

# WHAT GOOD IS GOOD DOCTRINE?

## What Good is the Doctrine of Christ?

I want to begin this morning with a direct answer to the question, “What Good is the Doctrine of Christ?” Put another way, we could ask, “Why should I learn more about Jesus?”

My dear friend, the reason is that of all the things that God reveals to us in His perfect Word, which we call the Bible, the most important things for any person to know are found in the teachings of and about Jesus Christ.

Particularly, **there are two critical things that we can learn from the Scriptures that speak of Christ:**

- How can we have forgiveness of sin and live with God forever?

Romans 10:9–10 NKJV 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- Believe Jesus died for my sin and rose from the dead.
- Confess Jesus as the Lord (Master) of my life.
- You will be saved.
- Once we are saved, how shall we then live?

Philippians 2:3–8 NKJV 3 *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself.*** 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for **the interests of others.** 5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and coming in the likeness of men.* 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

After we are saved, how ought we to live?

- Controlled by the mind of Christ

- **Humble, counting others as more important than myself**
- **Obedient to God**
- **Unselfish**

We see both of these answers to this critical question over and over again as we read what the Bible tells us about Christ.

## I. LIKE GOD THE FATHER, CHRIST HAS ALWAYS EXISTED.

### A. Christ is eternal; He existed before His birth in Bethlehem.

Calling Christ by the title of the Word, John writes at the beginning of his gospel.  
**John 1:1-2 NKJV 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.**

### B. Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

**C. Christ is God. Colossians 2:9 NKJV For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;**

1. He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
2. All of the attributes of God apply to Christ, as they do to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Christ is holy, righteous, just, good, loving, merciful, and faithful.

## II. CHRIST APPEARED OCCASIONALLY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD.

**A. Christ is often called the Angel of God or Angel of the Lord.** In Joshua, Christ appears as the Commander of the Lord's army.

**Joshua 5:13–15 NKJV 13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as **Commander of the army of the LORD** I have now come." And **Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped**, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy." And Joshua did so.**

Why was the ground holy? Because it was God in the Person of Christ who stood there.

**When Christ is appearing, He**

- **Speaks as God.**
- **Acts as God.**
- **Receives worship.**

In contrast, other angels deliver God's message and declare what God will do; but they refuse to receive worship.

- B. In addition to appearances made by Christ, the Old Testament contains more than 100 prophecies of Christ's first coming to live as a man upon the earth.**

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV For **unto us a Child is born**, Unto us a Son is given; ... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

God also told Isaiah that when Christ came, He would die to pay the penalty for our sins.

Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV 5 But **He was wounded for our transgressions**, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And **the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

- C. There are even more prophecies of His second coming, contained in both the Old and New Testaments.**

Daniel 2:44 NKJV And in the days of these kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; ..., and it **shall stand forever.**

Matthew 25:31 NKJV "**When the Son of Man comes in His glory**, and all the holy angels with Him, then **He will sit on the throne of His glory.**"

### **III. IN 4 B.C., CHRIST WAS BORN AS BABY JESUS IN BETHLEHEM.**

- A. This was the union of God and Man, the God-Man.** Thus the Holy Spirit spoke the words to Matthew He had breathed centuries before to Isaiah the prophet.

Matthew 1:23 NKJV "**Behold, the virgin shall be with child**, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name *Immanuel*," which is translated, "**God with us.**"

**1. Just as Isaiah prophesied, a human child would be born who would be the Mighty God.**

- a. He was to be called Immanuel, which means, "God with us."
- b. Not God who appeared to be man.
- c. Not Man who became God.
- d. Jesus was as fully God as if never man.
- e. Jesus was as fully man as if never God.
- f. Not 50% God and 50% Man; 100% God; 100% Man, the God-Man

**2. Why did Christ become a man?**

**a. To reveal the Father.**

John 14:8-11 NKJV 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, ...

**b. To be the sacrifice for our sin.**

Hebrews 10:10 NKJV ... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

- 1) A sacrifice must die.
- 2) God cannot die. (Remember, He is eternal. He ever lives!)
- 3) Christ had to become a man so that He could die for our sins.

Folks, Jesus' death was not an unexpected turn of events. In Revelation, Jesus is called "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," because before the first man and woman were even created, in the divine council of the Trinity, God the Father purposed to send God the Son to die on a cross to pay the penalty of sin for all mankind.

I believed Jesus died for me and rose from the dead and trusted Him as my own Lord and Savior when I was eight years old.

My father did not believe and trust the Lord until he was on his death bed at the age of 55.

Whether you are a child, a teen, an adult, the number one purpose why God breathed the perfect truth out about Christ to be recorded in the Bible was that you would trust in Him and receive forgiveness and eternal life.

**c. To be an example to us.**

1 Peter 2:21 NKJV For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:

What is the example? I showed you at the beginning of this message.

Philippians 2:3–8 NKJV 3 *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself**. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for **the interests of others**. 5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and **became obedient to the point of death**, even the death of the cross.

Christ Jesus as a man gives us the example of how to live.

- **Controlled by the mind of Christ** as Jesus was controlled by the Father even though He was and is equal in every way.
- **Humble, counting others as more important than myself**
- **Obedient to God**
- **Unselfish**

**d. To be our Sympathetic High Priest.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 NKJV 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*,

yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We sang about it a few minutes ago.

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Some of you have told me that you like transparency in the pulpit. So do I when somebody else is preaching. I'm not nearly as fond of it when I'm the one bringing the message.

But I'm going to give you some transparency this morning. It's been a rough week because some of the sheep are restless. And when some of the sheep are restless it makes the shepherd restless as well. I have felt more stress this week than any time since I became your pastor, your shepherd.

I tell you this for only one reason – to give glory to my sympathetic High Priest. I can go to Him and He does not condemn. Not because I do no wrong or have no fault, but because He has already paid the price for all my sins and failings. His death was more than sufficient to purchase my pardon.

I tell you this because my sympathetic High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, understands what I'm going through. He had and has more restless sheep than I ever will in my whole life.

He reminds me of the example He gave through His life and death.

- He reminds me to have His mind and His heart attitude.
- He reminds me to reject pride and embrace humility.
- He reminds me to care more for others than for self.

- And most of all He reminds me to be obedient to God.

I do not find any of the reminders easy. But I find them all helpful when I will do them.

And this sympathetic High Priest is as available to you as He is to me. If you have trusted Christ, Jesus is your sympathetic High Priest available 24/7/365.

Some of you deal with a lot more restless sheep than I do. Some of you deal not with sheep at all but with wolves.

Jesus dealt with wolves also. He can help.

Where do we learn what He did with wolves? In the teaching, in the doctrine of Christ.

#### **IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT TELLS THE WHOLE STORY OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST – EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW.**

- Born of a virgin.
- Lived a sinless life.
- Demonstrated God's miraculous power.
- Paid the penalty for sin by dying upon the cross.
- Rose from the dead on the third day and proved Himself alive to more than 500 people.
- Ascended back to His Father in heaven.
- Promised to return to take the saved home with Him and then to establish His Kingdom upon the earth.

CONCLUSION: All of this and more God breathed out to the men to put in the Holy Scriptures, primarily so

- Each of us would know how to be saved.
- Each of us would know how God wants us to live after we are saved.

Many of you know much of the doctrine of Christ. But has it worked its purpose in your life? Have you been saved?

If you have been saved, are you living with the mind of Christ in control, humbly, selflessly, obediently?