6:9-14; see also, Zechariah 3.)

The High Priest, because of the holy standing granted Him by the grace of God, when thus adorned with these words and this crown on his forehead, was allowed by God to make symbolic, sacrificial atonement for the sins of the people (vs. 38). I say "symbolic" because no matter how "pure" or "holy" the High Priest was, or how many animals were ever sacrificed, these could never truly or fully atone for anyone in the sight of God. ***"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins"*** (Hebrews 10:4). ***"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins"*** (vs. 11). But, ***"It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices [were] offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience..."*** (Hebrews 9:9). Jesus alone, did it all! He is both the perfect sacrifice and the holy High Priest! That is the whole point of the book of Hebrews – particularly as pointed out in Chapters 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10!

But let us not miss the beautiful and bountiful significance of the symbolic holiness which God bestowed on His Old Testament High Priests, as it relates to the reality and totality of the absolute, exquisite and exclusive holiness of our one and only New Testament High Priest, and as evidenced in the sacrificial lamb and ever-interceding High Priest that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord! There simply is no comparison between their crown, and His; see for yourself...

Hebrews 2:9 states, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Likewise, Philippians 2:6-11 speaks of the “crowning accomplishment” of our High Priest Christ Jesus thus, *“...who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

It is precisely because of His perfect humility and reverent submission to the will of God in even the worst of circumstances (Hebrews 5:6-8), that He both was and is for all time, considered completely holy and consecrated (and therefore totally and perfectly qualified), to go before God on our behalf as our great High Priest.

Hebrews 2:10-11 goes on to state, *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...”* Jesus, despite His heavenly holiness, is still not ashamed to call us who are so much less, His brethren. Isn't that incredible? But the beauty of that incredible truth - that His pure holiness does not prevent His ability to identify with us – is due to the fact that He has been, where we now live.

In other words, one might say, “He has walked a mile in our shoes.” Please notice verses 14-18: *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins*

*of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."*

And oh how He suffered for us! In ways that our human minds cannot even begin to imagine or envision! By the same immeasurable measure and incomparable comparison with which the Bible indicates that His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9); and how unsearchable are His judgments and ways to us who are merely mortal (Romans 11:33); how our limited minds simply cannot conceive the extent of His limitless ability to bless us (Ephesians 3:20-21); and simply the sentiments summed up by such passages as I Corinthians 2:9, wherein it is stated that, "***Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him;***" neither, do I believe, are we human beings "wired" to understand the full extent of the sufferings He endured, in order to secure that eternal crown which qualifies Him to serve forever as our great High Priest.

You see, we often make the mortal mistake of focusing mostly - if not exclusively - on His bloody, bodily, physical suffering; sometimes to the complete exclusion of His eternally superior spiritual suffering, which had to have been unimaginably worse. As horrible as Calvary was to endure physically, it is still unthinkable that our Lord and Savior's deepest "...***suffering of death...***" in order to secure His being "...***crowned with glory and honor...***" as our faithful, sympathetic, and able-to-understand High Priest, was physical in nature. After all, many a first, second, and third century martyr reportedly faced physical suffering with a 'smile on their face' as it were, as they prepared to meet their God.

But Jesus' primary and predominant agony was of a spiritual and therefore far more intense nature as God left him to die upon the cross, thus the words: "***Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"***" (Matt 27:45-46). He knew firsthand what it was like to be equal with God (John 1:1-3; Philippians 2:6). "***For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him***" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The words: "***to be sin***" is better understood - "to be a sin offering."

And all of that is what helps qualify and make Him our one and only, perfect High Priest - His perfect holiness, coupled with His complete understanding from His personally having undergone our personal human experience. He knows exactly who, what, and where we are and

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have to endure daily... because he's been there. The only difference is, that despite the difficulty incurred by having to deal daily with Satan, He never sinned. And He is the only one therefore holy enough, in and of Himself, to serve as our perfect High Priest!

Having "been where we are" as humans, and yet now being where God is by virtue of His own perfect holiness, we have it all in Christ Jesus, as scripture so beautifully and bountifully confirms. I want for us to now notice just a few of the unbelievable blessings the book of Hebrews informs us of, that stem from having Him as our great High Priest.

Let us begin with my assigned passage in Hebrews 4:14-16... Verse 14 states: "***Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.***" Under the Old Covenant, the High Priest would be allowed to once a year enter the "Holy of Holies," or, the place nearest the heart and presence of God. But even then, neither he nor the people on whose behalf he sought to intercede were made truly perfect or sinless in the sight of God. But we have an infinitely superior High Priest in the person of Jesus Christ Himself; who has entered the true "Holy of Holies" (or "Most Holy Place," depending on your translation), that being heaven itself! And He entered with an infinitely better sacrifice than the blood of bulls and goats - that being the blood of His own pure, perfect, and sinless self! Note Hebrews 9:1-12:

***"Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest***

*of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

I would also reiterate that while both Hebrews 9:23-24 and 10:1-7 echo this incredible truth, they also validate once again, the absolute and vital importance of following whatever divine pattern we are given by God at any time for any reason; and in fact, even when we cannot possibly, humanly fathom or conceive of the reason at the time.

*“Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...”* (Hebrews 9:23-24).

*“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.’ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come-- in the volume of the book it is written of Me-- to do Your will, O God’”* (Hebrews 10:1-7).

Even though Jesus our great High Priest has gone into the heavenly and “Most Holy Place” to intercede for us before the Father, He at the same time is not unsympathetic to, nor has He forgotten, what we are still going through... and... He possesses unlimited power, resources, and compassion, with which to strengthen all of us in all our struggles: *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin”* (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knows and cares! God is mindful that we are but dust! *“For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust”* (Psalms 103:11-14).

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Because of who He is as our High Priest; where he's been in heaven and on earth; and what He's been through as both the Son of God and the Son of man - all of which qualifies Him to be our perfect and only High Priest, ***"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need"*** (Hebrews 4:16). It's there for the asking my beloved brethren (Matthew 7:7-11)! We have a better hope, a better covenant, and a better High Priest, than ever before or ever again possible:

***"He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man"*** (Hebrews 7:25-8:2).

Jesus is our one and only great High Priest because He lives in heaven, pure and holy, interceding for you and me at the throne of God, while sending us His unlimited grace and mercy to strengthen and comfort us in the world of sin, Satan, and sorrow that we must confront each day... because he's been here.

All the high priests taken throughout the ages from among men were not truly holy, but subject to sin. ***"For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins"*** (Heb 5:1-3). Many examples could be given of the human factor of frailty and failure to be holy from within the ranks of the human high priests, but surely only a few will suffice.

In Exodus 32 we see the failure of Aaron, the very first high priest, in allowing the people to produce and worship the golden calf while Moses was on the mountain.



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In Leviticus 10 we see the failure of Nadab and Abihu – the rightful heirs apparent to the high priesthood as the first and second born sons of Aaron – to abide within the divine and God given pattern, by choosing to utilize and introduce into the mix, “unauthorized fire,” or fire which the Lord had “commanded not.” And when they did they died. ***“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the LORD spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”***

Please let it be made clear that in this example we once again have validated for us just how important it is to obey and adhere to the divine pattern as prescribed by God. God is ***only*** glorified when we do ***what*** He said, and ***only*** what He said, and in ***the exact way*** He said to do it (I Chronicles 15:1-15). In fact, God’s prescribed pattern is so important to God, that Jesus could not have served as a high priest – or any priest whatsoever for that matter – while on earth because He came from a tribe about which God, through Moses, had said nothing concerning the priesthood (See Hebrews 7:13-14).

Contrary to the pop-culture opinions of many in our beloved brotherhood today, when God’s pattern tells us exactly what to use – whether it’s a particular kind of fire, a particular way of transport, a particular tribe from which priests must come, or a particular way of praising Him in music – He doesn’t have to specifically list for us all of the elements we’re not to use. They are not allowed simply because He told us what we were to use instead. If it’s not clearly included in His pattern, it is to be excluded from our practice. And there were no exceptions – not even for Jesus (Hebrews 7:13-14).

But that is exactly what made Jesus both pure and holy enough to become our perfect high priest. He came to do only and exclusively the will of the Father in all things (See John 5:30, 6:38); and that, despite the deepest levels of the most intense and immense difficulty (Matthew 26:36-44; Hebrews 5:7-8)... and in so doing, He fully glorified God (John 17:1-4)... and became not only our humble, holy, and completely perfect High Priest... but also the all-powerful and exclusive source of strength, and author of eternal salvation, to all who obey Him, because He now lives in heaven, to intercede for them, before the throne of God (Hebrews 5:1-9; 7:25-8:2).

As Hebrews 5:4-10 so eloquently yet powerfully portrays it: *"And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. 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.' As He also says in another place: 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest..."*

In closing, one cannot enter into the holiness of heaven where Jesus is, without having Jesus as their Lord, their Savior, and their exclusive High Priest. Only His blood sacrifice is truly sufficient and powerful enough to fully cleanse a sinner to the point that he or she can stand before a holy God uncondemned.

In order to have Him as their Lord, one must humble themselves and obey His word (Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 6:46-49). In order to have Him as their Savior, one must accept His grace on His terms for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:37-47, 5:27-31, 22:16). And in order to have Him as their High Priest, one must humble themselves daily, make living in holiness their top priority, seek His ever-present grace and mercy, and draw nearer to God constantly, if they would live with him eternally.

Please note Hebrews 10:8-31:

*"Previously saying, 'Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them' (which are offered according to the law), then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,' then He adds, 'Their sins and their*

*lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

I wish to thank each and every one of you for allowing me the precious privilege of sharing this priceless message of the Messiah's High Priesthood with you tonight. God bless.

*In the love of God and His Eternal Truth; your servant for His sake; Douglas E. Dingley;  
Blessed by God to be the evangelist for the Cleveland church of Christ (Romans 16:16),  
Cleveland, Oklahoma.*



# Jesus – Heir of "ALL THINGS!"

*Dan Fredman*



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*Text: Hebrews 1:2*

## Introduction

- A. It is a privilege to, once again, be a part of this lectureship.
  - 1. I appreciate all the hard work and planning that goes into this special effort.
  - 2. It is nice to know that there is a place I can go and participate in a special work and not have to worry about what is going to be taught or practiced.
  - 3. I really appreciate the stand that this congregation, your elders, the school of Biblical studies and others take for the truth of God's word.
- B. My topic this evening is "Jesus, Heir of "All Things!"
  - 1. There is just so much, so many things about Jesus Christ that sometimes it is really hard to know exactly what direction to go in a particular study.
  - 2. So many things we can and need to study about the Savior of the world.
    - a. We need to study about how He was one of us, He was 100% man.
    - b. As a man, He faced the exact same problems in this world that we all face.
    - c. **Hebrews 4:15**, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." (NASB)

- d. At the same time, He was 100% God which really surpasses our comprehension and understanding.
- 3. Actually, the fact that Jesus was both God and man at the same time is the basis for Him being the heir of all things.

