

Jesus – The Person

Andrew Smith

11-Apr-04

Opening

- John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

File – Passion of Christ

- Many of us have probably seen comments about the new film – “The Passion of Christ”.
 - Many evangelical organizations are calling this a major opportunity to reach out to the community.
 - I have not seen yet the film but it seems that it clearly shows the passion of Christ.
 - It shows His commitment to us in the way He lived and the way He died on the Cross.
- Who is Jesus to you ?
 - Ask for comments – let people express who Christ is to them

BUT WHO IS CHRIST according to the scriptures

Christianity has many differences to other religions – One of them is that other religions are based on what someone taught – be it Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, Plato, Zoroaster, Joseph Smith, etc.. but in Christianity our faith is not based on what Christ taught (although it is important) but on who HE is.

Christ has many names – which help us to indicate who He is. Many of them we know and quote because they help us remember what He did for us. But the names are not just a description of what He did – they are more than that – they are a description of who He is.

This document shows just over 100 of the names and titles of Christ. Names like:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| - Almighty | Alpha and Omega |
| - Beloved Son | Branch |
| - Bread of life | Glory of God |
| - Great high priest | Heir of all things |
| - Holy one | King of the Ages |
| - Morning star | Word of God |

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Jesus the Man

We often talk about Jesus becoming man – like one of us to share in our sufferings – to understand what it is to be human.

However, we need to be careful to remember that He never stopped being God. The second person of the Godhead (the Son) took on the form of man but was still very God.

Verus homus, verus Deus

You may ask – how could He do that – I don't know – it is like asking how did God make the universe – I know that He commanded and it happened.

Trinity

One of the mysteries of the Christian faith is the Trinity – 3 very distinct persons – yet together as one God.

Some explain that it is the same as us : 1 person – yet 3 parts → Body, Soul and Spirit. Some explain that they are 3 different expressions → For example I am the Father of my children, I am the son of my father and mother and the brother to my 2 siblings → yet I am 1 person. Despite all this I still struggle to really understand. 3 very different persons in 1. It is not a matter of trying to figure it out → it is a matter of faith → the scriptures clearly identify 3 persons in one → 1 God.

We know from the Word that He emptied himself and became a servant in the likeness of man **Philippians 2 v 6-7**

What did Paul mean – not that Jesus stopped being God – but that He also took the form of man – both existing together – no conflict.

HOW → I don't know but I know that GOD can choose to do what He chooses to do → I cannot explain it all just as I cannot explain how the stars are placed where they are.

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2nd person of the Trinity

So who is the second person of the trinity → the one we call Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament foretold of His coming, death and resurrection.

- The firstborn of Israel being passed over in Egypt
- The snake being lifted up in the wilderness
- Isaiah has many references to Christ →
 - Isa 49v6 – It is not enough for you to recover the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light to the gentiles.
 - Isa 53 v5,9,12 – But He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that bought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
 - What did Christ say on the cross – dying for each one of us → **“Father forgive them they know not what they do”**
- Take a note of these scriptures – look them up later
 - Zec. 9 v 9
 - Zec. 11 v 12-13
 - Sec. 12 v 10
 - Ps. 22 especially verses 1 and 18
 - Ps 69 v 12
 - Isa. 53 v 9
 - And many many more !!

The disciples of Jesus identified Jesus as God and savior

John 20 v 28 – When asked to put his finger in the side of Jesus Thomas said: **“My Lord and My God”**

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‘Everything that was created was created in and through Him’

Who do men say that I am ?

Who do you say that I am →

They saw the evidence of His miracles and believed !

He was glorified / transfigured in front of Peter, James and John.

The angels in heaven proclaim Him as God

- At his birth
- In the wilderness
- At His resurrection

Jesus himself claimed to be the divine savior of the world.

John 5 v 16 – My Father never stops working, and so I keep working too.

John 8 v 58 – I tell you the truth before Abraham was even born, I AM !

Jesus even used the sacred name of God for himself !

Rev 1v 17 – Jesus spoke to John after John had fallen at His feet

‘Don’t fear I am the First and the Last. I am alive. I died but I came to life, and my life now is forever.

In the letters to the churches in the book of Revelation → Christ continues to identify himself as the First and Last.

Jesus also claimed that ‘Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my Word will never pass away’.

We often think of creation as permanent but it will fail at the end of time – even scientists confirm this → but the truth will never pass fail.

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EVEN satan and demons recognized Jesus as the son of God – the HOLY one.

Why is this important ?

There are many who cannot or will not accept the reality of Christ as the divine saviour of the world.

Many of them say that they cannot accept that He is God.

Perhaps a good man
Or perhaps a sage (a wise man or prophet)

But He could not be just a good man or a wise man → How can a good man claim to be God and expect people to follow him and worship him ?

If someone were to do that today we claim that they were either wicked – trying to trick people, or if they really believed it themselves we would say that they were insane.

It was necessary that Jesus was God

Christ had to be God because only God could rescue mankind from His wrath, from the power of sin and death. Only God could satisfy God's justice.

- 1. No man could have borne the weight of the sins of the world – to have drunk the cup of judgement.**
- 2. Only God could fulfill the requirements to provide a pathway back to eternity with God**
- 3. Only God could demonstrate His amazing love**
- 4. Christ had to be God to buy his people back to himself – for all people.**
- 5. Only God could defeat the works of the evil one**

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Our response ?

To love and seek Him, to put Christ first in our life – to know more about Him and to be in that place of confidence and assurance that CANNOT BE SHAKEN.

We are told to always be ready to account for the hope that is within us – to do that we need to know and demonstrate that Christ is not just a good man, not just a prophet or wise man, not only our saviour → BUT ALSO THAT CHRIST IS THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY – MIGHTY GOD → THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF THE WHOLE OF CREATION. → WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE.

To show the love of Christ in our families
To love one another with the love that Christ has for us.

BEFORE WE TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER AS A REMINDER AND CELEBRATION OF OUR GOD AND KING, ONE AREA THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS BRIEFLY FOR THIS PART OF HIS BODY IS THE ISSUE OF

GOSSIP – PERHAPS FROM ANGER, JEALOUSY, PAST HURTS

WE CANNOT CONTINUE IN THIS → IF YOU ARE GOSSIPING OR LISTENING TO GOSSIP → STOP → THE WORD TELLS US THAT THE TONGUE IS MIGHTY – NOT ONLY FOR BLESSING BUT ALSO FOR CURSE.

LET ME READ YOU A SHORT STORY AND THEN WE WILL HAVE A TIME OF SILENCE WHILE EACH OF US COMES BEFORE THE LORD OUR GOD AND EXAMINES THEMSELVES WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Fence

There was little boy who kept making up or repeating stories about others. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he made up or repeated a story he should hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to not tell or repeat stories than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't tell or repeat stories at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to not repeat or make up stories about others. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you make up or repeat stories to try to make others look bad, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out.

It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad a physical one."