

GREAT BIBLE DOCTRINES - LESSON 2 THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Introduction: Matthew 16:16 -- "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Christ" is from the Greek word meaning "anointed" and is equivalent to the Hebrew term "Messiah", which refers to the divine King and Savior whose coming was prophesied in the Old Testament.

1. The triune God. That there are three persons in the God-head or Divinity is indicated by:
 - A. The "first person plural" passages in Genesis - 1:26; 3:22.
 - B. N. T. references - Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17; 1 Peter 1:2.
 - C. All three persons are clearly present at Jesus' baptism - Matthew 3:16, 17.

2. The divinity of Christ - Matthew 16:13-20
 - A. His pre-existence - John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:15,16; John 17:5; Hebrews 1:1-3; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 8:58
 - B. His volunteering to go to earth - Hebrews 10:5-7, from Psalm 40:6-8
 - C. His birth of the virgin - Luke 1:31-35; Matthew 1:18-23; Isaiah 7:14. His entering an earthly body is called the "incarnation" (becoming flesh) - John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2:5.
 - D. His fulfillment of prophecies - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Luke 24:44
 - E. His deity clearly taught in scripture - Hebrews 1:8; John 1:1,2,14; 8:58; 14:27,28; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 16:16,17; 1:23.
 - F. His miracles - John 3:2; 20:30, 31
 - G. His resurrection - Romans 1:4
 - 1) The empty tomb - Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3, 12; John 20:1, 2
 - 2) His appearances after his resurrection - Acts 1:3; 10:40, 41
 - a. The number of witnesses - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 - b. The credibility of the witnesses
 1. They were eyewitnesses.
 2. They were not mistaken--they made sure.
 3. They were not dishonest--they were willing to die for their testimony.
 4. Thousands of people in a position to check the facts believed their testimony, and the unbelieving Jewish authorities, who would have done anything to disprove the gospel, could not.
 - c. The great change in Saul (Paul) after seeing the risen Christ
 - 3) His resurrection is the only explanation for the Lord's Day, the New Testament church, and the New Testament.

3. The work of Christ - 1 John 3:8
 - A. His sinless life - Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22, 23

- B. His wonderful acts - Acts 10:38; Matthew 11:3-5
 - C. His matchless teachings - John 7:46; Matthew 7:28, 29
 - D. His sacrificial, atoning death - 1 Corinthians 15:3; Matthew 20:28; Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 3:23-26
 - E. His present work
 - 1) He is our Savior - Matthew 1:21; Ephesians 5:23; Luke 2:11.
 - 2) He has gone to prepare a place for us - John 14:2.
 - 3) He appears in the presence of God for us - 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1.
 - 4) He reigns as king - 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 17:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:22-36.
 - 5) He is the means of our receiving all spiritual blessings - Ephesians 1:3.
 - F. His future work - John 5:28, 29; 2 Timothy 4:1; John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
4. Our relationship to Christ.
- A. We should believe in him as the Christ, the Son of God - Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 16:31; 8:36, 37.
 - B. We should recognize him as the only source of salvation - Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 1:15; John 14:6.
 - C. We should accept him as our Lord, the one who has all authority, and submit every area of our heart and life to his will - Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:36; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 3:17; Hebrews 5:9; John 14:15; 2 Corinthians 10:5.
 - D. We should love him with all our hearts and seek spiritual fellowship with him - John 14:23; Revelation 3:20; 1 John 4:19; 2 Peter 3:18.
 - E. We should follow him and do our best to be like him - Matthew 16:24, 25; 1 Peter 2:21; Ephesians 4:13, 15.

Thought questions for discussion:

1. Why do you think "Christ" ("The Anointed") was one of the main names God chose for our Savior?
2. Are there some truths in God's word that we cannot fully understand but have to accept by faith?
3. Was God's Son divine (was he also God) while he was with the Father before coming to the earth as a man?
4. Now that Christ has ascended back to the Father, is he still man as well as God? See 1 Timothy 2:5.

5. If you were trying to convince a person that Jesus rose from the dead, what concrete evidences would you offer?
6. Why is the fact of the resurrection so important in relation to who Jesus claims to be?
7. Why is it important that our faith be based on historical, objective facts and not just on inward feelings?
8. Why is it so important for our faith that we know Jesus well?
9. What is Christ doing right now for our salvation?
10. Discuss the difference between a formal, outward conversion, and a true yielding of all parts of our lives to the Lordship of Jesus.

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