## I. Jesus As The "Heir".

- A. **Hebrews 1:2**, "in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."
- B. Let's begin by considering what is said here in this passage concerning Christ as heir.
  - 1. The Greek word translated "heir" in this passage is "kleronomon" a combination of two Greek words.
    - a. Kleros – Lot or portion.
    - b. Nemomai – To possess, especially of an inheritance.
  - 2. Here the word is in the indefinite aorist sense, simply meaning a definite time frame for His appointment as heir is not given here.
  - 3. It means one to whom something has been assigned by God, one possession of which, however, he has not entered – as Abraham, Rom. 4:13, 14; Heb. 6:17; Christ, Heb. 1:2; the poor saints, Jas. 2:5 (Vines Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words, pg. 551, A. I.).
  - 4. The same word is used of believers, inasmuch as they share in the new order of things to be ushered in at the return of Christ – Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29, 4:7; Tit. 3:7 (Ibid).
- C. Why is Christ the heir?
  - 1. To whom is the heirship of a family given?
  - 2. From the beginning – to the firstborn son of the family.

- a. The firstborn son inherits a double portion plus the name, the reputation of the father.
  - b. Hebrews was written particularly to Jewish Christians and this would have great meaning to them.
3. Remember –
  - a. Esau (firstborn) sold his birthright to Jacob – Gen. 25:31-34.
  - b. Of Jacob's 12 sons – the 3 oldest – Reuben, Simeon and Levi all knocked themselves out of being heirs – so it went to Judah – Gen. 49:1-12.
4. As the firstborn, Jesus is the heir of God.
5. **Colossians 1:15**, "And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation."
6. Heir-ship depends on son-ship. In the case of Christ, both are the result of God's eternal purpose.
7. **Ephesians 3:11**, "This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
8. Christ is the Son of God.
  - a. **John 1:34**, "And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
  - b. **John 1:49**, "Nathanael answered Him, 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.'"
9. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is, therefore, the Heir of God.

## II. Secondly, Christ Is Heir Of "All Things."

- A. This means "all things" belong to Him.

1. Yet, this is pointed out by Christ, Himself, during His time upon this earth as one of us.
  - a. **John 16:15**, "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you."
  - b. **John 17:10**, "and all things that are Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I have been glorified in them."
2. This also means that His Lordship is universal.
  - a. Christ also pointed this fact out to His disciples while He was here.
  - b. **Matthew 28:18**, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.""
  - c. Also emphasized by Peter in his letter.
  - d. **1 Peter 3:22**, "who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him."
- B. Why is He the "Heir" of all things? Because He is also the Creator of all things.
  1. **John 1:3**, "All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."
  2. **1 Corinthians 8:6**, "yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."
  3. **Colossians 1:16**, "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him."
  4. Did you notice that last phrase of Col. 1:16 – "All things created "BY" Him and "FOR" Him.
- C. What all is involved in this?
  1. Obviously all that we can see and know in our world and universe was created by Him and for Him.



2. It is Christ who upholds all things by His power.
3. **Hebrews 1:3**, "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power..."
4. All that is around us physically is a testimony to the very existence of both, God the Father and God the Son.
5. Paul makes that very plain in **Rom. 1:20** where he says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."
6. But, is this what Heb. 1:2 is talking about when it says Christ will inherit "all things?"
7. What good is it to inherit something that is going to be totally destroyed?
8. **2 Peter 3:10**, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."
9. While the amazing power of God the Father and God the Son was demonstrated in the creation of the universe and our world as we know it, it is obviously not these things that Christ is going to inherit.

### III. The Scriptures Specify Those Things Given To The Son.

- A. When we look at the scriptures we see that at a certain, specific time the Son was given specific things as the "Son."
  1. This "specific time" is that time after His resurrection from the dead upon His ascension back to the Father.
  2. When He accomplished that which He came to do.
- B. What "things" were given to the Son?

1. Peter puts it into context for us in that first gospel sermon in Acts 2.
2. Notice what Peter tells these people by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Acts 2:33**, "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."
  - a. Notice – exalted to the "right hand of God."
  - b. Put into a position of honor from which He would continue His work through His Body.
4. But, Peter explains Christ's position to them and for us.
5. **Acts 2:36**, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."
  - a. He has been made both – Lord, that is, the one in charge, Lord = Master, Ruler.
  - b. And Christ, that is, the Messiah, the Savior by which men will be (can be) saved eternally.
6. But, there are other passages that speak of this as well. One of these is Eph. 1:19b-22.
7. **Ephesians 1:19-22**, "...These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,"
8. Now notice, "All things under His feet."
  - a. Could this be, at least, a part of His inheritance as the Son of God?
  - b. He is "Head" over all things, he is the one in charge.

- c. All things are subject to Him in all ways.
- 9. Add to this Col. 1:17-18.
- 10. **Colossians 1:17-18**, "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
  - a. He is to have what place in everything? 1<sup>st</sup> place in everything!
  - b. Also, it is in Him all things hold together.
- 11. And all of this relates to the church which is His Body.
- C. Yet, all of this was prophesied in the OT, prophesied hundreds of years before Christ was born into this world as one of us.
  - 1. Listen to a sampling of the OT prophecies concerning what He would inherit, be given, by His Father.
  - 2. **Psalms 2:8**, "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession."
  - 3. **Isaiah 53:12**, "Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors."
  - 4. **Daniel 7:13-14**, "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."
- D. In addition to all of this, we must add Heb. 1:4.

1. **Hebrews 1:4**, "having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they."
  2. Actually, this is not an "addition" to the above but, in reality is the "result" of all the above!
- C. So, what about His more excellent "name?"
1. It is only through the name of Christ that we can approach our magnificent Heavenly Father.
  2. It is in His "name" we are to pray and approach our Holy God.
    - a. **John 14:13**, "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."
    - b. **Ephesians 5:20**, "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;"
  3. It is only by His name (authority) we can have eternal life.
    - a. **John 20:31**, "but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."
- D. All of what we have discussed is a part of what it means for Christ to be the "heir" of all things.

#### **IV. But, there is more to the story.**

- A. This is the marvelous Christ, the Son of God, who died for us to save us eternally.
1. This is the Christ that has been, is and will be honored by God the Father for all that He has done.
  2. This is the Christ of whom the church is His Body.
  3. The Christ of whom every Christian is a part.

B. What does this mean for us?

1. Those who are faithful Christians have, right now, here in this time, the greatest blessings available to mankind.
2. There are no greater blessings available than those poured out upon those who serve God and His Son.
3. But, is this all there is to it?

C. We have looked at all the great things that have been or will be inherited by Christ as the Son of God.

1. As Paul Harvey used to say, "Here is the rest of the story!"
2. Of all these great things Christ will inherit - guess what - we, faithful Christians, will inherit with Him.
3. **Romans 8:16-17**, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."
4. The Christian will inherit WITH Christ - inherit what He inherits.
  - a. Because we are so great and wonderful? NO!!
  - b. Because we are "children of God." Because we are a part of the Son of God.
  - c. We are His "Body." We are His "Bride." We are joined together with Him in many ways.
  - d. Therefore we will fully inherit with Him, what He inherits - we will inherit.
5. Here is a part of what we have to look forward to as inheritors with Christ.
6. **Revelation 21:10**, "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holycity, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God," **24** And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be

no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

**7. Revelation 22:3-5**, "And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; 4 and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever."

## Conclusion

### A. Christ, Heir of All Things.

1. He is Heir because He is the "firstborn" Son.
2. He is Heir of all authority, He is both Lord and Christ.
3. He is Heir because He is the creator of all things.

### B. While He is over all things – He is not the Heir of "physical" things as all of this physical world will be destroyed, there will be nothing left to inherit.

### C. He is and will be Heir over all that matters.

1. The church which is His Body.
2. The church which is His Bride.
3. This means He is also heir of and with those who comprise the Body – all Christians.
4. He is Heir of all spiritual things – both now and for eternity as was prophesied in the Old Testament.

### D. As a result of all of this, it is by His excellent name that we are saved.

1. The grand results of all this we just read of in Revelation.
2. In Revelation 21-22 John gives us a beautiful picture of what is waiting for all those who obey the Lord in belief, repentance, confession, baptism and faithful living.
3. As Heirs with Christ, all the faithful will live a glorious eternity with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and the faithful of all the ages.
4. My friend, this is what is waiting for you, have you made it yours?





# I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

*Steve Chisholm*



*Steve Chisholm was born in Shreveport, LA. He and Sharon were married on May 12, 1972 and they have three children. He attended Southern Arkansas University, Harding University and University of Tennessee, earning the following degrees: BSE, M.ED. BA. He has worked with churches of Christ in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Arkansas and has preached for thirty-eight years. Steve served on Bible faculty at Oklahoma Christian University for ten years. He wrote articles that appeared in the local newspaper in Maryville, TN.*

*He has worked with Ridgecrest church of Christ in Midwest City, OK. for the last sixteen years. This is his first year to appear on the "Oklahoma City Lectures."*

Text: John 14:1-6

- A. The apostles were having a bad day.
  - 1. It started well enough (John 12:13)
  - 2. Even the enemies of Jesus were perplexed (John 12:19)
  - 3. Jesus' troubling words (John 14:1-6)
- B. The cure for a troubled heart (John 14:1)
  - 1. "Trust God"
  - 2. "Trust Me"
  - 3. "Trust in my promises"
    - a. In my Father's house are many rooms.
    - b. I am going there to prepare a place for you
    - c. I am coming back to get you.
- C. Jesus is readily accepted when we talk of love and acceptance and forgiveness, but...
- D. The exclusive claim the world will not accept.
  - 1. "The Way" (too narrow)
  - 2. "The Truth" (offensive)

3. "The Life" (judgmental)
- E. Is Jesus really the "only" way?
1. Looking for directions.
  2. What way?
  3. "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
- F. Is Jesus the "only" truth?
1. What is the truth?
    - a. Pilate's question (John 18:38)
    - b. Is truth absolute?
  2. The truth can be painful.
- G. Is Jesus the "only" life? (Acts 4:12)
1. What is life?
  2. What has Jesus to do with life?
  3. Laying claim to life.

# Jesus Christ the Only Mediator

*Jim Foster*



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*Jim has preached for more than forty years; all in the state of Oklahoma and is now serving the church of Christ in Willow, OK. He has worked with this congregation for almost seventeen years and serves as one of the elders.*

*He has written articles appearing in both Cleveland and Mangum, OK. newspapers. Jim has been a speaker on the "Oklahoma City Lectures" for a*

*number of years.*

*Text: (1 Tim. 2:5)*

*"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Again, as always, I want to express my appreciation for the invitation and the opportunity to speak in this series of lectures. I find this year's list of topics very interesting.
- B. My assignment this year is **Jesus Christ the Only Mediator**. This is not only an interesting subject, but one that is in great need of being taught on since there has been such an abundance of false doctrine both taught and published on it.
- C. Definitions: God never says or does anything unnecessarily. He has defined Christ in the scriptures in three different ways. As a Mediator, (1Tim. 2:5); an Intercessor, (Rom. 8:34); an Advocate, (1Jno. 2:1). Since God has exalted Christ to fill all these positions, as well as many others, i.e. Lord, high priest, king, etc., this leaves no room for any other person or being to hold or perform any of these offices.
  - 1. Mediator - Webster: "To interpose between enemies; to harmonize or to reconcile them."
    - a. Zondervan Bible Dictionary: "A middle man, one who brings about friendly relations between two or more estranged people." As used in the New Testament, it refers to the official position of Jesus Christ as He relates to man. He is Peacemaker between God and men. (1 Tim. 2:5). Please note carefully that this passage clearly teaches that there is only ONE mediator between God and man. We will discuss this in some detail shortly.

