

**2019 Theme - Jesus Is
Biblical Truths! - Jesus is __?__**

1. Jesus is God (above all other gods) and Jesus is King (above all other kings/rulers)
2. Jesus is Son of God and Jesus is Son of man
3. Jesus is High Priest
4. Jesus is The Lamb of God
5. Jesus is Eldest Brother
6. Jesus is The Rock
7. Jesus is The First Born
8. Jesus is The Head
9. Jesus is The Author
10. Jesus is The Judge
11. Jesus is Fragrant (Aromatic)
12. Jesus is The Light
13. Jesus is Foretold
14. Jesus is Risen
15. Jesus is Flesh and Bones
16. Jesus is Reassuring;
17. Jesus is The Great Physician
18. Jesus is All This and More
19. Jesus is Listening
20. Jesus Is Sending
21. Jesus Is Waiting
22. Jesus Is Our Uniform
23. Jesus Is, Therefore
24. Jesus Is our Authority
25. Jesus Is Boss
26. Jesus is the Good Shepherd
27. Jesus Is The Door
28. Jesus Is The Bread of Life
29. Jesus Is Perfect (Rejected Purposes)
30. Jesus Is the Alpha and the Omega
31. Jesus Is the Faithful Witness
32. Jesus Is a Consuming Fire
33. Jesus Is Yes
34. Jesus Is The Groom
35. Jesus Is Real
36. Jesus Is lord, Lord or LORD
37. Jesus Is Working
38. Jesus Is the Image Bearer (and so are you)
39. Jesus Is the Solution - Part 1 (the human, sin, solution)
40. Jesus Is the Solution - Part 2 (the human, sin, solution)
41. Jesus Is the Solution - Part 3 (the human, sin, solution)
42. Jesus Is the Solution - Part 4 (the human, sin, solution)
43. Jesus Is the Solution - Part 5 Final (the human, sin, solution)

Jesus is God and King

Ps.95:3 (1-7a)

1-6-2019

Ps.95:3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

The theme, at the request of the teen's Sunday school class, for 2019 is: Jesus is: _____? It seemed good to me to start with Jesus' greatest position or place or attribute because every other attribute of His greatness pales in respect to who He is. Jesus is God and King!

To whom does David point when he declares the Lord is a great God and a great King? Is it to God the Father or Jesus the Son? We understand that many of David's psalms contained prophetic words as did the rest of Scripture. Jesus demonstrated this when He asked the Pharisees a question: "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" (Mat.22:41-46; Ps.110:1)

Clearly Jesus understood David to be referring to the Christ (which was of course Jesus) and that He was Lord. Jesus himself indicated that He and the Father were one. (Jn.10:30) We do understand that Jesus existed and was active in creation before He became human. (Jn.1:1-5; Heb.1:8-13; Col.1:13-20)

So then, Is Jesus God? Yes!

- Rm.9:5 -Christ, who is God over all,.....
- Titus 2:13our great God and Savior Christ Jesus....
- Heb.1:8 ...Your throne, O God, is forever
- 2Pt.1:1our God and Savior Jesus Christ...
- 1 Jn.5:20His Son Jesus Christ. He is true God and eternal Life.

Is Jesus King of kings? Yes!

- Dan.7:13-14 ...son of man...was given dominion and glory and a kingdom...an everlasting dominion...
- Mat.28:18all authority given...
- Jn.5:22-27He has given all authority because...
- Eph.1:20-22seated Him at His right Hand...
- 1Cor.15:27 ...God has put all things in subjection...
- 1Pt.3:22 ...at the right hand of God...withsubject to Him
- Rev.1:5-6 ...firstborn from the dead and Ruler of kings on earth...

The final fact to consider: Phil.2:9-11 every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen

Jesus Is - The Son

Lk.3:22-23

1-13-2019

Dan.7:13-14; Mat.9:6-8; Mk.2:1-12; Lk.5:24

Mt.16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus, as we have seen in last week's lesson is God and He is King of kings. This week's lesson we will clearly see that Jesus is "Son of Man" and "Son of God". How is Jesus both? What Scripture shows us is that Jesus is born of a woman and the Holy Spirit (God).

Since we have just been thru the Christmas season it will still be fresh on our minds that Mary, a young virgin girl, became the Mother of Jesus. (Lk.1:26-56) In Luke we see that God sent an angel named Gabriel to Mary to let her know that God had chosen her to bear His child. Mary accepted God's invitation. We also see from Mary's visit with Elizabeth that life in the womb is already consciously

aware before birth. And that Mary is already with child. (Lk.1:41-44, 49)

In this account of Luke's we also see the 1st reference to who Jesus would be; the Son of God. (Lk.1:32, 35) Remember what Gabriel told Zechariah when he questioned the validity of the message? "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I was sent...." (Lk.1:19) It is this same Angel who was sent also to Mary. He knows what he is talking about.

Does Luke know what he is talking about? Is Luke reliable? Yes, Luke did a thorough investigation into these things and is accurate in his portrayal of these accounts. (Lk.1:1-3) (side note: Luke's accounts in the Gospel and in Acts may well have been the evidence to the court for Paul's defense before Rome. Very plausible)

Did Jesus understand His own dual existence? Yes! Jesus knew that He was the Son of man and the Son of God. (Mat.16:13-20; Lk.12:8-10; Mt.10:32-33) The passages and references to Jesus being the Son of man are plentiful and so are the passages that declare Jesus, in the flesh as being God's Son. Because of these two truths Jesus is qualified to redeem you from your sins

In His Image

Isa.45:18

1-20-2019

Isa.45:18 For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else. (ASV)

Isaiah, thru the power of the Holy Spirit, tells us of God's greater intent for the creation of our world - be inhabited! We know that this God, the Creator of all things, created many living things but only one did He make in His Image and Likeness. Elohim (God) (Gen.1:26-27)

After the destruction of the world and all living things in the great flood He once again commanded that the world be populated. (Gen.9:1) He also at that time gave them several other commands: 1. The animals are now for food. 2. The blood (which contains the life of the creature) is not to be eaten. 3. Do not kill (murder) a human. 4. Be fruitful and multiply. (Gen.9:1-7)

God has not changed His mind, Life is still sacred, especially mankind's. This same God who is the creator and sustainer of all things has rendered His irrevocable opinion: the life of the creature, whom He made in His image, is sacredly important. (Num.23:19)

This Elohim (God) who is know as Yahweh or Jehovah, because He is who He says He is, did know you before you were born. Was Jeremiah the only one whom He knew before they were in the womb? (Jer.1:4-5) Since it is God who does the making, shouldn't He know who it is He is fashioning? (Ecc.11:4-5) (three generations in one)

King David, being filled with the Spirit of God, confessed this great truth: It is Jehovah who fashions us, yes even our most secret parts (our essence). (Ps.139:13-16) By God's great design and by His most precious over sight we, each and everyone of us, were fashioned. Before you were, He knew you!

It is true that children are a heritage from the Lord, a great blessing. (Ps.127:3-5) Yes there is mystery in this life that God has so graciously given us. (Job.10:8-13) What is God's plans for you, each of you? Know that He has a plan and a purpose!

Jesus, born from the seed of woman, died for the wrong and sinful choices of our life. By His great provisions God has establish forgiveness of sins, All of them. (Jn.3) Even the taking of the life of the innocent, unborn, whom God by His great power made alive. God's grace and mercy are always greater than our sin. If you are in Jesus then you have gained redemption and peace, His peace over your life.

Do not be deceived, there is consequence for all sin even in forgiveness there remains a price to be paid in this life. By His great mercy and grace we live

Jesus is High Priest

Heb.2:14-18

1-27-2019

Heb.2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Who and what is this Jesus whom we see portrayed in Holy Writ? We know unequivocally that Jesus exists even now; the resounding fact that Jesus is! Therefore who is He who does exist? We have seen that Jesus is God. (Titus 2:13; 1Jn.5:20) We have also seen that Jesus is King. (1Cor.15:27; 1Pt.3:22; Rev.1:5-6)

Holy Scripture also declares to us the facts of Jesus' lineage. Without denial Jesus is The Son of God and Son of man like no other ever born. (Lk.1:32, 35) (Lk.1:41-44) Therefore!

Therefore is such a marvelous word. It is the hinge pin from which one statement gains its power or understanding. Heb.2:17 begins with this hinge pin word. "Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect..." (Heb.2:17) "so that He might become..." "high priest in service to God"

It made sense to God (His logic is greater than ours - 1Cor.2:16; Isa.55:9) that the only way to save humanity from the law governing sin and death was to out smart it by becoming one of us. By becoming

human He gained the depth of understanding to be able to truly stand in our place before God and make atonement for our sin. By His human Blood we (humanity) are saved.

Only a man could be a High Priest. (Heb.8:3) Only a blood offering was acceptable for sin. (Heb.9:22) Why? Because life is in the blood (Lev.17:11) and the soul that sins must die. (Gen.2:17; Eze.18:20)The life (the blood) takes the place of the one who did the sin so that they might live. (Heb.9:14; 1Jn.1:7)

Jesus resides on the throne of God the Father with power and authority and might and from there He continues to make intercession on our behalf. (Heb.7:19-27; 8:1-3; 9:24-28)

Heb.7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Jesus is (our) High Priest forever!

Thank you Jesus!

Jesus Is - The Lamb of God

Jn.1:29

2-3-2019

Jn.1:29 The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

What do you suppose John meant when he declared to the crowd that Jesus was the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"? What do you think the crowd understood that declaration to mean? We know of course that John was a prophet whose words were from God and therefore true. (John's declaration about who he was and who Jesus is: Jn.1:30-34; Jesus' words concerning John Lk.7:24-30)

What did Israel expect prophetically from God and His Holy word? They would know Abraham's Words when he answered Isaac that "God would provide for Himself a lamb." (Gen.22:7-8) They knew the about the Passover lamb and its blood on the posts and lintel. (Ex.12:3-13) But was there a contemporary view that indicated God would be providing a permanent solution to the problem of sin? A solution that will negate the need for continual sacrifice for their sin. (maybe Isa.53:7; Acts 8:32) Except for the reality that the Lamb was a sacrificial symbol and that the shedding of its blood was required for forgiveness, we have little else to expect them to connect to.

We know that Isaiah's words in 53:7 point to Jesus but we know that after the fact. The people who heard John declare Jesus the Lamb of God are not so fortunate to already have the NT explain the OT and its shadow of the things to come.