2. Intercessor – Webster: One who prays, petitions, or entreats favor for another with a view to reconciling differences between two or more parties.
  3. Advocate – Webster: One that pleads the cause of another as before a tribunal or judicial court; one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal.
- D. By virtue of His assuming our nature and dying for our sins, Jesus is the mediator between God and men. (1 Tim. 2:5)
- E. A mediator can also be an intercessor.
- I. Christ the Intercessor:
- A. Intercession goes a step further than mediation.
    1. A mediator may bring two parties together and leave them to settle their differences themselves.
    2. But an intercessor goes on to say a word on behalf of the one in whose interests he appears.
  - B. Intercession is an important part of the ministry of Christ. It forms the climax of His saving activities.
    1. (Rom. 8:34) says, “He died for us; He arose for us; He ascended for us and He makes intercession for us.”
      - a. Our hope is not in a dead Christ, but in one who lives. “Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Heb. 7:25)
      - b. He ever lives and intercedes to secure divine favor and blessings on our behalf.
- II. There is Only ONE Mediator
- A. The Man –
1. He was truly man, in opposition to the Gnostic doctrine that He did not possess genuine human flesh and blood.

- a. (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.”
- b. (Heb. 2:14-18) 14 ”For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. 15 ..., 16 For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18...”

**B. The Only Mediator Between God and Men**

**1. Not by Mary or any of the “Saints” of the Catholic Church.**

- a. I have been reading through a very old book called, *The Glories of Mary*. It was originally written in 1750. The copy I have been reading (which I borrowed from the public Library) was copyrighted in 1931. It has the “Imprimatur” of Cardinal Hays, showing that it has been approved by the Catholic Church for its members to read and believe. On page 280, paragraph 2, it states, “Can it be falsely or in vain that the church calls thee (Mary) her (the church) advocate, and the refuge of sinners? Never let it be said that my sins could prevent thee from fulfilling the great office of mercy, which is peculiarly thine own, by which thou art the advocate and mediatrix of peace, the ONLY HOPE (emphasis mine) and most secure refuge of the miserable... Thine office is that of peacemaker between God and men:...” Also on page 80 of this book, which is the beginning of chapter 2, there is a subheading which reads, “Mary is our Life, because she obtains for us the Pardon of our Sins.”

**2. God gave Mary a special place in His great plan.**

- a. Chosen to bring to the world a Savior. (Gal.4:4)
- b. This was a favor bestowed on her, thus she is shown to be a receiver of blessings, not a bestower of such. (Luke 1:42)
- c. There was and is an even greater blessing for Mary and for us all. (Luke 11:27-28) “And it came to pass, as He spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto Him, “Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the paps which

Thou hast sucked. Vs. 28 But He said, “Yea, rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” Also, ( Rev. 22:14 ).

- d. This was truly an honor for Mary in bringing the Savior to the world. But no special place or work was given her in the kingdom or in the salvation of souls.
3. The doctrines that there are mediators other than Christ and inspired scriptures other than the Bible may seem old and outdated, but they are still being taught and believed by other religions today. We have just noted one such doctrine of the Catholic Church in the previous paragraphs. Another I wish to mention is taught by the Mormons or, The church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, as they are also called. They were organized at Fayette, New York in 1830. Brother Leslie Hinkle presented an excellent lesson on Mormonism for the 1998 lectures. Many of you probably have copies of that lesson. It is in the book of the Ninth Annual Oklahoma City Lectures. In it he pointed out that there are four separate books which they believe and teach that others must believe and accept in order to be saved. They are: The Bible, The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price which itself contains several books: the Book of Moses, the Book of Abraham, and other “inspired” translations and writings of their prophet, Joseph Smith. The Book of Mormon, they say, is an inspired translation of sacred plates, setting forth the history of prehistoric people who immigrated to, and settled portions of the Americas with an account of their religious, national and international experiences. They teach that the angel Moroni delivered these new revelations. Thus we have a new mediator and new “doctrines and covenants.” If he, (the angel Moroni), did indeed deliver these revelations to Mr. Smith, then both that angel and his scriptures are under a curse. “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you let him be accursed. Vs.9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:8-9)
4. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant. (Heb. 9:15) “...He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”
  - a. (Gal. 1:6-7) “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel. Vs. 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” The new covenant is complete

and final and needs no additions. (Jude 3) The apostles were led into ALL truth. (Jno. 16:23)

### III. The Work of The Mediator

A. When Adam sinned, God put him out of the garden. (Gen. 3)

B. No longer could he abide with God.

1. (Isa.59:1-2) "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither is His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."
2. As with Adam, so with us: We have sinned, and have been separated from God.
3. To show the state of sinful man, Paul wrote in (Eph. 2:12) about the gentiles. "...Ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." This is the picture of every unsaved person today.
4. What a picture of bleak despair! (Rom.5:10) "...we were enemies..." ; (Col. 1:21) "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, ..."

C. Sin made us God's enemies. Then Christ came to be our mediator.

1. There is no other mediator; only Christ can bring us to God and thus make peace. (Jno. 14:6)

D. To restore a peaceful relationship between God and man, a sacrifice for sin must be offered.

1. (Isa. 53:6) "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way." (Rom. 3:24) "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
2. Sinful man could not make that perfect sacrifice for sin. Thus man could not save himself. (Eph. 2:8-10) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Vs. 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. Vs.10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

3. Jesus died on the cross to reconcile us (bring us back to God). (Rom. 5:8-10) “But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Vs.9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Vs. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son; much more, being reconciled we shall be saved by His life.”
4. The Bible says, (Rom. 6:23), “The wages of sin is death,..” But Christ paid that penalty for us. (Heb.2:9) “...that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
5. The work of reconciliation is revealed to us in (2Cor.5:14-21)”...one died for all, then were all dead:...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, ...God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, ...Vs 21 ...He who knew no sin, He made to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
6. The first step in mediation then, had to be the offering of an atoning sacrifice for sins. And this Jesus did when He offered Himself.
7. In the Old Testament the high priest had to offer the atoning sacrifice of an animal’s blood for the sins of Israel. (Heb. 9:7) “But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:”
8. In the New Testament Jesus the mediator is also the high priest who offers the atoning sacrifice for the sins of God’s people.

#### IV. Jesus the Mediator Our High Priest

- A. The life of Jesus while on earth, with all its sufferings and sorrows, was not without purpose.
  1. (Heb. 2:17-18) “Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Vs. 18 For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.”
- B. We have a high priest, Jesus Christ, who is sympathetic and compassionate. His work as high priest is defined in (Heb. 5:1) “...that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:”



1. Christ is both the sacrifice and the high priest Who offers the sacrifice.
2. (Heb. 9:14) “How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Verse 24 shows the place where Christ mediates and performs His priestly work. “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:”
3. His mediation as our high priest gives us “ ...therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, Vs. 20 By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, ... Vs.22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, ...” (Heb. 10:19-22)

C. Jesus our mediator not only functions as our high priest, but also as our advocate.

V. Our Mediator is Also Our Advocate:

- A. We noted earlier that, according to Webster, an advocate is one who “speaks in favor of , pleads the cause of, defends.”
- B. What would be your need if you were brought before a judge for trial?
  1. (1 John 2:1-2) “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: Vs. 2 And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.”
- C. Christ does that for us. He knows our trials, for He was tried. He knows our sufferings and pain for He too suffered. He knows our temptations.
  1. (John 2:24-25) “... because He knew all men, Vs. 25 And needed not that any should testify of man; for He knew what was in man.”
- D. If we are on trial for something, we want an advocate who can sympathize. One who has compassion. One who knows all about us.
  1. Christ is that advocate for us at the throne of God. (Heb. 2:18) “For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.”

a. He can sympathize. (Heb. 4:15) “For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.”

b. No better advocate could be desired.

VI. Christ Our Only Mediator, Our Advocate, Who “Filleth All in All” (Eph. 1:23)

A. He is Our Savior (John 4:42); (Acts 4:12) “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

B. He is Our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1) “...and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.”

C. He is Our Helper (Heb. 13:5- 6) “...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Vs. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

D. He is Our Strength (Phil. 4:13) “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

E. He is Our Escape (1 Cor. 10:13) “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.”

1. With all the troubles, trials, problems and disappointments in this life, we need more than just a lawyer (advocate). We need a friend.

a. Jesus is a friend. (Prov. 18:24) “...and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

b. He will be with us if we live for Him. (Jno. 15:14) “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

c. He will deliver us. (2 Pet. 2:9) “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

d. He provides all things. “...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain into life and godliness, through ...knowledge...” Our way of escape is provided by knowledge of God’s word. (Psa. 119:11) “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I

may not sin against Thee.” We also learn this by way of the Lord’s example as He overcame the Tempter during the time of His own temptations in the wilderness. He defeated Satan each time with “ it is written...”

**Conclusion:**

A. With Christ as our only mediator and advocate, what assurances do we have?

1. Salvation in His name. (Acts 4:12)
2. Peace with God. (Jno. 14:27) “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (Jno. 16:33) “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (Phil. 4:7) “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
3. Hope for eternal life. (1 Jno.2:25) “And this is the promise that He hath promised us, *even* eternal life.” ; (1Jno. 5:13) “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
4. Courage to live this life. (Psa. 27:14) “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” (Psa. 31:24) “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”



# Jesus is the Only Savior

*Nathan Honeycutt*



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*Nathan has preached for sixteen years and has served the church of Christ in Cassville, MO, for the last three years.*

*He and his wife Jennifer have two children. Nathan is a licensed counselor in the state of Missouri and he offers counseling to the congregation and the community in Cassville. This is Nathan's first time to speak on the Oklahoma City Lectures.*

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Text: Acts 4:12

## INTRODUCTION:

A. While facing the interrogation of the high council, Peter and John declare Jesus as the only source for man to find salvation (Acts 4:12).

B. From our text we face the task of understanding Jesus as our ONLY SAVIOR.

C. By way of introduction we ask two questions...

### 1. What is a savior?

a. According to Nelson's Bible Dictionary, a savior is "A person who rescues others from evil, danger, or destruction" (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986).

b. In our world today the word "savior" is used to describe everything from an athlete to a cleaning product.

c. A true savior rescues a lost, helpless, or wayward soul back to a place of safety.

### 2. Why do we need a savior?

a. Since the fall of man, man has been in need of a savior (Genesis 3).

b. Paul declares the fact that all men have sinned and that all men will suffer dire consequences if those sins are not removed.

Rom 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," ESV

Rom 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." ESV

c. Man, who has sinned needs to be rescued!

D. Man needs a SAVIOR!

E. God has provided a savior!

F. Jesus is our ONLY Savior because...

I. HE IS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

A. In John 3:16, Jesus is described as God's "only begotten Son."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." NKJV

1. The word translated as "only begotten" is the Greek word *monogenes* (NT:3439)

a. Nelson's Bible Dictionary gives this information under the subject of "ONLY BEGOTTEN" - A title used by John to designate Jesus' uniqueness (John 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9). This title comes from combining two Greek words that mean "single kind." Therefore, it means "the only one of its kind" or "unique" (1986).

b. Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines *monogenes* as, "single of its kind, only" (2006).

c. McCord in his translation translates this word as God's "unique Son" (1989).

d. Arndt and Gingrich states that *monogenes* is "Also unique (in kind) of something that is the only example of its category" (pg. 527, 1979).

2. Jesus is God's "unique Son" for many reasons.

3. Consider some of the reasons Jesus is unique.

a. Jesus is unique because He is eternal.

Rev 1:8 "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" ESV

b. Jesus is unique because He was born from a virgin.

Matt 1:23 "'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)." ESV

c. Jesus is unique because He is God's only Son.

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." ESV

d. Jesus is unique because He is deity.

Col 2:9 "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;" NKJV

B. God has provided a unique gift to provide a vehicle to save man.

1 John 4:9 "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." ESV

C. God's desire to save man produced a plan that required a "unique Son."

Eph 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will," ESV

D. Jesus is our only Savior because He is God's "Only Begotten Son".

## II. HE IS THE PERFECT ONE

A. God has always had high requirements for all of His sin offerings, and all the sacrifices had to be (Leviticus 5)...

1. Blood offerings
2. Unspotted/unblemished
3. The first of the flock

B. God did not lower His standards when it came to the sacrifice needed for the complete removal of man's sins.

1. Blood - Jesus shed his blood on Calvary (Philippians 2:8 & Luke 24:45-47).

Phil 2:8 "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." ESV

Luke 24:45-47 "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.'" ESV

2. Unspotted - Jesus was unspotted and unblemished by sin (2 Corinthians 5:21 & 1 Peter 2:21-25).

2 Cor 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." ESV

1 Peter 2:21-25 "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." ESV

3. First of the flock - Jesus was the first and only Son of God (John 3:16, 18).

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." ESV

John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." ESV

C. The perfection of Jesus provided a covering for the imperfections of man.

Eph 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." ESV

D. We gain our salvation through the cleansing that is only provided by the perfect sacrifice.



### III. HE IS THE ANOINTED ONE

A. In John 1:41, after meeting Jesus for the first time Andrew went seeking his brother Peter and said, "We have found the Messiah."

B. Jesus is the Messiah or Christ.

#### 1. Messiah (Hebrew word)

a. The one anointed by God and empowered by God's spirit to deliver His people and establish His kingdom (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986).

b. His word (Mashiach) answers to the word Christ (cristos) in the New Testament, and is applicable in its first sense to any one anointed with the holy oil (Smith's Bible Dictionary, 2006).

#### 2. Christ (Greek word)

a. (anointed one) - A name for Jesus which showed that He was the long-awaited king and deliverer (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986).

b. Anointed, the Greek translation of the Hebrew word rendered "Messiah" (q.v.), the official title of our Lord, occurring five hundred and fourteen times in the New Testament (Easton's Bible Dictionary, 2006).

C. Due to the Old Testament prophecies, the Jewish world was looking for the "Anointed One of God" to be the messiah for the people.

John 4:24-26 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.'" Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'" ESV

1. The Samaritan woman was looking for the Messiah or Christ.

2. After seeing all that Jesus had done and said she concluded that He must be the "Anointed One."

D. Jesus as the Messiah was/is the foundation for the church.

Matt 16:16-18 "Simon Peter replied, 'You are **the Christ**, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not

revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” ESV (emphasis NGH)

Luke 9:18-20 “Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’ And they answered, ‘John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.’ Then he said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ And Peter answered, ‘**The Christ of God.**’” ESV (emphasis NGH)

1. Simon Peter believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
2. The fact that Jesus was the Messiah, the “rock” the church is build upon.
3. Our salvation is based upon the Messiah that came from God and delivers us from our sins.

Dan 9:25-26 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined." NKJV

E. Our Savior had to be chosen or anointed by God.

Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and **Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**” ESV (emphasis NGH)

1. Our salvation required God’s Anointed One.
2. Through Christ we are purified to be God’s possession.

IV. HE CHOSE TO BE

A. From the foundation of the world, God’s plan for the redemption of man was centered upon Jesus and His willingness to obey the plan.

## **Jesus is the Only Savior - *Nathan Honeycutt***

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**Eph 1:4** “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love” ESV

**Eph 1:7** “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,” ESV

### **B. Being our Savior required Jesus to...**

- 1. Become human and accept the limits of humanity.**

**John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” ESV

- 2. Be tempted by Satan and enticed to walk away from God's plan.**

**Matt 4:1** “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” ESV

- 3. Suffer physical pain and suffering along with all of humanity.**

**Luke 23:33** “And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.” ESV

- 4. Suffer mental anguish, fret, and concern just like man.**

**Luke 22:44** “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” ESV

- 5. Accept the pain and shame of the cross.**

**Phil 2:8** “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” ESV

**Heb 12:1-2** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” ESV

### **C. Jesus had to choose to give up His place in Heaven, the place that protected Him from experiencing the pain and struggles of humanity.**

John 17:5 “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” ESV

1. Being deity meant that Jesus could not be tempted (James 1:13), but by accepting his place as a human he was tempted in all the ways we are tempted (Hebrews 4:15).

James 1:13 “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.” ESV

Heb 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” ESV

2. Being a spirit meant that Jesus did not have to endure physical pain, hurt, and ultimately death, but when He chose to come to earth He accepted His physical demise (Matthew 26:39).

Matt 26:39 “And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’” ESV

D. It is important that we do not under appreciate the fact that Jesus choose to be our Savior.

1. He could have stopped His suffering at anytime.

Matt 26:53 “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” ESV

2. His love for mankind pushed Him to endure the pains of humanity.

Gal 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the **Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**” ESV (emphasis NGH)

3. His love for God motivated Him to obey God’s plan.

Mark 14:36 “And he said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’” ESV

E. Jesus is our only Savior because He chose to be.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **A. What then is our response to our only Savior?**

- 1. I must realize that I cannot save myself.**

**Eph 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” ESV**

- 2. I must realize that I cannot find another savior.**

**Heb 10:10 “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” ESV**

- 3. I must realize that if I do not follow this Savior I will miss out on a home in Heaven.**

**John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” ESV**

- 4. I must realize that if I turn my back on this Savior there is no other option for salvation.**

**Heb 10:26 “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” ESV**

### **A. No other one can be our Savior.**

### **B. Jesus is the only begotten one, the perfect one, and the anointed one.**

### **C. Thanks be to Jesus for choosing to be our only Savior.**

## **He Hideth My Soul**

By: Fanny J. Crosby

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,  
A wonderful Savior to me  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,  
He taketh my burden away;  
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved,  
He giveth me strength as my day.

With numberless blessings each moment He crowns,  
And filled with His fullness divine,  
I sing in my rapture, O glory to God,  
For such a Redeemer as mine!

When clothed in His brightness, transported I rise  
To meet Him in clouds of the sky,  
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love,  
I'll shout with the millions on high.  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock  
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;  
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,  
And covers me there with His hand,  
And covers me there with his hand.  
(Praise for the Lord, 2005, #9)

## Jesus is the Light

*David Brassfield*



*David Brassfield was born in Cushing, Ok. and attended Oklahoma Christian from 1972-1976 and 1987-1990, receiving the following Degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Bible (1976) and Master of Arts in Ministry (1990). His wife's name is Carol and they have two children.*

*He has done local work in Kansas and Oklahoma and has written articles appearing in the following papers: One Body, Firm Foundation, Family (Harding Univ.), Image Magazine, Forthright Magazine. He has preached for 38 years and has worked with the Newalla church of Christ for 25 years. This is David's second time to speak in the "Oklahoma City*

*Lectures."*

*His daughter and her husband and son are with the Waynesboro, VA church of Christ where he serves as the involvement minister. David's son-in-law (Michael Jones) is the grandson to Dr. Bill Jones, (retired) O.C. professor of Old Testament and Bible. David's son graduated last December from Oklahoma Christian with a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and currently preaches part time with the church of Christ in Cement, OK. He and his wife currently live in Oklahoma City while she completes her degree at Oklahoma Christian.*

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### Introduction:

An old story tells in part of a student whose faith in God was questioned by his agnostic professor. In summary, the professor did not believe there was such a thing as evil since he was incapable of experiencing it in any tangible way. The student asked the professor if he believed there was such a thing as darkness. The professor said, "Yes, there is such a thing as darkness."

The student responded, "No, sir, there is no such thing as darkness. Darkness as an element unto itself does not exist. There is only the absence of light. One may create light and produce light, but one cannot create darkness or manufacture a device that emits darkness. Similarly there is no such thing as cold, merely the absence of heat." That we experience darkness and cold are facts I am willing to admit in the same way that we experience evil, which is simply the absence of good. Any human or spiritual being's malignity is measured by the degree of absence of the goodness of God."

There is a growing darkness in our land because our world seeks to prevent the one true light from shining. Courts mandate against Christianity in ways they do not act in regard to other religions. Schools and public venues forbid the very appearance of Christian symbols or prayers. Our media condemns what they see as Christian bias against other religions, but remain mute when those other religions call Christians infidels and call for holy war to be waged upon us. Jesus is disappearing from our land and in his place is a growing darkness. It is a darkness of ignorance, a darkness of violence, a darkness of hatred, and a

darkness of death and destruction. What the world needs most is the light of Jesus to shine forth. We are that light. It is time to stop hiding ourselves under our bushel baskets and climb to the top of the mountain for all to see.

**The Coming of the Light Dispels: (Matt. 4:12-17)**

**A. The darkness of sin**

1. The word of the Lord reveals sin. (Rom. 7:7, 13)
2. The men of Jesus' day lived in darkness thinking it was light. (Matt. 6:19-25)

**B. The darkness of ignorance.**

1. Ignorance is no longer an excuse. (Acts 17:30)
2. Not knowing God equals eternal death. (2 Thess. 1:8-9)
3. Jesus came to reveal who God is and what sin does (Jn. 15:21-24)

**C. The darkness of denial.**

1. If we say we have no sin. (1 Jn. 1:8)
2. To deny sin would be like hitting the snooze bar on a smoke detector.
3. Saying we have no sin means the sin remains. (Jn. 9:39-41)

**D. Jesus came to dispel the lies of sin.**

1. To awaken us to what sin does. (Jn. 5:14) see v. 5 for seriousness of it
2. To show what is and what is not sin. (Jn. 9:1-3; Matt. 15:1-11)
3. To show how to overcome sin. (Mark 1:4; 2:5-11; Lk. 18:9-14)

**E. The power of sin**

1. He nailed the ordinances which were against us to the cross (Col. 2:14)
2. He overcame death (Acts 2:24)

**II. The Coming of the Light Reveals**

**A. What God really wants.**

1. Acceptable worship (Jn. 4:21-24)



2. Forgiveness from us toward others (Matt. 18:21-35)
3. For us to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matt. 7:12)

B. What greatness truly is.

1. The one who serves (Lk. 22:24-27)
2. The one who humbles himself (Matt. 18:1-6)
3. The one who enters the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 11:11)

C. What the kingdom of God is

1. It is not of this world (Jn. 18:36)
2. It is not like what we now know (Matt. 22:23-33)
3. It is meant for all (Matt. 8:5-12)
4. It was to come soon (Matt. 16:28)
5. It was the church he would build on the solid rock (Matt. 16:18)
6. The eternal kingdom (see 2 Pet. 1:11) where God is & Satan is not

D. What hell is

1. It was made for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41)
2. It will be the fate of those who do not believe in Jesus (Jn. 8:24)

(By the way: John, who tells us that Jesus is the light speaks of faith or belief far more often than any other gospel writer.)