Even before the "Law of Moses" sacrifice of a lamb was the process for gaining forgiveness. From Adam to Moses and from Moses to Jesus forgiveness was dependent upon the sacrifice of a lamb. Not just any lamb but one that qualified by being spotless or pure. (Ex.12:5; Lev.22:20)

We know or can surmise from scripture the necessity: 1st - Adam and Eve's sin and their death covered by the blood of a sacrifice. (Gen.3:21) 2nd - Abel's sacrifice (Gen.4:4) 3rd - Noah (Gen.8:20) 4th Abraham or Abram (Gen.12:8) 5th - Job (Job1:5; 42:7-9)

The soul that sins shall die, the sacrifice of an animal was substitutionary; the life blood of the animal for the life blood of the person. (we looked at these things last week) Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, by His spotless life qualified to take our place and pay the penalty for our sin. (Heb.9:12-14; 1Jn.2:2; Rev.1:5; 5:9-10)

1Jn.4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (see also Rm.3:24-25)

Jesus Is Eldest Brother

Rm.8:29

2-10-2019

Ps.22:22 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise Him.

We have been looking at the facts concerning Jesus. The first fact is that Jesus is. He does exist! Still! Scripture also establishes the fact that Jesus is God of gods. He is also King of Kings, Son of God and Son of man, the eternal High Priest and the Lamb of God. In each of these cases the Word of God was examined rather clinically. Our faith does need to be built upon these facts.

My concern is to get too clinical in our handling of Jesus. Although He is the Rock He is not a fossil. If we are to have a loving, living, vibrant and intimate relationship with Jesus we must also keep Him in the realm of the touchable.

We all, likely, have seen the scenario portrayed where a young boy is being bullied in the playground. The young lad threatens the bullies with his older brother. If the brother is known and feared the tactic works. The older brother for a young brother or sister invokes the idea of protector, and well it should. In adult life this can carry over into larger aspects of help and security.

Paul insists that Jesus is in fact the eldest child, but of whose family? (Rm.8:29) It is good to look at the context of Romans 8 to see who Paul is speaking about. 8:5-9 indicates that the group of people he is talking about are those who have the Spirit of Christ dwelling within them. 8:14 concludes this truth: all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Verse 15-17 further develops this reality that having the Spirit of Christ (God) is equal to being adopted as sons (and daughters)

The following verses (18-28) give account of some of the greatest blessing we gain in this life and in the one to come because of being adopted into God's family. Verse 29 tells us plainly that all who are God's children have one preeminent older Brother, the Firstborn. Jesus is the Firstborn and all who are born again of water and Spirit are his siblings and as siblings, fellow heirs. (And so much more.)

We have gained the future reality of our hope, the resurrection of our flesh. (22-25) We have also gained deliverance and blessing and more in this life too. Who or what can separate you from the love of God? (26-28; 30-34; 35-39) Who will deliver you? Your eldest Brother Jesus will; that is who!

(Other relevant passages: Jn.20:17; Heb.2:12-17; Col.1:15,18)

Jesus is - The Rock
2Sam.22:2-3; 1Cor.10:1-4
2-17-2019

1Sam.2:2 "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (for further reading see Deut.31:1-32:47)

There is no Rock like our God! Amen! How is Jesus "The Rock"? We see multiple references in the OT that refers to the God of Israel as being "The Rock" (Deut.32:3-4, 18, 30-31; 1Sam.2:2; 2Sam.22:2-3, 32, 47; 2Sam.23:2-4; Ps.18:2 and more) The Lord is my Rock God! (The God who is my Rock!)

Sadly my sense of a rock is one that I can pick up and move around, this is not the kind of rock that is being portrayed here. (We do tend to think of God in too small a sense at times don't we?) The God of all creation is not a movable stone but rather an immovable mountain. He is a rock that only He Himself can pick up or move. (2Sam.22:1-4)

There is no force in all creation that can move Him; that is who our God is but is this Rock Jesus? Yes! It does seem that Paul is connecting to the rock where waters were supplied. (Ex.17:6) Reasonable to do so! We do understand that the rock was not god nor was it magical in nature. It was the God who stood upon the Rock that brought forth the water. (Three times God abundantly supplied their water: Ex.17:6; Num.20:11 and Num.21:16) Paul does not just see the

water, his picture of Jesus as the supplier of food, water and so much more. (1Cor.10:1-4)

Jesus was not the literal rock but rather He was the Rock of supply and the source of their continual sustenance. Paul is of course alluding to something far more than just water. Without water we perish, likewise without God. Without food we may linger longer but we perish none the less, likewise we perish without the sustaining God.

Paul is right to see Jesus, the eternal God, who is Creator of all things, as being the unmovable Rock, and ever present help. (1Cor.10:1-11) The Rock is our sustainer and deliverer. The Rock is also the stone of stumbling. To some Jesus is one thing and to another something else. (1Pt.2:1-10)

Jesus is the unmovable Rock, the very corner stone from which the Church takes its direction. We however are movable stones. We take our shape and form and place at His bidding. He is the master builder and it is to Him that we must look for acceptance and sustenance and belonging and purpose for He is our Lord and God, the Rock of our salvation. (2Sam.22:2-4) Our sure foundation!

Jesus Is The Firstborn
Ps.89:27; Heb.1:6; Rev.1:5
2-24-2019

Col.1:15 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

How is Jesus the Firstborn? What does that mean for Jesus to be Firstborn? How does Jesus being the Firstborn affect you and me?

We see throughout the Old Testament that the term "firstborn" is used in many ways to portray something greater in the future. (type and antitype) Ex.4:22 God speaks of Israel as being His firstborn. Jer.31:9 refers to God being the Father to Israel and Ephraim as His firstborn.

We also see how God gave distinction in the law to the firstborn. (Ex.13:2; 13:12-16; Num.3:12-13) We see too that the firstborn of Egypt were struck down in substitution for the firstborn of Israel. Later God took a counting of the firstborn of Israel who the Levites were exchanged for and the excess had to pay a ransomed price. (Num.3:43-51) It is suggested that the number of Egyptian firstborn are equaled to the firstborn of Israel and they were exchanged for the Levites who become the Holy ones of God to serve Him. (Num.8:19)

Our culture does not put the same emphasis on the firstborn as they did during the days of the Old and New Testament times but we can see that God

attached a huge significance to the importance of the firstborn. It is understandable that we do not see as clearly the pointing to Jesus as redeemer as we would like too except perhaps thru Abram and his firstborn (of promise) Isaac. (Gen.22:2-19)

It is True that Jesus is Mary's firstborn. (Lk.2:7) It is likewise true that Jesus is God's Firstborn Son. (Lk.1:30-33; Mat.1:20-21) Not only was Jesus the firstborn child of Mary but He was also the Firstborn from God thru the Holy Spirit. Because these things are true this made it possible for Jesus to be another kind of "Firstborn"; The Firstborn from the dead. (Heb.1:5-6; Rev.1:5)

Jesus is truly the first to be born from Mary and first to be born from God; both in regards to the flesh. (and spirit) More importantly Jesus is the first to be born from the dead. (Rev.1:5) It is in this that He is also called the Firstborn of the Dead. Why is this important? Simply put, being firstborn implies more siblings to be born later. (Rm.8:29; Heb.2:11-15) Jesus is the firstborn from the dead and all who accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior shall be born again in like fashion: thus qualified for the resurrected from the dead never to die again! (1Cor.15:20-26; 42-57; Phil.3:20-21) *(Live once, die twice; live twice, die once: the second death has no power. 'Chuck Missler')*

Jesus Is The Head
Col.1:18; Eph.1:22-23
3-3-2019

Col.1:18 And he (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

The Apostle Paul writes on more than one occasion to more than one Church group that Jesus is the "head" of the Church. Paul also clearly refers to the Church as "the body". What does this mean for us? How is Jesus the Head of This Church?

Remember when Jesus asked the disciples who the people said that He was? (Mat.16:13-20) Peter when Jesus asked who they personally thought He was responded saying: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (ver. 16) Jesus responded to Peter's answer by saying "...on this rock I will build My Church..."

Clearly the Church belongs to whom? Jesus! So who calls the shots as far as what the Church should do or not do? Jesus! Why? Because Jesus is the owner of the Church and by reason of ownership the boss, the CEO, the Head of the Church. The Church belongs to Jesus because He purchased it with His own blood. (Rev.5:9-10)

Jesus wears many hats! Yes Jesus is God. He does rule over all creation as God and King but over

the Church He is the head. So what is the Church? The Church consists or is made up of all the people who have accepted Jesus' purchase agreement over their life. Those who have are added to the Church which is referred to as His Body. (Lk.22:20; 1Cor.11:25; Acts 2:38-41,47; 4:4; Heb.8:8-13)

(Clearly there are multiple lessons that could be taught, and should be about taught about what the Church is and how one gains entrance into it.)

Jesus is the Head of the Church which is His body. (Col.1:18,24; Eph.1:22-23) It is important for us to understand that God is the Deity of order and hierarchy. God Almighty, the Elohim of all creation established and operates with defined purpose and order. (Eph.1:20-23; 1Cor.11:3; Eph.4:11-16)

Jesus is the Head of the Church universal and every local church group is to be under His authority. (Or else!) This is visually apparent in Rev.1:11, 17-3:22 where Jesus sends a message to each of the seven local churches. More specifically, to the local church leadership! The leadership had a responsibility to hear, communicate, obey and enforce; so also did every one of the churches members. Jesus is our Head and we, His body. It is always good that we not forget our places. To Jesus belongs the authority, power, and glory.

Jesus Is The Author
Acts.3:14-15; Heb.2:10, 12:2
3-10-2019

Heb.2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

This word for "Author" in this passage has been rather interesting. Its usage in context has many English equivalents. Its usage in 26 different translations renders 11 different words. (Author 9, Captain 5, Leader Prince, Leader 4, Prince 3, Founder, Head, Pioneer, Source, Originator, and Initiator)

In this passage (Heb.2:10) Jesus is described how? This is a deep passage because it is trying to communicate not only the origin of our salvation but its inventor and its tester and the one who validated it as more than plausible but possible.

Jesus wore and wears many hats. Jesus, the man (totally human) had a job to do as a man. His job as a man required that at the completion of His role as a man God the Father would do His part. They, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, had a plan. (1Pt.1:20; Eph.1:4; Rev.13:8) The implication found in scripture is that before creation God (the Trinity)

formulated a plan and that plan laid down the process thru which humanity would be saved.

Jesus was involved in the planning and at the proper time submitted to the plan as the one who validates the plans accurateness. (1Pt.1:20, Col.1:26; 1Cor.2:7-8) The plan was for God to bring about the process though which human beings could achieve eternal life. This plan of God's was kept secret until Jesus revealed it by proving and validating that it works.

Jesus executed the process for gaining eternal life by submitting to the plan. That plan took Him thru the waters of baptism, the wilderness of temptations all the way to the cross and the grave. Jesus bursting forth from the tomb by the power of the Father of Glory proved the plan works and humanity is called to follow.

Jesus is in this one Greek word (ἀρχηγός - archēgos) the Author, Captain, Leader, Prince, Founder, Head, Pioneer, Source, Originator, Initiator and Inventor and test subject. The calling of the Gospel message to all of us is simple: Trust God to redeem you from death thru the process established and validated by Jesus. Humble yourself and submit like Jesus to His power to save. (Heb.12:1-3) Keep your eyes on Jesus, follow Him.