3. It is eternal: as eternal as heaven is (Matt. 25:46)
4. It is painful (Matt. 24:51c)
5. It is a place of utter darkness. Consider the passages that describe it as “outer darkness” Matt. 8:12 Matt. 22:12 Matt. 25:30
6. It is final (Lk. 16:26)

E. Who God is.

1. If you have seen me. . . (John 14:9)
2. The father's works . . . (John 5:17-19)

F. Who we really are

1. "He also is a child of Abraham" (Luke 19:9)
2. We are the friends of Jesus (John 15:15)
3. We are the ones God loved enough to give his best (John 3:16)
4. We are saints (1 Cor. 1:2, and others)

G. What heaven is like

1. It is where the father is (John 14:28)
2. It is where Satan and evildoers are not (Rev. 20:10; 21:8; 22:15)
3. It is where Christ went to prepare our place (John 14:3)

III. The Light Gives Life

A. Places on earth where the sun never shines are places of

1. Blindness (the depths of the sea and darkest caves)
2. Death - Normally there can be no life where there is no light

B. People upon whom the son of God never shines are people of

1. Blindness, groping for meaning and hope
2. Death - We were dead in our sins until Christ came

C. But, thanks be to God

1. Jesus came to give life and light to the world
2. Jesus came to save individuals like you and me

**Conclusion:**

Perhaps one of the greatest examples in the New Testament to illustrate that Jesus is the light is the man Saul of Tarsus. Consider how Paul looks back on his life and is

able to tell the Jewish leaders that he had lived his life in all good conscience to that day. But, the same man looks back on his life and tells Timothy that he was the chief of sinners. The Saul who had not had his eyes opened to the light of Jesus thought all was well. When the light of the truth shown upon his deeds, he saw the truth.

He was sure of himself that what he did was serving God, including imprisoning Christians and trying to force them to blaspheme the name of Christ. He allied himself with Greek speaking proselytes to the Jewish religion by holding their garments as they stoned Stephen to death. He was accompanied to Damascus by perhaps some of the same men, since when Jesus spoke to him in the Hebrew dialect they heard a voice but did not understand it.

Then the light came. It shone upon him with such force that he who once walked proudly in his own righteousness was driven to the ground as an enemy of God himself. This man who hated the very name of Jesus found himself calling him Lord even before he knew who it was. He saw a light that changed everything he thought about himself, his religion, and everyone about him. Soon his former allies would plot his death and his former enemies would help save his life and they would walk by his side in life-threatening journeys all over the world to help spread the very message he once sought to silence.

The enlightenment of Saul of Tarsus was followed by three days of total darkness. But, in the darkness of his blindness, he saw things much more clearly than he ever had with his eyes. He saw his own errors and the enormity of his sin. He saw his self-righteous image torn and shredded before the righteousness of the son of God. He saw the ones he had threatened to murder as the true sons of Abraham and the called-out saints of God. And, he saw Jesus, the Messiah Israel had waited upon for hundreds of years only to put to death on the cross.

He saw his future. A future that included leaving the place of sacrifice and temple worship. He saw a future that included sufferings and torture and imprisonment and rejection and death. But, it was a future that included the chance to live in heaven with the very same Jesus he once persecuted. It was the only future that would realize the hope of Israel: the resurrection of the dead. He saw a Jesus that loved even the chief of sinners enough to allow the Romans to drive spikes into his hands and feet. He saw a Jesus who had him in mind when he cried out, "Forgive them for they know not what they do."

He saw the way, and the truth, and the life.

When Jesus shines, darkness flees. When we accept and obey him, we become the light of the world. When we let him live in us, we allow the light to shine into our lives that were darkened with sin.

Light always overcomes darkness. Always. We have the victory assured. The very gates of Hell cannot stand before the dazzling, glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let the light shine into your life. Be the light. Walk in the light. And let us also send the light. Our world sits in darkness awaiting the slightest glimmer of light. If you are in Christ, you can be the light that helps to save a soul that now dwells in despair.

"There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man."

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

As the carriers of the light of Christ, we are asked to do two things:

1. Get out where people can see us.
2. Do good works.

A world is waiting.

# THE PASSOVER

*Marion Fox*



*Marion R. Fox was born in Sayre, OK, and graduated from Sweetwater High School. He continued his education at the Elk City School of Preaching (receiving a certificate), and Oklahoma Christian College (studying Greek). He has earned the following degrees: Associate of Science, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and a Doctorate of Education.*

*He and Cynthia were married in 1966 and they have three children. All of Marion's local work has been in Oklahoma. He has preached over forty years and served the Barnes church of Christ for over thirty years, where he is now serving as an elder. He is the Director of "The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies" and has served in this for eighteen years. He has had articles appear in the following papers: Gospel Standard, Firm Foundation, Contending for the Faith, One Heart, Gospel Preceptor, and Think.*

*He has written the following books: A Study of the Biblical Flood, The Work of the Holy Spirit, Vol. I, The Work of the Holy Spirit, Vol. II, The Role of Women, Vol. I, The Role of Women, Vol. II, and The Great Commission. He has also written many outline books for OKCSKBS, including: Fundamentals of the Faith, A Study of Angels, Satan, and Demons, and Logic and Debate.*

*As a note of interest, Marion has engaged in six oral debates and two written debates. Plans have been made for his sixth oral debate.*

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Introduction: The Passover serves as a type of Jesus. We learn many truths about Jesus and have evidence of the foreknowledge of God from these types and antitypes.

## I Definitions:

### A Definitions of the word "Passover."

1-Definition of the Hebrew word translated Passover: "... a sparing, immunity from penalty and calamity, hence- ... a sacrifice offered on account of the sparing of the people ..." (Gesenius, p. 683)

2-Definition of the Greek word translated Passover: *πάσχα* "... an indeclinable noun ... prop. a passing over; 1. the paschal sacrifice [which was accustomed to be offered for the people's deliverance of old from Egypt], or 2. the paschal lamb, ... 3. the paschal supper: ... 4. the paschal festival, the feast of Passover" (Thayer, pp. 493-494)

### B Definitions of the words "type" and "antitype."

1-The word translated "pattern" *τύπος* "[τυπτω]... 1. the mark of a stroke or blow; print ... 2. a figure formed by a blow or impression; hence univ. a figure, image ... 3. form ... an example" (Thayer, p. 632)

## THE PASSOVER - *Marion Fox*

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2-The word ἀντιτυπος (antitype) means: ἀντιτυπος "[τυπτω] in Grk. writ. **1.** prop. **a.** actively, *repelling a blow, striking back, echoing, reflecting light; resisting, rough, hard.* **b.** passively, *struck back, expelled.* **2.** metaph. *rough, harsh, obstinate, hostile.* In the N. T. language ἀντιτυπον as a subst. means **1.** *a thing formed after some pattern [τυπος] ...* **2.** *a thing resembling another, its counterpart; something in the Messianic times which answers to the type [see τυπος, 4 γ.] ... prefiguring it in the O. T."* [Thayer, p. 51]

### II The type-antitype relationship between Jesus and the Passover feast.

#### A A lamb was offered.

1-The lamb was to be without blemish (Ex.12:5).

2-Jesus is the lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36, 1 Pet. 1:19, and Isa. 53:7).

#### B The slaying of the lamb.

1-The lamb was to be slain by the whole assembly (Ex. 12:6).

2-The assembly consented to the death of Jesus (Lk. 23:13-18).

#### C The blood of the lamb.

1-The Passover lamb's blood was sprinkled (Ex. 12:7) to provide protection (Ex. 12:13).

2-The blood of Jesus cleanses (Heb. 9:14) and protects us (1 Jn. 1:7).

#### D The partakers of the Passover.

1-The partakers were to be prepared for travel (Ex. 12:11).

2-Christians are pilgrims (1 Pet. 2:11) and are to be prepared (Eph. 6:15).

#### E The sacrificing of the lamb.

1-The Passover lamb was only to be sacrificed at the tabernacle in Jerusalem (Deut. 16:5-6).

2-Jesus was sacrificed in Jerusalem (Lk. 13:33 and Jn. 19:16-17).

#### F The bones of the sacrificial victim.

1-No bones of the lamb were to be broken (Ex. 12:46).

## THE PASSOVER - *Marion Fox*

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2-No bones of Jesus were broken (Jn. 19:32-36).

G The time of the offering.

1-The lamb was to be offered at even (Ex. 12:6).

2-Jesus died at evening (Mk. 15:33-37).

H The memorial of the protection.

1-Unleavened bread was eaten as a memorial (Ex. 13:7-9).

2-Unleavened bread is eaten as a memorial of the death of Jesus (Lk. 22:19 and 1 Cor. 11:26).

I Who was permitted to eat of the memorial?

1-Only the circumcised was permitted to eat (Ex. 12:48).

2-Only the circumcised in heart is permitted to partake of the Lord's Supper (Rom. 2:28-29 and Col. 2:9-13).

J What about leavening?

1-The children of Israel were to remove all leaven from their houses (Ex. 12:19 and Deut. 16:4).

2-Christians are not to have leaven in the church (1 Cor. 5:7-8).

K The nature of the sacrifice.

1-The nature of the Passover lamb.

a-The Passover lamb was to be a male (Ex. 12:5).

b-The Passover lamb was to be without blemish (Ex. 12:5).

2-The nature of Jesus.

a-Jesus was a man (Mt. 1:25).

b-Jesus was without blemish or sin (1 Pet. 2:21-22).

L What was to be done with the sacrifice after sundown?

1-The Passover lamb was not to be kept after sundown (Deut. 16:4).

## **THE PASSOVER - *Marion Fox***

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2-The Jews did not want the body of Jesus to remain after sundown (Jn. 19:31).



# JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

*Frank R. Williams*



*Frank R. Williams was born in Seminole, OK, graduating from Seminole High School, attended Yuba Junior College (Marysville, CA.) and the Northside School of Preaching, Harrison, AR, receiving a Master's of Sacred Literature.*

*He and Martha Anne (Gordon) were married in 1967 and they have four children: Virginia of Midwest City, Clint of Nashville, TN, Benjamin who serves as local preacher for the Glenpool church of Christ, and John of Ada, OK.*

*Frank has taught in three schools: the Northside School of Preaching, Harrison, AR, the School of Biblical Knowledge, Wetumka, OK, and the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies, Oklahoma City, OK. Frank is now serving as an elder of the Barnes church of Christ. He serves as "Dean of Students" in the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies and is a member of the faculty.*

*He has served as local preacher in Arkansas, Missouri, Wyoming, and Oklahoma and has preached for 40 years. He has written articles appearing in the following papers: Gospel Advocate, Firm Foundation, Gospel Standard, Contending for the Faith, Gospel Journal, One Heart, and edited The Spirit of Restoration.*

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**TEXT: Acts 1:9-11**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. There are, as this lectureship will attest, a number of subjects that thrill the heart, challenge the spirit, and that bring peace to the soul of man.**
  - 1. "Jesus is coming again" is one such subject.**
  - 2. The Bible is arranged in three great divisions:**
    - a. First, "He is coming," from Genesis to Malachi;**
    - b. Second, "He is here," from Matthew through John; and**
    - c. Third, "He is coming again," from Acts through Revelation.**
- B. Following the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and at the end of the forty days in which he appeared to the eleven apostles.**
  - 1. Jesus having given to these men the "Great Commission," these words appear in the text:**

2. Acts 1:9-11 –

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

3. Here is “The Promise” of the New Testament!

C. It was not without “nay” Sayers even in the years the New Testament was being written.

1. 2 Thess. 2:1-2 –

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.”