Jesus Is The Judge
Acts.10:42; Jn.3:17-21
3-17-2019

Act.10:42 *And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.*

It never ends well for those who reject Jesus!

Jesus has many responsibilities, one of which is judgment. Jesus said that He came to create division and a sword. (Lk.12:49-51; Mat.10:34) Puzzling isn't it? Peace was prophesied by Zachariah concerning what would follow his son John's ministry. (Lk.1:76-79) Peace is also prophesied by the angels at Jesus' birth. (Lk.2:14 * "...peace among men in whom He (God) is well pleased.")

Prophecy proclaims Jesus would be the prince of peace. (Isa.9:6-7) How can Jesus be both a provider of peace and one who divides in judgment? Valid question! Consider Isaiah's words concerning Jesus in Isaiah 11:1-2. Isaiah unfolds the responsibilities of the one who judges and brings peace.

This is how the situation of the people of the world is: by their nature, objects of wrath. (Eph.2:1-9 (verse 3) All mankind is under the wrath of God because of their sin. The most important peace that anyone can have is the kind of peace one can have with God. This is the kind of peace that exists when God's

wrath has been appeased or removed against that individual.

Notice what John the Baptist says about this wrath in John 3:36: "*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*" Jesus declared that all judgment was given to Him. (Jn.5:22-24) How does Jesus judge? What does it mean for Him to be the judge in relationship to you and me? If you believe in Him you live!

It is true we will all stand before Jesus' judgment seat. (2Cor.5:10) For those who are in Christ Jesus the dread or fear of judgment is reduced by the measure to which you have matured in Christ. (1Jn.4:18) It is true that for all who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and in so doing seek to serve Him and do His will; they have gained peace. The wrath of God has been removed! (Jn.3:36; 1Thes.5:9 (1-10)

Even though we all will have to stand before Jesus and give account for our life, we do not need to fear the terror of eternal judgment. Jesus has provided in Himself the substitute for us. (Jn.3:16)

Jesus as Judge grants peace to those who accept Him as their Lord and Savior and walk in obedience to His will. His judgment is trustworthy and true because He sees each of us as we are.

Jesus is: Fragrant (Aromatic)

2Cor.2:14-17

3-24-2019

2Cor.2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

We live in a world full of delightful smells. We also live in a world full of foul smells. The business of making good smells to cover up bad smells is huge and incredible ancient. Gen.8:20-22 records the oldest record of a pleasing aroma. I am sure that aromas, fragrances and smells of all kind existed prior to this event but this one is recorded for our benefit.

Interestingly it has to do with forgiveness of sins and sacrifice. Several other early references to smell are found in Gen.27:27 and Ex.5:21. After this countless references having to do with the aroma of the sacrifice or the sweet smell of incense and the fragrance of the ingredients in anointing oil are found and referred to as the work of a perfumer. (Ex.30:22-25 (an apothecary))

When Paul says that we are the aroma of Christ what does He mean? (Read 2Cor.2:14-17) Paul can at times speak of things that are deep. (2Pt.3:16) God has often times used one thing to explain another. Jesus too did this when He spoke in parables. Did God

like the smell of burning meet or did He find it pleasing that people were seeking forgiveness?

We too use language in similar ways. When someone says or does something we don't like we might say: "it left a bad taste in our mouth" or "something doesn't smell right about this" We sometimes (rarely) might turn poetic and say someone's presence smells like spring.

So how is a person "the aroma of Christ"? Paul is making reference to himself and others who proclaim the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb that all sacrifices pointed to. The news about salvation that when received brings life and forgiveness thru Jesus' sacrifice of Himself, that is the pleasant aroma.

Everyone who puts on Jesus Christ in Baptism and proclaims Him as Lord and Savior is putting on and spreading the aroma of Jesus. Interestingly enough Paul says that to some this smell is delightful and to others it is offensive. (2Cor.2:15-16) Are you responsible for how a person reacts to the smell of Christ Jesus? No! You are responsible to God as the message. (2Cor.2:14) As God leads you in triumphal procession as you spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. Go, make a big stink! (Mat.28:18-20)

The aroma is the result of forgiveness of sins. The true stench is the smell of death because of sin.

Jesus Is The Light
Jn.8:12; Acts 26:15-18
3-31-2019

Jn.1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (did comprehend it).

Jesus is the light! Apostle Paul was blinded by the very light he was in denial of existing. That Light was Jesus and He is the one who sent him to proclaim that very light of his denial. (Acts.26:15-18) The world, all of humanity, resides in darkness. (Eph.5:8; Eph.2:1-3; Col.1:13)

Unless someone comes to Jesus and accepts Him as their Lord and Savior, they will remain in darkness, without hope and without God. (Eph.2:11-12) Isaiah the prophet of God spoke about the Light that would come and what the Light's purpose was for coming. (Isa.42:6-7)

From Isaiah we learn that the Light: He would be given as a covenant. He would be a light for the Nations. He would open the eyes of the blind. He would bring out those in dungeons, those who sit in darkness.

This Jesus whom we read about in the pages of this great book is that Light. What God said thru Isaiah He has done! Jesus is the Light! Are we not the recipients of the covenant He, by His own blood established? Yes, we are! (Jer.31:33; Lk.22:19-20; 1Pt.2:9-10)

Are we not the recipients of the Holy Word that proclaims Him Lord, God and Savior? Yes, we are! (Heb.8:6-13; Acts.13:46-47) Thru this exceedingly great knowledge of Jesus and by the submitting in obedience to believe in Him did we not gain sight? Were we not blind before His hands touched us? Yes and Yes! (Titus 3:3-7)

Are we not recipients of freedom from the chains of the darkest of prisons? Yes, we are! He has freed us! (Gal.5:1; Jn.8:31-36; Lk.4:18-19) You who ever you are, if you are in Christ Jesus, you are a recipient of these great blessings!

Heb.13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus Is Foretold

Lk.18:31-34

4-14-2019

Lk.18:31 And taking the twelve, he said to them, "**See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.**"

(Ps.22:1-31; Isa.53:1-12; Dan.9:24-27)

Jesus had an agenda and the cross was it! No, it really was not the cross for the crosses sake, the cross was the means to an end; the end of His life. (and the fulfillment of prophecy) Jesus knew He had to die and He also knew when and where and how it needed to happen. (Eph.3:9; 1Pt.1:20-21; 1Cor.2:6-10)

Jesus knew the Word of God better and more completely than any man alive. (Ever!) (Lk.18:31; Lk.24:44; Lk.22:36-37; Mt.26:54-56) We are fortunate in that we have the luxury of knowing the past because of what was recorded for our benefit. We have more than a trail of bread crumbs to follow, we have His very words and actions. (Acts.13:27-29)

We are able from the Historical documents of Jesus' day to connect the dots of His life to the prophetic writings of old and see how marvelously perfect Jesus accomplished what was written about Him. Humanly impossible but not impossible for God.

On this day that is now called Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem to fulfill yet another prophecy

concerning Himself: The proclamation and acceptance of His being King! (Zec.9:9) It was prophesied hundreds of years before that Israel's King and Savior would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Every detail of prophecy accomplished. (Mt.21:1-11; Mk.11:1-11; Lk.19:28-44; Jn.12:12-16)

Zec.9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

John only out of the four Gospels tells us about the "Palm Branches" being spread before Jesus. (Jn.12:13) (Thus Palm Sunday!) (See Mat.21:8; Mk.11:8; Lk.19:36) Jesus entering Jerusalem riding a donkey while the crowd sings and shouts in fulfillment of Zechariah's Prophecy, priceless. (Zech.9:9) And the rulers fussed (Lk.19:39-40)

Jesus was master over every detail of His life and over every detail of His death. Countless times the rulers of the people tried to stone Jesus but that was not how Jesus was supposed to die. It had to be the cross! Why? Because prophecy said so! (Gal.3:13; 1Pt.2:24) Thank you Jesus for saving us! Thank you for being the God of details!

Jesus Is Risen
Mat.28:5-7
4-21-2019

Mt.28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 **He is not here; he has risen**, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: '**He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee**. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (NIV)

No one easily contests the existence of the man, Jesus of Nazareth. No one contests the history that the man Jesus was crucified by Rome. No one contests that the man Jesus who was crucified also died on the cross and was later buried. No One!

Today Christians around the world celebrate this Sunday morning because it is declared "Resurrection Sunday" (no apologies, easter is wrong) Why Resurrection Sunday? Simple; Jesus was resurrected from the dead. (Death had no power!)

When the trail to Jerusalem is followed and you monitor Jesus' words you see Him plainly declare what was going to happen. Jesus entered Jerusalem when prophecy said He would. Daniel prophesied when the King would come to town and He did. (April 6th 32 AD) (Daniel 9:25) Only one time was Jesus heralded as King. (Lk.19:28-44 (38))

Jesus knew what had to be accomplished and He demonstrated His control over every facet of His mission. The donkey was released to Jesus' service. The upper room was prepared and waiting for His arrival. (Lk.22:8-13) Even Judas was on track for his part to play. (Lk.22:1-6) Jesus demonstrated time and time again who was calling the shots, including when Judas would betray Him. (Jn.13:26-27)

Jesus did all that He was sent to do, down to the last detail. It was Jesus' mission to make it to the cross without sinning and on the way to the cross fulfill the words of the prophets. Jesus job or mission was to die for you and I. He did! On that cross planted on Mnt. Moriah. He gave up His life.

You see it was Jesus' job to die; it was God's job to raise Him on the 3rd day. (Acts 5:30; 10:40) We are here today because it is also a fact that Jesus, the man, did live and die. He was buried and God did resurrect that very same Jesus from the grave. (Acts 13:26-39) God did raise Jesus from the tomb; know this also, you too are offered life eternal thru this same Jesus. (1Cor.6:14; Rm.10:9; Col.2:12; Rm.6:4-5) We live because He is living!

The fact remains true: Jesus Is! It is true also that you who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior have been made alive thru Him. (1Pt.3:18-22; Jn.3:36; 5:24; 1Jn.5:10-13) As Jesus is, so shall we too be like Him. (1Cor.15:49; 2Cor.3:18; 1Jn.3:2)

Jesus Is Flesh and Bone
Lk.24:33-49; Jn.20:24-31
4-28-2019

Lk.24:38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." (a week later) Jn.20:24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

"The Thomas Song"

There is a little bit of Thomas in all of us! Jesus' words to Thomas are such an encouragement to me, maybe you too: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn.20:29) The response of anyone who believes even though they have not seen should be the same as Thomas': "My Lord and My God!" (Jn.20:28)

Jesus demonstrated multiple proofs to His disciples showing them He was really alive. (Act.1:3)

1. He spoke to them (Lk.24:36)
2. He showed Himself to them (Lk.24:40)
3. They touched or handled Him (Lk.24:39-40; 1Jn.1:1)

4. He ate food in front of them. (Lk.24:41-43)
5. He reminded them of things He had previously told them. (Lk.24:44)
6. He opened their minds to understand so they could understand Scripture. (Lk.24:45-49)
7. He invested power and authority in them. (Lk.24:45-49; Jn.20:19-23)

The proof was convincing enough to satisfy even Thomas. Over the next few weeks Jesus will show himself to more than just His closest disciples, He will show Himself to five hundred. (1Cor.15:1-9) All these who saw Him believed and they received blessing for it. As Jesus has said: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn.20:29)

Your blessing, and mine, is dependent upon our believing the message once handed down to us thru Holy Scripture. (1Cor.15:1-8) Your forgiveness of sins is dependent upon your belief and obedience to this Gospel message. They (the Apostles were commanded and they were faithful to the command to preach and proclaim Jesus the Lord and God who died and was buried and resurrected from the dead. Your baptism for the forgiveness of sins is dependent upon this truth. (Mat.28:18-20; Mk.16:15-16) We declare like Thomas: My Lord and my God! (Jn.20:28)

Jesus Is Reassuring

Jn.21:1ff

5-5-2019

Jn.21:14 *This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

From our previous studies since Jesus' resurrection on Resurrection Sunday to Jesus' proving Himself alive to Thomas a week later we now visit His third revealing. (Jn.20:19; 20:26)

As John tells us, some of the disciples were together in Galilee when Peter decided to go fishing. Matthew records that Jesus had told the woman at the tomb that the disciples should go to Galilee. (Mat.28:10) It was here in Galilee that Jesus would talk to them and give them instruction about the Kingdom. (Mt.28:16)

Luke tells us that Jesus showed Himself to the disciples and gave convincing proofs that He was alive. (Acts 1:3) We also learn from Luke that Jesus was taken up to heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. This took place on the Mt. Of Olives (Acts 1:9, 12) For 40 days Jesus showed them the reality of His being alive. (Acts 1:3)

What makes John's accounting of Jesus visiting the disciples on the shore of the sea of Tiberias interesting is His words of assurance to Peter and to us as well. (Jn.21:1ff.) There still seemed at this point

a lingering inability to recognize Jesus. (Verse 4; see also Jn.20:14; Lk.24:37) Why? (Speculations)

It is here on the beach, around a fire while dining on fish and bread that Jesus asked Peter 3 times: "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" (Jn.21:15-17) Jesus asked Peter two times if he loved (agape) Him more than these (These?) and two times Peter replies that he likes (phileo) him. The 3rd time Jesus asked differently. There is a lot going on in this verbal exchange.

1. Jesus - "do you love me? Peter - "O Lord you know that I am fond of you." Jesus - "graze my sheep."
2. Jesus - "do you love me? Peter - "O Lord, you know that I am fond of you." Jesus - "Tend my sheep."
3. Jesus - "are you fond of me?" Peter - "O Lord, you know all things, you know that I am fond of you." Jesus - "graze my sheep."

Jesus met Peter at his level and commissioned him to graze and tend His sheep and follow. Peter did just that, followed all the rest of his days. How about you, Jesus asks each of us the same question: "Do you love me?" He is just as willing to meet us where we are at and lift us up to His higher purposes. He knows your heart whether it says "I love you or I am fond of you" His simple command to you is: "Follow me!"

Jesus Is the Great Physician

Isa.53:1-12; 1Pt.2:24

5-12-2019

Isa.53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

By His wounds we are healed! O' Lord, Let that be true! We all could use a little healing, some a little more than others I expect. Why isn't the Church the healthiest group of people in the world? Do you ever wonder about that? I do.

I suppose everyone could go on strike. Demand health as part of Christian package. It would probably not be wise to trifle with the Lord Jesus in that fashion. (He might take the attitude: "I will do my Job when you do yours!") If the blessings of being a Christian only brought physical blessings, in this life, who wouldn't want in?

We do know that Jesus is the great healer. And that thru God all our diseases find their true healing. (Ps.103:1-5; Ex.15:26) We read and believe from scripture that Jesus had authority to heal and that He also gave this authority to His disciples. (Mt.4:23-24; Lk.9:1-2) What about now? Is there healing found in the Church? Yes! In Jesus? Yes! Still? Yes!

First understand that Christianity is not a performance based religion. Blessings are not earned

by human effort. The so called Prosperity Gospel is a lie, a doctrine of demons. Under the Law of Moses and God's covenant agreement with Israel there was the "if you will....then I will" clauses. God did tell them that they would be healthy if they would obey them. (Ex.15:26; Deut.7:11-15) (He also said what if not.)

What is the advantage of Christianity then? Is God still the healer of all our diseases? Are there still blessings to be found in Jesus? Yes! Yes! And Yes! If a person only evaluates Christianity based upon what is tangible the point of Christianity is missed. What is gained in Christ Jesus could not be gained thru the law. (Heb.9:9-14; 7:18-19; 10:1-4) It is Gained in Him.

We do gain blessings in this life; the greatest healing that is gained is Spiritual, not physical. It is true that God is still the healer of all our diseases even though we may never receive physical health now, in our present lives. (Ps.103:1-5) Why? Because we live in a fallen, sin sick world full of evil and wickedness and the consequences and influences of these things spills out upon everyone around it.

Do Christians have an advantage over the lost in the world? Yes! How so? Jesus has never lost any of His authority to heal. He still heals according to His purpose and desire. The greater blessings are still spiritual but there are also very real benefits to be gained physically for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Heb.7:22; 2Cor.4:16-18; Rev.22:1-2) 1Pet.2:24

Jesus Is All This and More
Lk.24:44-49; Col.1:11-23
5-19-2019

Jesus is! This statement or declaration of the fact that Jesus does exist and is now, still, yet living is true. Because of the fact that Jesus is real, living and existing it then becomes evident that everything else written about Him is also true. This Jesus who lived, died, was buried and was resurrected by the power of God the Father is still alive. (and will be forever) (1Cor.15)

After Jesus' resurrection He told the disciples that all of Scripture (the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms) that spoke about Him had been fulfilled. They defined what He would and must do and He did. (Lk.24:44-49) We have been these past weeks looking into these things in an attempt to understand who this Jesus is. Thus far Jesus is:

- Jesus is: God (above all other gods) (Rm.9:5; Titus 2:13; 2Pt.1:1)
- Jesus is: King (above all other kings/rulers) (Dan.7:13-14; Rev.1:5-6)
- Jesus is: Son of God (Mt.16:13-15; Lk.1:31-36; 3:22)
- Jesus is: Son of man (Mt.16:13-20; Lk.12:8-10)
- Jesus is: High Priest (Heb.2:14-18; 7:25-27)
- Jesus is: The Lamb of God (Jn.1:29; Rev.5:12-13; 15:3)

- Jesus is: Eldest Brother (Rm.8:29; Col.1:15-18)
- Jesus is: The Rock (2Sam.22:2-3; 1Cor.10:1-4)
- Jesus is: The First Born (Ps.89:27; Heb.1:6; Rev.1:5)
- Jesus is: The Head (Col.1:18; Eph.1:22-23)
- Jesus is: The Author (Act.3:14-15; Heb.2:10; 12:1-2)
- Jesus is: The Judge (Jn.3:17-21; Acts 10:42)
- Jesus is: Fragrant (Aromatic) (2Cor.2:14-17)
- Jesus is: The Light (Jn.1:4-9; Jn.8:12)
- Jesus is: Foretold (Lk.18:31-34; 24:44-46)
- Jesus is: Risen (Mt.28:5-7; Acts.13:26-39)
- Jesus is: Flesh and Bones (Lk.24:33-49; Jn.20:24-31)
- Jesus is: Reassuring (Jn.21:1ff (15-17))
- Jesus is: The Great Physician (Isa.53:1-12; 1Pt.2:24-25)

This review of what has been looked into thus far is not even the half of what and who this Jesus is. What might be a more important question for you to answer today is: Is Jesus your Lord, God and Savior? Have you given your life over to Him? If not, why not? Jesus is calling! Jesus is waiting!

Jesus Is Listening
Jn.14:13-14; Col.3:17
6-2-2019

Jn.14:13 What ever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Jesus is our go to Guy! No disrespect intended. It is to Jesus that our approach to the Heavenly Father is sanctioned. The Hebrew writer insists that it is Jesus who makes intercession for us. (Heb.9:24; 7:25; 13:15) This is a great blessing for us and an awesome privilege and huge responsibility.

Because of the high degree of importance that this line of communication is to us, shouldn't we want to know how to keep it open and functional? It would be wrong of us to think that God is always open and willing to listen to humanities prayers. Truth is He can and does turn a deaf ear to the pleas of many. Why? (Prov.15:29)

The reasons for Jesus not listening to peoples prayers is the same reason why God did not hear in the days before Jesus: sin, wickedness, disobedience and rebellion. (Dan.9:13-17) Daniel understood the cause of Israel's troubles. He also understood what was needed: repentance. (A turning back to God) (Dan.9:18-20)

Our nation has been asked to pray for our President and for our Leaders because of the great divide that is tearing at the fabric of our country.

Even your people O Lord, your Church, is divided because of their abandonment of your Holy Word. Sadly God's Holy Word has been replaced, displaced, ignored and watered down to the degree that God's people are no longer God's people. (2Chr.7:14)

Where do we begin? We begin with our own house. The Lord knows each and everyone of us. He knows our hearts, our thoughts, our action and our attitudes. Our nation and our leaders, including Mr. President, need God's mercy, grace, forgiveness and blessing. (Eze.14:13-23)

Even if these three men: Dick, John and Ralph! Or these three men: Lee, Tom, and Dennis! Or Barry, Doyle and Bill! Or James, Brad and John! When God closes His ears does it matter who prays? Only to the one praying! We are compelled by our desire to please our Lord and God Jesus to pray for our nation and its leaders. (1Jn.3:21-22; Jn.14:15,21,23) If we are to be heard singularly and collectively for the sake of our nation and the world, it must begin with our own houses. (Jn.9:31; Prov.21:13; 28:9; 15:29; Psal.66:18-20; 1Pt.3:7)

Our nation needs our intercession and we need God to hear for their sake and for our own. (example - Neh.1:6; May this not be - Jer.7:16; 11:14; But this is our example and command - Jer.29:4-10; 1Tim.2:1-2; 1Pt.2:13-17) 1st repent for yourselves, 2nd repent for your leaders, 3rd repent for your nation. Then pray for His mercy, grace, forgiveness and blessing for all.

Jesus Is Sending
Jn.16:7-11; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33
6-9-2019

Jn.16:7 **Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**

Pentecost is today, the 50th day after the feast of weeks. (Shavuot) (Acts 2:1; Deut.16:10-11) For most of Christianity today is the Birthday of the Church. What were the Disciples expecting when they waited in Jerusalem? (Acts 1:4-9) After Jesus had appeared to His disciples over a period of 40 days He left.