2. 2 Pet. 3: 3-4 -

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.”

3. The “scoffers” were wrong then, and their canards of today are just is wrong!

D. We will notice more of these passages later.

I. HE IS COMING

A. In the Old Testament the prophets pointed to his coming.

1. The “*Protevangelium*” – Latin word for the first pronouncement of Christ is recorded in Genesis 3:15 –

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

2. To the best of my knowledge, no New Testament writer quotes this verse, however.

3. The promise of the coming Christ is found in Genesis 12:2-3 – God said to Abram:

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

- a. No doubt as to the identity of the meaning of the words: “in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,”
- b. for Paul wrote, Gal. 3:16–

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”

B. In fact, this becomes “The Promise” of the Old Testament and is so used in the New Testament.

1. Gal. 3:13-14 –

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

- a. The words, “hangeth on a tree,” are pointing to the death of Jesus upon the cross.
  - b. His death was necessary, “that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles,”
  - c. “that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
- 
- 1) The “promise of the Spirit,” is not the Spirit himself, but “the promise” which he made to Abram in Gen. 12:3.
  - 2) Then, it is necessary that we notice the reading of the Greek text, which has the definite article “the” before the word, “faith;
  - 3) Therefore, making it correctly read: “through the faith,” – the gospel of Christ – the New Testament.
  - 4) “the faith” was once for all time “delivered” – Jude 3  
“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
  - 5) It is used this way throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Galatians
    - a) Gal. 3: 23 - *Greek text has the definite article “the” before the word “faith;” therefore, the text should read: – “But before THE faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto THE faith which should afterwards be revealed.”*
    - b) Gal. 3:24-25 - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that THE faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”
    - c) Gal. 3:26 - “For ye are all the children of God by THE faith in Christ Jesus.”
  - 6) Now, notice the apostle’s conclusion in Gal. 3:27-29 –

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

- a) When a person puts on Christ as he is “baptized into Christ,” he becomes “Abraham’s seed,”
  - b) “and heirs according to THE PROMISE.”
  - d. There is “THE PROMISE” God gave to Abraham and it is in the fulfilling of this promise that we have our salvation.
- C. Therefore, throughout the Old Testament the inspired writers said over and over: “He is coming!”

## II. HE IS HERE

- A. Near the end of the Old Testament, it continued to proclaim: “He is coming!”

1. Micah 5:2 –

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.”

a. In the third book of the New Testament, Luke 2:4-5 –

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.”

b. Luke 2:8-11 –

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

- c. Here is "the seed of Abraham," as Paul wrote: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." - Gal. 3:16

- 2. "The angel of the Lord" to the shepherds in the field announced: "He is here!"

- B. In Jerusalem at this time there was a man named Simeon, it appears he was a prophet, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit, "that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." - Luke 2:26

- 1. Luke 2:27-30 -

"And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,"

- 2. Yes, throughout the first four books of the New Testament, it is announced in a number of ways, "He is here!"

a. 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.”

1) The Greek translated “made” (*ginomai*) – to come into existence, begin to be, (Thayer).

2) Gal. 4:4 –

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

a) Yes, the word “made,” as in “made of a woman,” is the same Greek word – “*ginomai*.”

b) Therefore, the apostle is saying: “God sent forth his Son, who came into existence of a woman.”

b. Phil. 2:5-8 –

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

1) Yes, the word “made” in the phrase: “was made in the likeness of men,” is the same Greek word – “*ginomai*” –

2) Therefore, he who is God, came into existence in “the likeness of men” at a certain point in time!

C. Matt. 1:18 –

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Matt. 1:22-23 –

“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

- a. There is Isaiah’s “... Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
- b. There is Isaiah: “Immanuel” - God began to exist in flesh and blood!

2. Isaiah said “He is coming,” and Matthew said, “He is here!”

- a. Who is he?
- b. Heb. 1:3 –

“Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

1) Who is he?

2) He is “express image of God’s person” – “image” (charaktēr) - precise reproduction in every respect, (Thayer).

3. In the person of Jesus, humanity had dwelling among them, “the precise reproduction in every respect” of God clothed in flesh and blood.

D. Yes, through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, God made the announcement, “He is here!”



1. John 20:30-31 –

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

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.”

2. God kept the promise he had made in the Old Testament, and he will keep the promise of his heavenly messenger in Acts 1:11 –

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

### III. HE IS COMING AGAIN

A. Upon these words hangs the entirety of the New Testament and all of our hope!

1. If he is not coming again, what else matters?

2. Titus 1:2 -

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

3. We must be able to look the “scoffers,” who question the promise of his coming again, right in the eye, and repeat the words of Jesus to his troubled disciples: John 14:1-4 –

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it* were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”

B. At the same time, we must understand a few facts:

1. First, 2 Pet. 3:8 –

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” - God does not look at time as we do.

2. Second, 2 Thess. 2: 1-3 –

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”

a. No matter how long it may be, we must not be “shaken in mind.”

b. The Greek translated “shaken” (saleuō) – expresses the idea: - We must not be moved in mind, we must not be agitated in mind, and we must not be disturbed in mind.

c. And we must not be “deceived” by any means, by all the devil’s host!

3. Third, 1 Thess. 5:1-2 –

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

a) Matt. 24:36 –

“But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

b) Matt. 24:37-39 –

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

1) As the “scoffers” questioned, “Where is the promise of his coming;”

2) we must answer: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. – Heb. 11:1

a) Our “faith” stands upon the foundation of our expectations!

b) Our expectations are created by the conviction of things not seen!

3) Rom. 1:20 –

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

4) Titus 1:2 –

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

4. Fourth, 2 Pet. 3:9 –

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

C. Let us return to the words of our text: Acts 1:9-11 –

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

1. He is coming again!
2. Based upon everything that is holy, He is coming again!

D. But, one may question: what is the manner of his coming?

1. 2 Pet. 3:10 –

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

- a. He will come “as a thief!”
- b. There will be no prior announcement!

2. 1 Thess 5:1-2 –

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

3. He is coming again!

E. What will take place at his coming?

1. 1 Thess 4:16- – The dead shall be raised first

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”

2. 1 Thess. 4:17 – Then be living shall be caught up

“Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

3. However, there will also be a judgment: 2 Thess. 1:7-9 –

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

4. Acts 17:30-31

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

a. Matt. 25:1-33

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

b. 2 Cor. 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

**D. It is here that the final separation will take place.**

**1. Matt. 25:46**

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal

**2. Rom. 2:11 – In judgment, God is no respect of person**

For there is no respect of persons with God.

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. God proved in the first coming of Christ, that he keeps his word;**

**1. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, prove that God keeps his word;**

**2. The two heavenly angels, who stood by at the ascension of Christ, as he was taken up into heaven, announced: Acts 1:11 –**

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**3. Yes, based on all that is holy, he is coming again!**

**B. However, one question remains: What does this mean to me?**

**1. The second coming of Christ means that I must be ready for his appearance!**

**2. Matt. 24:44 – 46**

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

**3. The end result, Matt. 25:46**

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

**C. I leave you the words of Paul to the elders of Ephesus: Acts 20:32**

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN - *Frank R. Williams***

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## Jesus is the Head of His Church

*John Bellah*



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In general, the religious world throughout history has misunderstood every attribute applied to Jesus. His role as a teacher is misunderstood, His Kingship is misunderstood, and His role as our Savior is misunderstood. The list of misunderstandings concerning who Christ is seems endless, but now we will focus on perhaps the most misunderstood and most ignored attribute of Jesus, that is his role as the Head of his Church. So many times in our society you will hear, "keep the church but give me Jesus", or you might hear, "I love Jesus, but hate organized religion". Truth be told, you cannot have Jesus without his Church and there would never be any religion given by God that is "unorganized"? Jesus is the Head of His Church the Body of Christ, He is the Bridegroom of the Bride, He is the Chief Cornerstone of his Temple, and He is the Chief Shepherd over His flock. There cannot be a head with no body (and be alive), a bride-less bridegroom that is still a bridegroom, a cornerstone with no walls or roof cannot shelter anything, and a shepherd with no sheep would be a wanderer. Fortunately, Jesus has all those things. He has a church that was prophesied and planned from the beginning, He built it, He will glorify it, and He alone is the head of it. If He is the Head of His church, his church must know its own identity and it must know how it is to serve Him.

### I. Jesus is the Head (Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 1:22)

#### A. Jesus is the head of the body

##### 1. Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

##### 2. Colossians 1:24

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

##### 3. Colossians 2:19

## Jesus is the Head of His Church - *John Bellah*

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And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

4. Romans 12:5

So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

5. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

### B. Jesus, being the Bridegroom is the head over the Bride

1. Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

2. Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

3. John 3:27-30

John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

4. 2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

5. Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp *that* burneth.

And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

For *as* a young man marrieth a virgin, *so* shall thy sons marry thee: and *as* the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, *so* shall thy God rejoice over thee.

C. Jesus is the chief cornerstone

1. 1 Peter 2:4-10

To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

2. Ephesians 2:19-22

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

3. 1 Corinthians 3:10

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

D. Jesus is the shepherd of the flock

1. Isaiah 40:11

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

2. John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

3. Hebrews 13:20

## Jesus is the Head of His Church - *John Bellah*

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Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

### II. The Church

#### A. Prophesied and planned

##### 1. Old Testament

###### a. Zechariah 9:16

And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they *shall be as* the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

###### b. Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

###### c. Isaiah 2:2-4

And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

##### 2. New Testament

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### a. Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### b. Matthew 16:28

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

## B. Built (Acts 2)

1. Built with power
2. Built upon the Gospel

## C. Glorified

### 1. 1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

### 2. Ephesians 5:27

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish

### 3. Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

## III. The Relationship of the Church to Jesus

### A. The church is to obey Jesus

#### 1. Ephesians 5:24

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

#### 2. Acts 5:29

Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men

#### 3. Hebrews 5:9

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

### B. The church is to honor Christ

#### 1. Through worship

## Jesus is the Head of His Church - *John Bellah*

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### a. Revelation 5:12-13

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

### b. Sincere worship (John 4:24)

i. Worship must be deliberate

ii. Worship must be from the heart

### c. Authorized worship

#### i. John 4:24

God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

#### ii. Leviticus 10:1

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

## 2. Through a holy life

### a. Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

### b. Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

## IV. If Jesus were not the head of the church...

### A. It would be a body with no head

1. A body with no head is dead
2. Nothing to stimulate activity or growth
3. How could we follow a bodiless head?

B. It would be a flock with no shepherd

1. No direction (1 Peter 2:25)

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

2. No protection (John 10:12)

But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

C. It would be a building with no foundation

1. The wise man built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-27)

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

2. Unsound with no structure

D. It would be a bride with no bridegroom

1. No one to cherish her (Ephesians 5:29)

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

2. No one to submit to (Ephesians 5:22)

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

E. He would not be our King

1. We are a kingdom

2. Every man would do what was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6)

In those days *there was* no king in Israel, *but* every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

F. He would not be our Savior

1. He is the savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23)

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

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2. The body is made up of the saved (Ephesians 5:30)