They were told to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit to empower them, so they waited. (Acts 1:12-26) Peter takes the lead quoting scripture that he attributed to the Holy Spirit. Evidence that they had some concept of who the Holy Spirit was but what was their expectation? They waited for what?

The disciples believed Jesus would do what He had said He would do. After Jesus was resurrected and was showing himself to the disciples He commissioned them to the mission of salvation. It was then that He breathed on them and said: **"Receive the Holy Spirit...."** (Jn.20:19-23) What was this moment and what did they receive because of it?

When Peter stood up and spoke scripture with conviction, where did his conviction and knowledge of

scripture come from? (Acts 1:14-16) I ask these things because we wrestle with how to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers today; we who are far removed from these moments we read about in God's Word. (Acts 2:38-39) Peter's words still echo in the hearts of God's children.

We are encouraged by scripture to accept by faith that this promise is still valid and still fulfilled today in our hearing. The promise of receiving forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy spirit. The chain of events portrayed in Peter's words are:

1. God calls
2. The message is heard
3. The message is believed
4. Repentance takes place
5. Baptism takes place in the name of Jesus
6. Remission of sins received
7. Gift of the Holy Spirit given

Can we trust that these words are still true? Yes! We must because they are. Jesus insisted that God must call a person. He also insisted that a person must be born again of water and the spirit or they will not see the Kingdom of God. (Jn.6:44, 65; 3:3, 5-8) I can not see Him or touch Him or feel Him but I know and trust that He is in me and in all of you too, all who have done as the Word says have received.

If we will do our part, God will most assuredly do His! Happy Birthday Church! And all the called of Christ answered: Amen! **"I will send him to you."**

Jesus Is Waiting
Heb.10:12-13
6-30-2019

Heb.1:13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Jesus is waiting! Over two thousand years ago Jesus took His place at The Father's right hand where He continues to sustain us until He is sent to gather God's children. (1Cor.15:25, Heb.1:3; Col.1:17) There is that day coming when Jesus will be sent to gather all the redeemed and separate them from the rest of the peoples. (1Tm.6:13-16; 2Tm.4:1)

Jesus is waiting for the command of The Heavenly Father. (Mt.24:36-42) The Father is not waiting in idleness and neither is Jesus the Son. (Gal.3:8) They hold a common desire the salvation of humanity. (2Pt.3:9-14) We who are a part of the ekklesia, the called out, the Church, have a role to play in Their waiting. (Eph.4:15-16; Phil.2:12-13)

Jesus is waiting for me too. He is also waiting for you, His church, to do all that He has ordained for us to do. We have been called out of the darkness and into His marvelous light because He has great purposes for us. (His Church) (Eph.3:10; 4:1, 11-14;

Rm.8:28; 2Tm.1:9; Jn.12:46; Eph.5:8; 1Thes.5:5; 1Pt.2:9)

1Pt.2:9 **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

Jesus is waiting but His waiting is not in idleness. The Church is in waiting but it also is not to be in idleness. The earth also is in waiting as is all creations for that great and terrible day when it will be released from the curse. (Rm.8:19-25)

One day the waiting will be over, weather that day comes in our time or our children's time. Until then Jesus continues to call to the lost in the world thru His Church. Those who are yet being called are part of those who Jesus waits for to be made subject. (1Cor.15:22-28; Rm.5:10; Col.1:21; 2Pt.3:10-14)

2Pt.3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Jesus Is Our Uniform

Rm.13:14; Gal.3:27

7-7-2019

Col.3:9b "...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

Why do soldiers wear uniforms? One of the primary reasons is to distinguish which side you are on. In battle you would not want to get killed by the wrong side. We see this logic in sports too. It is important to know which side you are on! Do you know?

In sports we understand that there is also a difference between spectators and players don't we? We understand this general rule in warfare as well, the civilian is not supposed to be harmed. This does not always hold true in war or peace does it?

In war there is or are declared sides and often a declared neutral party(s) as well. What about in life? Are there more than one side? Are there neutral parties? Are there allies to a particular side? Who are the good guys and the bad guys?

In the largest picture that can be drawn there is God (the Good Guy side) and the other side. From the human perspective what side are we born on? Are we born neutral or are we born on the good side or the bad? (Ps.51:5; Gen.6:5; 8:21; 1Cor.15:22)

There is the idea that there are only two sides. From God's perspective maybe so. There are those who serve Him and do His will and then there are all the rest. We tend to argue from the idea that we (all humanity) are all born innocent and therefore neutral or safe. To a degree there is some truth here, some.

God's view is the best view to seek and accept! So what is God's view? We know there is a war going on between God and the rebellion against His sovereign rule. (1Cor.15:23-26; Psa.45:3-6) Rev.19:11-21 depicts a battle scene with Jesus leading the charge. The battle field includes this physical world we live in and the earth we walk upon.

Paul insists that flesh and blood are not the enemy. (2Cor.10:3-6; Eph.6:13-18) God's enemies are those who refuse to submit to His rule over them. This refusal is demonstrated by attitudes and behaviors. (James 4:4; Jn.15:23-24) We are born human and inherit the nature of humanity. At some point our actions define whose side we are on.

I was born in America making me a citizen of this nation. As an adult I am required to live as the citizen of this nation. I must choose to do so or suffer the consequences of my choices. As a human I must choose which side I am on; God's or the other side. Its a matter of great importance! Choosing to put on Jesus Christ, the uniform of righteousness is the best choice anyone could ever make. (Rm.13:14; Gal.3:27) Put on the Uniform of Jesus!

Jesus Is our Authority
Lk.22:28-30; Dan.7:14; Lk.1:32-33
7-21-2019

Mt.28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, ***"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***

God, the creator of all, is He who gave Jesus His authority. (1Cor.15:21-28) The same God and Father who gave Jesus authority also told Jesus He could give authority to whom ever He chose. (Acts.26:15-18; 2Tm.2:1-4)

Those whom Jesus gave authority were given authority to give authority. (Jn.17.1-26) Why would Jesus do that? Jesus is the Head of His Church and His Church is still being built. (Col.1:16-18; Eph.4:11-16) The Kingdom, which those who enter the Church enter also into is a Kingdom that will never end. (Dan.7:14; Lk.1:32-33)

Until the last stone is laid, the last stone needs to be made! This Spiritual House's last stone will not be laid until the last moments before God the Father sends Jesus and the Heavenly Hosts in judgment on the last day. Until that last stone is found and

uniquely shaped and fashioned for his or her place in that House, God will not rest until He has finished what He has begun. (1Cor.3:9-17; 1Pt.2:9)

Rev.11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

Rev.11:18 The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

"...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,..."

Jesus Is Boss
Col.3:23-24
7-28-2019

Being a Christian has its difficulties! Being a Christian goes against the grain of our humanity. The desires and appetites of our flesh at times can scream at us deafening our ears to God's still, calm, voice. Our humanity does not want to know what God wants of us, it only wants to be satisfied with its own desires. (Rm.8:6-8)

Paul writes to the Church saying that Christians should do their work as though it were for the Lord Himself. (Col.3:23-24) All of Colossians Chapter 3 is about applied Christian values. These values are contrary to the desires and wants of the human nature. I understand that anyone can elevate their minds to think and behave better than the base instincts of the flesh. (to some degree)

Paul indicates that it has to do with what a person sets their mind on, what they pursue with passion and energy. (see again Rm.8:6-8) "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." The goal of Christian living is to be led by the Spirit of God. "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons (children) of God." (Rm.8:14)

Being a Christian goes against the grain if we listen to the Spirit rather than our old voices (master) that only have the desires of the flesh in

mind. When Jesus is our unseen boss to whom we give an accounting, what will be the outcome of our life? What should be the case is that Christians should be the most sought after employees in the world. (is that the reality we see around us?)

Paul insists that Christians should, in "what ever they do, work heartily (from the soul), as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the LORD Christ." (Col.3:23-24) How does the one whose mind is set on the flesh behave? How does the one whose mind is set on the Spirit behave?

Ask your Lord Jesus for wisdom in these matters. (James 1:5) Why wisdom? Sometimes what we think is best is not what or how our earthly bosses might feel about a matter. Impressing our own will over our employer even when we think we are right or smarter or better is being unsubmitive to their authority. Would you behave so towards Jesus? Being a Christian is application not theory!

Hezekiah serves as an example of successful service. He served with His whole heart. (2Chr.31:20-21) "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col.3:17) Being a Christian does have its challenges.

Jesus Is The Good Shepherd

Jn.10:10-18

8-4-2019

Jn.10:14 ***I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.***

I am not sure that I ever wanted to be a sheep. We don't see sports teams named "The Mighty Sheep" do we? Being a sheep is not something we naturally aspire towards. Why? Probably because it is an analogy God assigned us that is a we bit too truthful; we are sheep!

Almost without fail everyone is following someone or something to somewhere. Sheep do that! If sheep aren't following then they are wondering off and in their wondering either get lost or end up in front being pushed by the rest of the flock. Over the years I have had to tell more than one kid: "if you don't know where we are going don't be in front trying to lead."

Jesus knew where He was going! He knew who sent Him and what He needed to do to save the sheep. (Jn.10:11-18) Jesus knew the sheep's peril! Jn.10:10 ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*** Jesus was leading because He knew where He was going, He knew who He was, Who sent

Him, what He was going to accomplish and why it needed to be done.

This whole episode of Jesus explaining that He was the shepherd came about because He healed a blind man. (Jn.9:1-39) Notice Jesus' control in verse 3. Even before Jesus healed this man He knew He would and why. ***"For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."*** (Jn.9:39)

Jesus reveals much about who He is, what His mission is, what He will accomplish and how He will accomplish it in this series of discourses:

- He is the Son of Man - Jn.9:35-37
- He came for Judgment sake - Jn.9:39
- He is the door to sheepfold - Jn.10:1-10
- He saves and provides pasture - Jn.10:7-10
- He gives abundant life - Jn.10:10
- He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life - Jn.10:18
- He knows who are His sheep and who are not - Jn.10:24-30
- He gives eternal life to His sheep - Jn.10:27-29
- He and the Father are one - Jn.10:30
- He is God's Son - Jn.10:33-38
- He does the works of His Father - Jn.10:25-26; 37-38

Jesus is The Good Shepherd: Who are you following?

Jesus Is The Door

Jn.10:7-10

8-11-2019

Jn.10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Christians have a tendency to say that Jesus is the only way into heaven, don't we? Is that a biblically true statement? Jesus was restating something He had previously said in Verse 9 when He said: **"I am the door."** Jesus said it differently in verses 1-5 but the people didn't understand so He restated what He was meaning. (Jn.10:6-7a)

There is only one legitimate way into the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the door to Heaven. If anyone enters by any other way, they enter as a thief. So if there is another way in, it will not end well for the ones who try and sneak in. What place do a thief and robber have in Heaven? (1Cor.6:9-11) None! (the wedding garment - Mat.22:11-14)

Jesus is the door! (Jn.10:7,9) How is Jesus the door? Several passages lend some insight: Rm.5:1-2; Eph.2:18; Heb.10:19-22. Each passage uses language that expresses entrance through or by the means of Jesus and His shed blood.

The only one that a person can have faith in that will gain you a place in Heaven is Jesus. The only one who shed their blood and died for you as a sacrifice for your sins that qualified as pure and spotless was Jesus. The only one who God proclaimed His full pleasure in and commanded our listening to was Jesus.

All doors lead somewhere or they fail to qualify as a door. What is also true of doors is that they also have an 'other side'. What matters is knowing which side you're on and what is on the other side. Jesus is the entrance thru whom a person might gain eternal life. There is no other available entrance. (Acts 4:12, Jn.3:36)

John the Baptist was right about Jesus when he spoke about who He was and what He would provide: Jn.3:36 **"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."**

For everyone who has not yet crossed over from death to life, that person is still dead in their trespasses and sins. (Jn.5:24) But to embrace and accept Jesus as Lord and savior and yes, the Door, will gain great life and blessing. Jn.10:9 **"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."**

Jesus Is The Bread of Life

Jn.6:33-51

8-18-2019

"Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (Jesus)

The event of the feeding of the 5,000 took place just a few weeks before the 3rd Passover recorded during Jesus' ministry. (Mt.14:14, Mk.6:35, Lk.9:12, Jn.6:1-14) The conclusion of the crowd after recognizing how they had been fed by Jesus was that Jesus was the Prophet who is to come into the world. (Jn.6:14, Dt.18:15-18) At this point the crowd was ready to forcibly make Jesus King. (Jn.6:15)

Since Jesus was master of His own destiny He withdrew to the mountain by Himself. His disciples later leave by boat without Him. A storm threatens them, Jesus shows up walking on the water and as soon as He steps foot in the boat the boat immediately ends up at shore. (Jn.6:16-21)

The crowd (5,000 +) goes the next day and finds Jesus on the other side of the sea. (Jn.6:22-25) Their finding Jesus prompts a series of questions. When did you come here? (v.25) What must we do to be doing the work of God? (v.28) Then what sign do

you do that we may see and believe? What work do you perform? (v.30)

Jesus answered their questions, each answer leading or prompting their next question. (Jesus was always in control!) They proclaimed Moses gave them manna inaccurately quoting scripture at Him. (v.30-31) (Ex.16:15) Jesus sets them straight but does a time twist. (v.32-33) Their response: "Sir, give us this bread always." (v.34)

Jesus answers (v's. 35-59) proclaiming that He is the true bread that comes down from heaven giving life to all who eat of it. Jesus says some hard things: "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (v.55) It's a little easier to accept Him saying: "I am the bread of life." (v.48)

Jesus later tells the disciples that these are spiritual words: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." (v.63) These words are still true and still are spirit and life. Have you eaten Jesus? Jesus is the true bread of heaven, His flesh true food and His blood true drink! Jesus, the bread of life!

This is also still true: No one comes to Jesus except the Father draws them and grants them to do so. Believe in Jesus and gain Life eternal that is. (v's 44, 65) May the Heavenly Father do just that for those to whom you pray for so that they may gain life eternal thru Jesus, the true Bread of Life. (v.58)

Jesus Is Perfect (Rejected Purposes)

Acts 13:46

8-25-2019

Since you thrust it (the Gospel message that Jesus is the Savior) ***aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to...*** (Acts 13:46b)

Apostle Paul and Barnabas were preaching the "Word of the Lord" (v.44) (See Acts 13:14-51) Paul, as an Apostle, was sent to the Gentiles (the nations) to proclaim the whole council of God. (Acts 20:27) As Paul indicates in verse 20:24 of Acts; he had a purpose and he was striving to finish it well.

Here are some difficult truths: Everyone is born for a purpose! God does not want anyone to perish! (That is He does not want anyone to go to hell) (2Pt.3:9) Most people fail to claim their place in Heaven and so fail to fulfill God's purpose for them. (Mt.7:13-14)

God truly wants all people to come to Him and find salvation. Just as true as that is, not all people are willing to come to Him and accept salvation. The freedom to choose is ours to make. God, by plan and design, wants to finish or complete humanity. Because of the fall and the curse, mankind is incomplete. (Heb.2:10) Flawed! Damaged! (Rm.3:23)

Jesus has made it possible for human beings to fully become what God designed us to be. (Heb.5:9)

God made human being to be like Him but choosing to sin changed or marred that likeness. (Gen.1:26-27) We lost glory, His Glory. Jesus succeeded in doing what no one else could and in His obedience made available a chance for mankind to regain God's glory.

Jesus became the first born of the dead. God's glory not only fully restored but exceeded the original design by surpassing glory. (Heb.1:3) and everyone who accepts God's invitation to become His Child gains the potential to be like Jesus in this surpassing glory. (Eph.4:21-24; 2Cor.4:16; Col.3:10)

2Cor.5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

God's purpose and desire is to reclaim what was lost in the fall. His plan is to refashion fallen and tarnished human beings with greater glory than the original Adam and Eve were made with.

This requires one thing from you: Submit to His will in obedience. Trust Him to work in you His good and perfecting will and vision for who you are in Christ Jesus. His offer is to become His child. (Jn.1:12-13) As His child; to grow up to your full potential in Christ Jesus so that you can fulfill your calling. (Eph.2:10; 2Tm.3:16-17)

Jesus Is the Alpha and the Omega

Rev.1:8

9-1-2019

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."***

Solomon, when he was King over all the tribes of Israel, declared that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Prov.9:10) Solomon did not invent this idea; he only recognized the truth of it. (see Job.28:28; Deut.10:12-14; Ps.111:10)

The world around us will never, ever, really quit make sense until one aligns themselves with the truth. Mankind is not the center of the universe! However, God is! It is God who made mankind and it is He who gave us a place of distinction, authority and responsibility. (Gen.1:26-28)

Recognizing this order is a good place to be in our evaluation and assessment of things. Since God made everything and then made man in His own image and gave him authority and responsibility over His creation; who do you suppose man will have to answer to? To the one who gave him authority and responsibility: God! Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom! How goes your governing?

Up until King Saul God was the rule and authority to govern and judge the behavior of humanity. Notice in God's foresight this directive He gave to the

Israelites centuries before they had a King: "...he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law..." (Deut.17:18-20) Why? Because what he does, how he carries out his responsibilities, how he governs and rules will always be measured against the rule of God. How goes your ruling?

How can man rule as king of his own castle without taking into account that he is answerable to the one who gave him his place? What a person does matters always! The starting place for a life that ends well is recognizing that God is God. Wisdom begins there because in recognizing God is almighty it bodes the next question: what does He (God Almighty) require or expect from me?

Seeking to understand His will in all matters and then doing it is wisdom. (Eph.5:8-10) When John penned the Book of Revelation, he begins by drawing our attention to this foundational insight: God is God and we answer to Him. Always! (Rev.1:3-8) Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega: who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty! He comes and we will answer.

How you treat your fellow human being matters. How you treat each other matters. How you treat yourself matters. How you treat God's creatures and His creation matters. Who you are and what you do matters! Everyone and everything matters to Him who was, who is, who is coming, the Alpha and the Omega! Wisdom begins in knowing our place; God is God and we are not! Rule well good and faithful servant.

Jesus Is the Faithful Witness

Rev.1:4-6 (4)

9-15-2019

Rev.1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1. Him who is, who was and who is to come
2. Faithful Witness
3. Firstborn from the dead
4. Ruler of the kings on earth
5. He who loves us
6. He who freed us from our sins by His blood
7. Made us kings (a kingdom)
8. Made us Priests to His God and father
9. to be Glory and Dominion

Jesus has many attributes to who He is and what He does. It is a hard thing to separate who we are from what we do. Go ahead, answer the question: Who are you? We gain a reasonable picture of who Jesus is and what He did, does and will be doing.

Considering these truths about Jesus, how about we answer some questions about you because of who and what Jesus is - "The Faithful Witness." (successful witness) If this letter was from you!

1. Him (Her) who was not but now am and will be forever more
2. a Witness (faithful?)
3. 789487153283156th born from the dead
4. Rule under the authority of the King (Jesus)
5. I am loved!
6. I am freed from my sins by His (Jesus') blood.
7. I am a prince/princess. (king not King)
8. I am a priest. (not High Priest)
9. He is worthy of my praise.

Had Jesus not faithfully proclaimed the message given Him by the Father; neither list would be true. As it is, both lists are true. Not because of us who believe but because Him in whom we do believe. (Jn.18:37; 1Jn.5:7-10; 1Jn.4:9) (See Jesus' prayer in Jn.17)

Jn.15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

Because Jesus Is; you are too. Testify to what you know to be true. Jesus! (2Tm.2:2 (2:1-3))

Jesus is a Consuming Fire

Heb.12:28-29

9-22-2019

Heb.12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our *God is a consuming fire.*

From the text above we can see that we have reason to be grateful. We have reason because of what Jesus has accomplished for us. Not just what He has done for us in our present circumstances but what He has accomplished for us in the future.

It is true that God loved the world and sent His Son Jesus to die for us. (Jn.3:16 (3:14-21)) I do not want to whitewash the news about Jesus and what He accomplished for humanity. Jesus has made salvation available to all humanity. Are all saved? No! Why? To be saved requires something from the person. Believing! (believing is an action verb)

- Whoever believes in Him may have eternal life 15
- Whoever believes in Him should not perish but 16
- Whoever believes in Him is not condemned 18

Clearly the one who gains the blessings must believe, but the ones who don't fail to gain the blessings of His coming. They are still condemned.

From Jesus' own words we can see that His coming furnished something extraordinary for all the inhabitants of the world. (By God's design) We can

also see the world is divided into two peoples; the believers and the rejecters. The believers are those who accept the facts concerning who Jesus is and who they themselves are. (The Gospel message is incomplete without both facts)

The rejecters are those who reject both truths; that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and that they themselves are hopelessly condemned to eternal death without Him. Why? Because of their own wickedness! What Jesus says is true about them, their deeds are evil and they do not want to give up what they are doing. (2Tm.3:1-4; 2Thes.2:9-12) They take pleasure in what they are doing and reject the idea that it is wrong. These are sobering truths but you are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. (Heb.12:28)

The good news for you who have believed is that you have gained an escape from what the world is receiving and an entrance into the blessings that are found only in and thru Jesus Christ. (2Thes.1:1-12) What if the txt said: "to the church of Metz in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ..."