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

G. And he were head of many bodies, he would be abnormal

1. Jesus not the head of denominations
2. He has one church (Ephesians 4:4)

*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

### V. Entrance Into the Church and Under the Headship of Jesus

A. Those that are saved are added

1. Those who are saved are added (Acts 2:47)

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

2. Translated into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14)

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

B. Who are the saved

1. Those who have obeyed the Gospel

- a. heard the Gospel (Romans 10:17)

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- b. believed the Gospel

- i. John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- ii. Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- c. repented of sins

- i. Acts 3:19

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;



ii. Acts 17:31

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

d. confessed that Jesus is the Christ

i. Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ii. Acts 8:37

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

e. have been baptized for the remission of sins

i. Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

ii. Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

iii. Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

iv. Romans 6:3-6

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

v. Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

2. Those who are faithful

a. Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have

## Jesus is the Head of His Church - *John Bellah*

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tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

b. 1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

i. "If"

ii. Must walk in the light

iii. Not cleansed of sin, not saved

C. Who are not the saved

1. Those who never obeyed

a. Receive vengeance(2 Thessalonians 1:8)

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

b. Obedience from the heart makes us free from sin (Romans 6:17-18)

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

2. Those who have fallen away and do not repent

a. It is possible to fall(Galatians 5:4)

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

b. No promise for the one who will not confess his sin (1 John 1:9)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

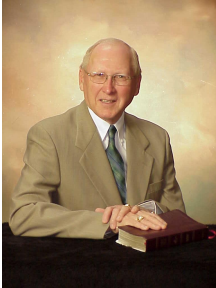
c. Acts 8 and Simon

## VI. Conclusion

Jesus is many things. For us in the Church, He is the head of the body. He is our Savior because we are part of His body. Christ cannot be separated from His church. It was prophesied from the beginning and built by Him. We must be a part of His body to be saved. He is our Bridegroom, He is our Shepherd, He is our Foundation(Cornerstone), and he is our King. Without Him we are nothing. He is worthy of our honor and obedience. We must obey Him if we are to be His body or a part of His body and for Him to be head over us.

## Jesus the Final Judge

*Jim Kelly*



*Jim Kelly is presently the local preacher for the church of Christ in Asher, OK. but he has a full biography. However, one must be impressed with his words: "I prefer to say nothing about me except that I am a servant of the Lord..." "It is no longer I that live...but Christ lives in me." Yet, we would like for our readers to know him briefly.*

*Jim has received: a BSE degree in Education from Oklahoma Christian College, 1964; additional Masters Degree work at Texas Tech, 1965-1966; Second Degree work at Oklahoma Christian College toward BA in Bible, 1971-1972.*

*He has worked with the following churches: Wheeler, TX; Harvester church, Pampa, TX; Harding Place church, Nashville, TN; Del City church, in Del City, OK; and host of other activities, such as: City Councilman, Del City, OK; Director of Commerce.*

*He is married to Elaine and they have five children: Kristy, Ken, Buffy, Taneil and Sherri (now deceased). This is Jim's first time to speak on the "Oklahoma City Lectures."*

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### Acts 17:31

a) I have been assigned the subject: **"Jesus, The Final Judge"**

- i) All kinds of issues arise in such a topic.
- ii) Questions about justification, salvation--or even if there will be a final judgement.
- iii) Questions about eternity--heaven and hell.
- iv) I will do my best to incorporate answers in this presentation from all I can find in the scripture.

b) **ILLUSTRATION: "The Obituary."**

- i) I remember reading about an Obituary that makes you stop and think:
  - He brushed his teeth twice a day
  - The doctors examined him twice a year
  - He ate low-carb, low-fat every day
  - He gave up his tonsils, his adenoids, his gall bladder ... and traded in a few worn-out glands
  - He golfed ...but never more than 18 holes (moderation in all things)
  - He got 8 hours of sleep every night
  - He slept with the windows open to get plenty of fresh air
  - He carried an umbrella in case of rain
  - He didn't smoke, drink, or chew .. or run around with those who do
  - He drove the speed limit
  - He jogged and did weight training 5 days a week
  - He was set to live to be a hundred years old.

He is survived by

- 18 specialists,

- 3 surgeons
- 4 health institutes,
- 6 gyms
- and numerous manufacturers of health foods and vitamins
- ii) **So many people are like that man.**
  - (1) They think about their health, they enjoy the pleasures of life, but they forget that they are not going to live forever.
  - (2) No matter how well we take care of ourselves, someday every one of us will die. THEN WHAT?
- iii) No statement is regarded as more elementary to the student of the Bible than the statement that a day of judgment is coming for the human race.
- c) Hebrews 9:27 simply says, ***“Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment.”***
  - i) That message is desperately needed in our time.
  - ii) Ours is an age of relativism, of pluralism, of tolerance, of diversity, an age when every man does that which is right in his own eyes.
  - iii) If you ask the average man on the street (is there really such an animal?), “Do you believe in a universal day of judgment for the human race?”
    - (1) Some answers you are likely to get—if you get an answer at all
      - (a) “I don’t believe a God of love will judge anybody”
      - (b) “I’m not worried about it because I’m as good as the next fellow.”
      - (c) The eternal optimist says, “I’ll take my chances”
      - (d) The positive thinker says, “Not to worry. I’m okay. You’re okay. We’re all okay.”
  - iv) Judgment Day is coming is precisely the message modern man needs to hear.
  - v) It is a reminder that Someone is up there listening, paying attention to everything he says and does and thinks.
  - vi) As frightening as that may be it is also tremendously reassuring.
  - vii) It means that God not only knows all about you, he cares about the minute details of your life.
- d) Speculation abounds with vain attempts to explain the exact configuration of described events of a final judgment.
  - i) Wild speculation about “144,000 souls, rapture, tribulation, Armageddon.”
  - ii) Most of it fascinating and unfounded stuff misinterpreting John’s Revelation.
  - iii) Much of the revelation given to John, and the language used to describe it is apocalyptic – i.e. figurative language describing events that are not of this world.
  - iv) Scholars pick and choose which verses or sections are literal and which are symbolic.
  - v) This switching between a straightforward reading of the text and acknowledging that John is using apocalyptic language leads to huge leaps of reasoning and ultimately speculative teaching in relation to the judgment.

- e) As with many Bible issues, some use a “New Hermeneutic”---They reach a conclusion and then look for ways to support their case.
- f) But from scripture, what do we know for sure?

## I. THE FINAL JUDGMENT IS SURE

- A. ILLUSTRATION: “She’ll want to go.” A preacher said to a farmer, “Do you belong to the Christian family?” “No,” said he, “They live two farms down.” “I mean are you lost?” “No, I’ve been here thirty years.” “I mean are you ready for the judgment day?” “When is it?” “It could be tomorrow, or even today.” “Well, when you find out for sure when it is, let me know. My wife will probably want to go.”
- B. Heb. 9:27 ... ***“it is appointed for me to die once, but after this, the judgment....”***
- C. Our time will come.
  - 1. One day the Lord will appear
  - 2. the dead will be raised
  - 3. the whole Universe will be utterly destroyed.
  - 4. We will stand before the supreme court of the universe
- D. Peter foretold that event to his audience in Solomon’s colonnade: (Acts 3:21)
- E. John’s vision describes the scene: ***“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, Even those who pierced Him, And all the people on the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! (Revelation 1:7)***
- F. Two men dressed in white, spoke to the dumb struck apostles as Jesus ascended into heaven before their very eyes.
  - 1. ***“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you have seen him go into heaven”***
- G. That the Lord is coming to claim his own and bring judgement on all mankind is the great promise of all history.
- H. There is no equivocation about the judgement..it’s coming
- I. The second coming of Christ, accompanied by the resurrection and final judgment, will all be realized in a cataclysmic event of worldwide terror and destruction.
  - 1. ***“Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt 24:30).***
- J. A judgment, an eternal judgment presided over by infinite justice, wisdom, mercy, and love is revealed or implied upon most every page of the sacred scriptures.
  - 1. It is the same day of judgment where 2 Peter says ***“the heaven and the earth will be consumed by fire and ungodly men destroyed.”***

- K. Its clear – when Christ comes every person who has ever lived will be judged.
1. That day which will ***“come, like a thief in the night”*** (1 Thess 5:2)
  2. It is the day of Gods wrath ***“when his righteous judgement will be revealed and God will give to each person as he has done”*** (Romans 2)
- L. Some fancy they see seven judgments in the word of God
1. Christ continually spoke of only ONE.
  2. In fact it was a constant theme of Christ's teaching.
    - a) Christ's view of the judgment envisioned a day of wrath toward which all the world is moving
    - b) a day on which God shall rise in righteous anger and cast evil out of his universe.
    - c) A day when all will be judged by God’s appointed judge...
- M. Matthew 25: 31-33 ***“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.***
1. The dual classification “sheep and the goats” is in keeping with other metaphors stressed throughout the Scriptures, such as the "wheat" and the "chaff," the "wise" and the "foolish," etc.
  2. The "all nations" here is the same as that of the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)
  3. The parallel account in Mark, ***“every creature,”*** that is, ***“every man born into the world.”***
- N. Matthew 12:41cf indicate that the judgment is a simultaneous judgment of all nations and conditions of men, regardless of the ages in which they lived.
1. The Queen of the South, the men of Nineveh, the people of Christ's generation, all in our 21st century will appear simultaneously for judgment, though their lives were separated by many centuries in time.
- O. Jesus was abundantly clear about the day to end all days
1. Luke 21: 31 ***“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, for that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”***
- P. The Lord God whom we worship here, will appear for all to see.

1. Unlike our earthly courtroom there will be no spectators, only participants.
  2. And stand before Him we will...the living and the dead.
  3. The supreme court of the universe will be set and it's final verdict read.
  4. The sentence is a life or death sentence - with no end for all eternity--
- Q. It is final...there will be no appeals.
1. Paul calls it an eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:2)
    - a) Eternal or future judgment.
      - (1) Called here "krima aionion"
        - (a) krima: krima (kree'-mah); a decision:
        - (b) aionion: aionios (ahee-o'-nee-os); perpetual, eternal, forever, everlasting eternal
        - (c) The sentences then pronounced shall be irreversible.
- R. The whole concept of an eternal judgment has dropped out of the theological firmament, and from its rightful emphasis by gospel preachers.
1. This doctrine is more honored by its neglect than by its faithful proclamation.
- S. The concise and dramatic statements in the word of God simply cannot be denied.
- T. ***"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment"*** (Heb. 9:27).

## II. GOD'S APPOINTED JUDGE

- A. Some set forth false assumptions that WE will be doing the judging.
- B. God has appointed the judge, set the criteria, laid out sentencing guidelines.
- C. Acts 17:31 "...***He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.***"
  1. This refers to the final judgment of all men, sometimes called the "Great White Throne Judgment."
  2. **The one and only judgment day mentioned in the New Testament.**
- D. John's vision in Revelation describes vividly The Courtroom, The Judge, The Accused, The Evidence, The Defense, The Verdict, and The Sentence.
- E. So tell us again John, what did you see?
  1. ***"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not***

*found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.* (Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV)

- F. From what we read throughout scripture that time is coming.
  - 1. A final judgment, taking place at the bar of Christ himself.
  - 2. God having committed all judgment to his Son
  - 3. All who have ever lived will be there.
- G. "The judgment" of Scripture is a specific occasion, a cataclysmic day, upon which every man ever born on earth shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the deeds done in the body (2 Cor 5:10).
  - 1. ***"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, whether it be good or bad"***
  - 2. ***"God will judge mens secrets through Jesus Christ"*** (Rom 2:16)
  - 3. Not by a "later prophet" or a modern revelation---but by His appointed judge.
- H. It is not easy to preach about this awesome and final judgment.
  - 1. I take absolutely no pleasure whatsoever in even thinking about ANYONE being thrown alive into a lake of fire for all eternity.
  - 2. But there really is no ambiguity about what will happen on that day.