Our God is a consuming fire and His name is Jesus! Yes our Jesus will come but you who have believed and accepted Him as your Lord and Savior will not have reason to fear that day. Why? Because you have received forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 10:42-43; Rev.20:11-15) By believing you have crossed over from death to life! (Jn.3:36; 5:24)

Jesus Is Yes
2Cor.1:18-22
9-29-2019

2Cor.1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

There is a constancy found in Jesus or rather it is Jesus who is constant. In Jesus yes is proved to be Yes. Paul writes to the Church to assure them and us that Jesus and the message are irrefutably true. Has God changed? Has Jesus changed? Has the blessed Holy Spirit changed? No! No! and No!

We live in a world that is fickle and always changing. Values change, likes and dislikes, popular or unpopular all change on a whim. Not so with Jesus or the Gospel Message. Jesus is still Yes! In Jesus the yes becomes true. Is salvation found only in Jesus? Yes! Are our sins forgiven in Jesus? Yes! Does one gain life eternal thru Jesus? Yes!

Jesus said: ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*** When a person comes to Jesus for salvation they will find Jesus' words to be true. (Acts 13:32-39) Jesus is still the solution to man's sin problem. (Heb.13:8) Is God a liar? No! Are God's promises true and reliable? Yes! (Num.23:19; Heb.6:18) It is possible that a person could

misrepresent God but God will never be found unfaithful to Himself or His promises.

What does Paul, or rather the Gospel say or proclaim about Jesus? Paul writes to the Church (2Cor.1:17-22) that the promises of God were fulfilled thru Jesus. Paul insists that a believer is established in Christ Jesus. When anyone comes to Jesus for salvation they cross over from death to life. (Jn.5:24) Being now made alive in Christ Jesus that person is now established. (brought into true existence, made alive)

The validation of having crossed over from death to life resides in the seal of His ownership. The guarantee being the placement of His Holy Spirit in the believer thus marking them as His. (2Cor.1:22; Rm.8:9; Eph.1:13-14) The price paid for our purchase, Jesus Blood. (Acts.20:28; Rev.5:9)

By His Spirit we are able to profess that Jesus is Lord! (1Cor.12:3) Did Jesus die for you? Yes! Was Jesus resurrected from the grave? Yes! Is forgiveness of sins found in Jesus? Yes! Does a person gain Life Eternal thru Jesus? Yes! Is there found a more abundant life in Jesus? Yes! Can anyone gain these blessings and promises thru Jesus? Yes! Is your answer to Jesus a Yes? Is Jesus your Lord?

If your answer is "Yes" then you are the validation that Jesus is the Yes to all of God's promises. (Rm.16:25-27) Amen!

Jesus Is the Husband (Groom)

Rev.19:7-9

10-20-2019

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Rev.19:7-8)

Both the Old and New Testaments make reference to God's children as the bride and He the Husband. There is distinction made that Israel was God the Father's bride and wife and that the Church is Jesus'. The Father endured a lot of unfaithfulness from Israel but He endured for the sake of the Holy Seed; Jesus. (Mal.2:15)

There is a requirement of faithfulness laid upon the bride, she is promised to one husband; Jesus. It is an important oath one makes when they lay claim to their engagement to the King of Kings. We do not see as much faithfulness to oaths and promises these days as we would like to believe there use to be. I suspect true faithfulness has always been in short supply. The trends of the world are not to be the Churches trends, we are called to be faithful.

There are some concepts in Scripture that challenge our thinking: How can we be the Bride of

Christ and invited wedding guests? There are so many allusions about many deep things within God's Holy Word. Lord Jesus, grant us insight, discernment and understanding!

In Rev.21:9-27 one of the seven Angels came to John and said: ***"Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."*** The verses that follow describe the holy city Jerusalem. How can Jerusalem be the Bride? Apostle Paul and also Peter insist that the Church, its people, are being built into the Temple of the Living God. (Eph.2:21; 1Cor.3:17; 2Cor.6:16; Heb.3:6; 1Pt.2:5)

I can see that as a spiritual stone, one that is required to be a high quality gem stone, you and I are being built into the Temple that God dwells in. I can make some sense out of that but I am pressed to envision myself or you as Jesus' bride. Never the less the symbolism exists that we, the saved, as the Church, are in fact His bride. To remain so, one must retain the integrity of their engagement vow.

We are betrothed to Christ and the wedding will come and the bride will be radiant. Your role in this engagement is to strive for purity in devotion to Jesus. (2Cor.11:1-3; Eph.5:25-33; Rev.19:7-8) ***"His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.***" (Rev.19:7b-8) May our Lord and Savior Jesus strengthen us in our resolve to honor Him in purity.

Jesus Is Real

Col.2:17

10-27-2019

Col.2:17 These things are only a shadow of what was to come. But Christ is real! (CEV)

Hebrews 10:1 tells us that the "Law" was a shadow of good things to come instead of the true form of these realities. The law was absolute, unwavering and merciless. It was harsh in its dealing with disobedience and obedience alike. The good news, the Gospel of our salvation, is we are saved by God's grace and mercy. (Jn.1:17; Mt.5:17)

Jesus fulfilled the law's demands and in doing so demonstrated the greatest virtue of the law: Love. (Mt.22:37-40; Rm.13:8-10) And in fulfilling the demands of the law He became the perfect sacrifice thus offering Himself in death for your sins and mine. (Jn.15:13; Rm.5:6-8)

The law was given to keep the Israelites a separated people and in their separation be a demonstration of the reality that there is a God and that God is the creator of all things. Since God is the designer and builder it stands to good reason that He, in His infinite wisdom, would know and understand what is best for His creation. (Gal.3:23-24) The law, even though it was flawed in its accomplishments did

fulfill its purpose, it brought forth the promised seed of our redemption.

Jesus was right when He said He was the fulfillment of the Law. Not only did He uphold the law in action but He was the embodiment of the law in thought, word, heart and action. He was Love personified and perfected. There is much that we can stand to learn from Jesus about how to become "love" rather than "law". (1Cor.11:1)

The popular acronym WWJD - "What Would Jesus Do" is insightful. Since Jesus negotiated every pathway of His life without fracturing any of the laws of God then it would be right, good and proper to ask this question: wwjd? Jesus fulfilled the law by becoming the law. Jesus is the reality that we, as His servants and siblings, are called to emulate.

Our lives as Christians are not about the do's and don'ts so much as it is about demonstrating godliness. (1Jn.4:7-8; 1Cor.13:4-8) and the embodiment of godliness is love, love for God and love for our fellow man. (1Jn.5:1-3) Just as Jesus is the reality of the law, we are called to be the reality of love which is the law being demonstrated faithfully. Jesus demonstrated perfect love.

Jn.15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Just as Jesus is real, so we too should be real.
Lord, help us to be like you?

Jesus Is lord, Lord or LORD!

Acts 2:36; Phil.2:9-11

11-3-2019

Phil.2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

To what extent is Jesus your lord? What value do you place on His lordship over your life? How much value do you place on Jesus being Lord over your life? As Christians we are called to live a moral life and for the most part, to degree, we do. What is the difference between living a life morally and living by the values of our heart?

For the Israelite (Jew) in Jesus' day the "law" shaped their moral righteousness. (ours too) By the law they fasted and prayed and gave alms to the poor but what did they value? (see Mat.6:16-21) Is it right and good to pray? To fast? To give to the poor? All these are morally right and good to do. How do we value these things determines how God receives them and us.

Habitually, because my moral law says I should, I pray. Is my prayer acceptable to God? What determines my prayers acceptance? (Lk.18:10-14) The difference between the two was not that one prayed and the other didn't. They both prayed. It is morally

right to pray in public, we should always be willing to pray anywhere, private or public. What was the level of value that each of these men placed upon who they were praying to and why they prayed?

Jesus said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." (Lk.14:26) Jesus is making a values statement: Who is to be valued more, Jesus or our fathers, mothers, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, or children? The law, our moral compass, demands we love each of these.

Jesus is setting the value range on being His disciple by telling us He is to be valued more than they. How does that translate for us in practice? Is Jesus real enough in your life to cause you to choose to honor Him in every area of your life? (Col.2:6, 3:17) Moses demonstrated how much he valued God when he chose God and being one of the Israelites rather than being an Egyptian. (Heb.11:24-29)

Most believers in Christ Jesus strive for some level of moral living but is that sufficient? There is much that needs to be said about how we value the various things in our life and the greater we value something determines its place. (1Tm.4:6-11) Godliness is better than moral choice. (see also 1Pt.3:1-17 for values over morals) Jesus is LORD!

Jesus Is Working

Jn.5:16-47

11-10-2019

What is Jesus doing right now, at this very moment? What is God the Father doing right now? Jesus told the Jews who were persecuting Him because He had healed on the Sabbath: ***"My Father works until now, and I work."*** What is their work? The answer rests in the Word.

The back story starts in Jn.5:1 with Jesus going to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. In passing the pool Bethesda Jesus encounters an invalid who had been paralyzed for 38 years. Jesus asks him an interesting question: ***"Do you desire to become well?"*** (verse 6) Jesus chose to heal him and then instructed the man to get up and pick up his mat (cot) and walk. The man did so. (verses 7-9)

The healed man was challenged by the Jews because he was carrying his bed which they believed was work. They question him and find out the man who healed him told him to but he did not know who that man was. (Verses 9-13) Later Jesus finds the man at the temple and spoke these words: ***"Behold, you have become well, sin no more that a worse thing not happen to you."***

Jesus was betrayed to the Jews by the healed man. Curious to know the cost of that betrayal. All of this sets the stage for Jesus' words: ***"My Father***

works until now, and I work." The Father works without regard for the Sabbath and so does Jesus. But what is their work? From the txt we see that the Jews are now upset for multiple reasons, the two primary ones are Jesus healing (working and telling someone else to do so also) and claiming God was His Father thus claiming equality with God. (Verses 18)

Jesus answered (Verses 19-47) them clarifying some facts about just who He is and what the Father has given Him to do. (read) Jesus' instruction and authority come from the Father. (Verses 19b-23)

Jesus insists that by the Father's authority He judges just and truthfully and those who trust or act in faith upon His words have gained life. (Verses 24-30; 24, 29) Jesus insists the evidence about Himself speaks for itself; He is the Son of the Living God. (Verses 31-47) Because Jesus is the Son, He is to be believed and in believing act upon that belief. (verses 39-40)

Jesus, like His Father, is now still working! Do you want to be healed from all of your sins? Do you desire to be well? Jn.5:24 ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, The one who hears My Word, and believes the One who has sent Me, has everlasting life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."*** The reason for gaining life and believing is directly connected to having the Love of God within. (verses 36-44) Jesus is working yet and still. His work brings wholeness and life eternal. Thank you Jesus!

Jesus Is The Image Bearer (so are you)

Heb.1:3; Gen.1:26-27; Col.3:8-15

11-17-2019

Col.1:15 (Jesus) ...; who is the image of the invisible God, the First-born of all creation.

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? I have! Scripture, God's Holy Word tells us that Jesus looks just like God. Matter of fact it declares, emphatically so, that Jesus is the exact likeness. (Heb.1:1-4) When Jesus was a man, when He was embodied in the same suit of flesh as you and I, He was God's true Image Bearer. (Heb.2:14)

It is true that mankind was made in God's likeness or image. (Gen.1:26-27) There has been much effort given over the years trying to explain what it means to be "made in God's Image." The idea that we look like Him in form is one aspect and so is the aspect that our likeness is only spiritual. Both are part of the same truth. Even though we still bear the likeness of God, that likeness is marred because of our sin and wickedness.

In creation Adam and Eve bore the Creator's Glory and then they sinned. They were created in holiness and purity and righteousness and then they sinned and tarnished His Glory. (Rm.3:23) "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (me/you)

Jesus was born from a woman, born in the flesh, born in the image and likeness of God, and so have we all. The difference between Jesus back then when He

was only a man and you and I is that He never tarnished the Glory. (Heb.2:14,17-18; 4:15) Because Jesus retained God's likeness, inside and out, death had no right to take or hold Him.

After Jesus' was resurrected He became more; He became the complete radiance and exact likeness of God. (Heb.1:3) The effect of His resurrection is still being seen, felt and experienced today. You! All of you who have been redeemed; you who have submitted to God's process for redemption have entered into this Glory. (And this Glory has entered into you!)

Everyone who has believed, confessed, professed, repented and was baptized has and is being transformed from glory to Glory to GLORY! All of us, because we are human, bear the likeness of God but in its tarnished form because of our participation in sin. All who have been born again have had the likeness and image of God renewed and improved. The sin that marred was rubbed off or erased and the Spirit of the Almighty has been infused into the inner core or our being. (Col.3:4-15; Eph.4:20-24)

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2Cor.3:18)

Just as Jesus is the image bearer of God the Father, you are the image bearer of God the Son. Go and shine! Jesus in you, the Light and Glory of God.

Jesus Is the Solution - Part 1

(the human, sin, solution)

Gen.3:14-19

12-1-2019

Sin entered the world: **"And Jehovah God said..."**

Gen.3:14

God spoke that fateful day to three listening beings, the snake (satan), Eve and then Adam. God knew 'that day' would come and had written into the fabric of His creation a Solution to the sin that had entered the world: Jesus. (1Pt.1:20) We are blessed in that we have the end of the story: Jesus. (Heb.10:7)

Forget what you know about God, Jesus, the Church, life and death, and your redemption. There was a time in the history of humanity where they did not know such things. What did they know about God and life and death and judgment and grace for that matter? They knew that God had requirements or laws of conduct and behavior that He would hold mankind accountable to. (Gen.4:4,26; Heb.9:22)

The first several verses of Hebrews 1 tells us that God used to speak to men. Before Genesis was recorded by Moses God had already given laws or rules of expectation and had held humanity accountable to them. The flood was God's execution of judgment against human transgression.

God caused Moses to record the historical events of human History so that the future could learn from past failures and successes. (1Cor.10:11)

Why should bad history be repeated by a foolish people? Jesus knew better than anyone that God had a plan and that plan was revealed in glimpses for the future.

Gen.3:15 is the first glimpse, the hatred /animosity between a seed of a woman and satan, the serpent. That seed would bruise/crush satan's head. You and I have been taught what this means but only because we know the end of the story: Jesus, the seed, the head crusher. What would we understand without knowing the end of the story?

Way before Moses' day we gain some other glimpses. God speaking to Abraham told him that in His seed the nations of the earth would be blessed. But there is more there than what is usually talked about; the seed possessing the cities of His enemies. (Gen.22:15-18) Many years later and completely independent of God's words to Abraham a similar prophecy is spoken. (Gen.24) (24:60) And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!"

And Jesus said: **"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I shall build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."** (Mt.16:18) For thousands of years humanity waited for the seed, the head crusher, the gate possessor, the Messiah, and His name is Jesus! And to us a child is born!

Jesus Is the Solution - Part 2

(the human, sin, solution)

Deut.18:15

12-8-2019

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen"

Day dream with me for just a moment, put yourself in the days of Noah or Job and Abraham, how would you contemplate God and death and judgment? It is a fair question, an exercise in the human condition. Solomon tells us there is nothing new under the sun. Is that so? (Ecc.1:9)

Jesus tells us that how it was in Noah's day is how it will be in the end. (Mt.24:36-39) And so it is! The wise should take these matters to heart; there will be a reckoning. There were men and woman who were wise enough to seek understanding, to look for God and contemplate the future beyond the grave. Last week's lesson drew our attention to what the past knew. *"What did they know about God and life and death and judgment and grace for that matter? They knew that God had requirements or laws of conduct and behavior that He would hold mankind accountable to. (Gen.3:15; 4:4,26)"*

We know that God spoke to men such as Job and Abraham and His presence and will were also known by others. (Gen.20:1-18 (6-7); Job.33:15-30) God has always communicated His will to His creation. Not only has God communicated His laws of behavior but also His remedy or solution for sin against one another and against Himself. Elihu, a young friend of Job knew these things.

It is the same today, God continues to communicate and few listen. Before Jesus was born, men and woman who knew there was a God, also knew they were not innocent before Him. They understood the necessity for a blood sacrifice to make atonement for their sins. They also understood that God was the one who would provide the ultimate solution to their sin problem. Elihu serves as an example. (Job.33:19-26) Elihu was seeing Jesus from afar off.

There are a number of passages that show us that early humanity had some understanding of the redeemer who would come on day. We looked at several last week. (Gen.3:14-15; 22:15-18; 24:60) Another glimpse came in the blessing of Jacob's sons. (Gen.49:8-12) "The scepter shall not depart from Judah" (v.10) This passage really only makes sense to us because we have the rest of the story.

Another glimpse came from Balaam over 400 years later. During the times of the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness Balaam was called to curse but could only bless. (Num.24:15-19) "I see him, but not now: I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel:" (v.17) Moses at the end of the days of wondering confirmed that God would send the one to whom they should listen. (Deut.18:15)

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen."

The solution to humanity's sin problem is found in Him and His name is Jesus. Born King of Kings, listen to Him for salvation is found only thru Him. (Lk.1:30-33)

Jesus Is The Solution - part 3

(the human, sin, solution)

Deut.18:15;

12-15-2019

If we started at creation and the 1st glimpse or hint of a Savior we would know that a seed of a woman would crush the serpent's (satan) head. By the time we arrive at Noah's day God was forgotten and wickedness prevailed. (Noah lived from 3190-2240) Humanity had different attitude about God after the flood. They had Noah, the preacher of righteousness.

At the time of Noah's death Abraham was 57 and Sarai was 47. The year that Shem, Noah's son died (2087) Esau and Jacob were 50 and Isaac 123. it was almost 100 years before Shem's death that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. (2198) Isaac was born a year after. (2197)

Isaac was the child of promise but he was not the seed of the woman who would crush satans head. In 2137 Esau and Jacob were born and Jacob would carry the blessing for the future. (our future too) In 2040 Jacob was named Israel. 50 years later in 1990 Israel dies. The anticipated savior or redeemer had not yet come.

In 1577 Moses at 80 years old returns to Egypt to begin to lead the Israelites to the covenanted promised land. Just prior to Moses' death he tells the people "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—

it is to him you shall listen—I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him." (Deut.18:15, 18-19)

From 1537 (death of Moses) down to Jesus' birth, through the judges, the prophets, the priests, and the kings the one who would deliver humanity from their sin was not to be found. Through those 1500 years God reassured His covenanted people that the Messiah would come.

David was told of His coming. (around 1035) (2Sam.7:12-13; Ps.72:9-10) Later prophets spoke about the redeemer, the Christ (Messiah) Isaiah spoke of a child coming. (Isa.7:14; 9:6-7) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel were all prophesying during this time. (600-570 and longer)

Micah also spoke in those days of His coming: (Mic.5:2) "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." It is true, what was spoken so long ago did come to pass and now, just over 2000 years since His coming we still wait for His return.

Jesus Is The Solution (Part 4)

(the human, sin, solution)

12-22-2019

Prophecies Looming in the future -

- Gen.3:15 (God speaking to the serpent) "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
- Job.33:23 (Elihu to Job) "If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him, 24 and he is merciful to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom;'"
- Gen.22:17 (God to Abraham) "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."
- Gen.24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!"
- Gen.49:10 (Jacob's blessing over Judah) "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."
- Num.24:17 (Balaam's prophecy) "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."
- Dt.18:18 (God to Moses) "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words

in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him."

- 2Sam.7:12 (God to David) "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom."
- Ps.72:9 May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
- Is.7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- Is.9:6 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. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
- Mic.5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
- Luke 1:12-20 Angel sent to Zechariah
- Luke 1:26-38 Angel sent to Mary
- Luke 1:39-45 Mary goes to see Elizabeth
- Luke 1:67-79 Zechariah's Prophecy
- Luke 2:1-6 and in Bethlehem

"To Be Continued" - 12-24-2019

Jesus Is the Solution - Part 5

(the final episode)

1 Cor.15:12-26

12-29-2019

1Cor.15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

Over the past 4 weeks it has been shown thru prophecies revealed in Holy Scripture that Jesus is the one waited for. But we did look only at the few dozen scriptures that pointed to His coming and not the entirety of His predicted life. It is conclusive that Jesus, the baby born to Mary in Bethlehem, is the Christ (Messiah) child.

When you read the rest of the Gospels and look carefully at His life and death achievements you will once again see dozens of scripturally recorded prophecies again being fulfilled in and thru or by Him. The biblical and secular evidence confirming Jesus the man as having lived and accomplished great things is irrefutable. The struggle resides in His having been resurrected. In His resurrection hang the prophecies of the future.

The Jews rejected evidence about Jesus and deny that He is the Christ, the one whom they wait for. For them the future return means nothing because he has not yet come. (sadly to their eternal loss) For Christianity our struggle is to live like we believe He came and is coming again.

The Jews had biblical evidence to show them the Messiah was coming but refused to believe. We too have biblical evidence to show us the Messiah, whose name is Jesus, and that evidence says He will return! The question is: will the Church be ready?

The Church, that is all who are redeemed by His blood, are encouraged (commanded) to be a prepared people. Those who belong to Jesus have the burden of living like they believe Jesus is returning. (1Thes.3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2Pt.3:1-14)

The lost may or may not believe you when you tell them about Jesus but the burden of belief is theirs. Your burden is the telling. The fact remains forever true: Jesus Is! We together have covered in 2019 a total of 45 aspects of what or who Jesus Is. You, if you have been paying attention, have accumulated a vast knowledge of who this Jesus is, what He has done, and what that means for humanity. You have plenty to tell about Jesus and the fact that He is. (Eze.33:1-9) Watchman, will you give warning?