### III. GOD TAKES NO PLEASURE IN JUDGMENT.

- A. In fact he has shown incredible restraint!
- B. He doesn't want to condemn man – he is gracious, merciful
- C. Ez. 18:21-23 God says: "***... if a wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die. None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because of the righteous things he has done, he will live. Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?***"
- D. Ps 103: ***"He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger for ever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.***
- E. He has, and is, giving mankind time, time to choose, time to listen and time to obey Him from a repentant heart.
- F. 2 Peter 3:9 ***"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."***



#### IV. SOME CAUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- A. Jesus cautions: ***“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”*** (Matt. 7:1f)
- B. It is abundantly clear...we are not to stand in judgment of others.
  - 1. We judge ourselves and each other by comparison.
  - 2. We make comparisons and draw conclusions based on our experiences, our perceptions, and limited information.
- C. Someone has said that in most churches, you have to know where the sacred cows graze!
  - 1. Back in the 70’s, one little church in Florida kept two men standing at the front door. Their job was to make sure *“none of them trouble-makin’ women’s-libbers came in the door wearing pants.”*
  - 2. I knew of one church that had a barber shop as a part of it’s plan of salvation--- any young man with long hair was promptly taken to the barber shop for a haircut and THEN was baptized into Christ.
  - 3. (Let’s see: “Hear, believe, repent, confess, “get a haircut”, be baptized”)
- D. I Must confess, I don’t like some of the trends I see in our society.
  - 1. I was uncomfortable with the “pot smokin hippies” of the 70’s.
  - 2. I am not crazy about “inked up” (tattooed) tough looking folks today.
  - 3. Let’s face it---we tend to prefer the “good” folks in town that look like us, dress like us, vote like us, and who can be a financial asset to the church.
- E. **BUT I HAVE LEARNED:**
  - 1. Everyone in a \$500 dress suit is not necessarily a good person.
    - a) Some people who carry a Bible with them everywhere are as mean as snakes!
      - (1) They got over amazing grace as quickly as they could!
      - (2) So legalistic-can’t even spell Grace.
    - b) All of us walk around wearing a suit with a thread or two of “pretend” in it.
    - c) If Jesus visited OKC in the flesh today, do you think He would show up here wearing a three-piece suit and carrying a big Bible in His hand?
      - (1) I can’t answer that question but I do know the people who gave Him the greatest trouble were the religious people of His day.
      - (2) We need to be careful we don’t make the same mistake.
      - (3) When we try to force Jesus into our mold of “religious respectability”, He doesn’t fit.
  - 2. Everyone with a tattoo and blue jeans is not a terrible person.
    - a) Paul noted that the church in Corinth was FULL of all kinds of “unsavory folks” changed by the blood of Christ. (I Cor. 6:11)
      - (1) If we believe ***“the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.”***

- (2) If we believe ***“the word of God is quick and powerful”***
- (3) Then we must believe it will change and save even the worst sinner.
- (4) One of our biggest mistakes in the church is giving up too soon on flawed people.
- b) I have preached in churches where there were former killers, adulterers, thieves, all changed by the blood of Jesus.
  - (1) I believe God forgives sin and lifts people up to new life.
  - (2) So, write no one off, don’t give up on anyone, and reach out to everyone.
- F. I cannot stand in the place of Judge Jesus.
  - 1. It is not for me to determine the “level of repentance” in another
  - 2. It is not for me to determine whether one is “worthy or unworthy.”
  - 3. God doesn’t need my help.
  - 4. Jesus can do His job without my input.
  - 5. The fact is, I am not the judge of the hearts of anyone.
  - 6. Now, before you brand me and categorize me, please know, what I am saying is not liberal nor conservative, only scriptural
- G. **ILLUSTRATION: “Babe Ruth and the Umpire”**
  - 1. An umpire named Babe Pinelli once called Babe Ruth out on strikes. When the crowd booed with sharp disapproval at the call, the legendary Ruth turned to the umpire with disdain and said, *“There’s 40,000 people here who know that the last pitch was ball, tomato head.”* Suspecting that the umpire would erupt with anger, the coaches and players braced themselves for Ruth’s ejection. However, the cool headed Pinelli replied, *“Maybe so, Babe, but mine is the only opinion that counts.”*
  - 2. God’s judgment is the only one that counts.
    - A. The judge is NOT YOU----NOT ME
- H. Judgment? Indeed! Answer for deeds? Indeed! Mercy and Grace? Indeed!
- I. We speak of “Justice tempered with mercy”
  - 1. I am not sure we can comprehend the full impact of that any more than we can fully understand omniscience, omnipotence, or omnipresence.
  - 2. Almost an inconceivable, unexplainable concept... but a biblical one.
  - 3. The gift of God's grace stands us before God as righteous.
    - a) “Our Poor Choices--His Good Grace!”

## V. THE JUDGMENT SCENE

### I. THE ACCUSED--“Will the accused please rise”

- 1. All who have ever lived will be there.
- 2. How will I answer??
- 3. “What do you have to say for yourself?”
  - a) What do you say about the ***“deeds done in the body”***? (2 Cor. 5:10)

- b) How have you handled: *“The words I have spoken”*? (John 12:48)

**J. THE EVIDENCE**

1. *“All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned each one to his own way”* (Isai-ah 53:6).
2. Romans 3:23 *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*
  - a) Have you ever noticed how we like let ourselves off the hook.
    - (1) The great philosopher, Al Capone, once put it this way, “When I sell whis- key, they call it bootlegging; when my patrons serve it on Lake Shore Drive, they call it hospitality.”
    - (2) We have a 1000 ways to excuse our own behavior while at the same time cri- ticizing others for doing the same things.
3. Jesus said, *“Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.”*
4. *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”* 1 John 1:8ff
5. *“...To him who knows to do good and does not do it to him it is sin”*
6. Truly: *“All have sinned”* Rom 3:23

**VI. THE STANDARD**

- I. God Judges According to Truth. (Romans 2:2)
  1. God’s judgment will not be like those Funny House mirrors that make a short person look tall and a fat person look thin.
  2. God will not be fooled by our pious pretenses.
  3. He’ll look beyond our outer facade to see how we have lived when no one else was looking.
- J. God Judges According to Works (Romans 2:6)
  1. God looks not only at what you say; he also looks at what you do.
  2. The issue is not works versus faith.
  3. Works reveal what is in your heart.
  4. Whatever you are on the inside will be seen in the way you live.
  5. God judges not what you intend to do; God judges what you actually do.
- K. God Judges According to Light (Romans 2:11)
  1. “For God does not show favoritism.”
  2. Men will be judged by the light they have received, and no one will be found inno- cent
  3. **No one will be treated unfairly. No one will be cheated.**

4. Abraham, idiomatically inferred it when he asked, *"Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?"* (Gen 18:25).
5. The message is clear: The whole world is guilty before God.
6. The heathen is guilty. The Jew is guilty. The moral man is guilty.
- L. My opinion or how I perceive myself is not the standard.
  1. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* (Matt. 7:21-23)
  2. I know one preacher who has for 40 years kept a running journal of those he's baptized and another who has kept the numbers of baptisms where he's preached.
    - a) That's all well and good--but you don't want to throw that book down in front of Judge Jesus and brag about all you've done for Him!
    - b) God is not impressed.
    - c) *"All our righteousness is as filthy rags"* (Isa. 64:6)
  3. Since judgment is according to light, religious people have the most to fear.
  4. We who "know so much" stand in much greater danger than those who know so little.
    - a) Forget about the heathen! What about you?
    - b) Don't just stand there looking religious. Religion can only damn you!
    - c) I am more concerned about people who think they are "Good enough" than I am the weak and sinful who throw themselves on the mercy of the court.
- M. *"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'" (Luke 8:11ff)*

## VII. THE VERDICT...the sentence.....

- I. Rom 6:23 *"The wages of sin is the death penalty.."*
- J. Four Verdicts at the Judgment
  1. Condemnation to those who have never obeyed the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7, Matthew 7:21)
  2. Condemnation to those who sincerely obey the religions of men (Mark 7:7; Matthew 7:21-23)
  3. Condemnation to those who obeyed the gospel but quit following God (2 Peter 2:20)

4. Approval to those who obeyed and lived faithful (Matthew 25)

#### VIII. THE ADVOCATE

- I. How shall we escape???
- J. There is no escaping the judgment...the verdict is very clear....
- K. But God is willing, willing to be merciful to the worst of sinners.
  1. But that offer has an expiration date..."that day."
  2. By that day it will be too late.
  3. What we need to leave here with is the certainty that day will come.
- L. **"how shall we escape"** (Hebrews 2:3)---is there any escape??? not from the judgment but.....
- M. **"We have an advocate...."** (1 John 2:1)
  1. He has never and will never lose a case.
  2. No matter what you have done, if you will bring your guilt and your sin to this great advocate, He will take your case, plead your case, win your case, and commute your sentence from death to life.
- N. **"Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us."** (Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 8:26,27,34)
  1. The Judge and the Defense Attorney are the same person.
  2. When God the Son raises His nail pierced hands to God the Father and says, "in the name of my wounds set him free," the righteous Judge .....sentence cancelled----grace and mercy...
  3. GOD WILL NEVER DEFEND THE SINS OF HIS CHILDREN, BUT HE WILL ALWAYS DEFEND HIS CHILDREN!
- O. **".....the blood of christ cleanses us--"** (1 John 1:7)
- P. "Guilty, or not guilty?"
- Q. "You have violated the law. The fine must be paid but I am going to pay it for you."
- R. Two truths I know about myself with complete certainty:
  1. First, I ought to go to hell because that is where I belong.
    - a) In a thousand ways over ten thousand days, I have sinned against God in word and deed.
    - b) I deserve his punishment because my sins are great.
  2. But the second truth is greater than the first:
    - a) I am going to heaven because Jesus Christ went to hell on a Cross for me.
    - b) He paid the price, he took my punishment so that I could go free.

#### IX. A SIMPLE WORD OF WARNING.

- I. Do not think that because you come to church that you are okay!
- J. Do not think that because you don't do what the "sinners" do, that you are okay!
- K. Do not think that because God hasn't punished you lately, that that means he is pleased with you!

- L. Do not think that you are going to heaven just because you live a moral life. Hell is filled with men and women who lived moral lives.
- M. If you are trusting in yourself and your basic nice-guy morality to get you to heaven, you will be sadly disappointed.
- N. Run to the Cross!
  - 1. Today he is your Savior; tomorrow he will be your Judge.
  - 2. Today you can be forgiven; tomorrow you will only be condemned.
  - 3. Today your record can be wiped clean; tomorrow your record will be used against you.
  - 4. Run to the cross! Run and do not walk; make haste to the bleeding cross of Jesus Christ.

***“All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power...”*** 1 Thes. 1:5-8