

“Inquirers’ Class”
(Part 2: Christ)

II. Christ.

A. Introduction.

1. What is God’s greatest revelation of Himself?
 - a. God’s whole purpose in doing all He has is to glorify Himself.
 - (i) This is why He made all He has made and this is His purpose in the work of redemption: to reveal who He is that we might marvel.
 - (ii) “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36).
 - b. His greatest revelation of what He is like personally He has given us through His Son.
 - (i) “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*” (John 1:18).
 - (ii) “And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3).
 - (iii) He is God in human flesh, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14).
2. To understand God, we must understand Jesus.

B. Who is Jesus?

1. Does it matter what you believe about Jesus?
 - a. Yes. Without the right Jesus, you will not understand and come to know the true God.
 - (i) It was important to Jesus that men understood who He was: He asked the Pharisees, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” (Matt. 22:42).
 - (ii) He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (16:13).
 - b. If you do not believe in the right Jesus, you will not be saved.
 - (i) We are not saved by a name, but by the person represented by that name.
 - (ii) That’s why trusting in the Jesus of the JWs won’t save you: He is not a created spirit who was made man.
 - (iii) Trusting in the Jesus of the Mormons won’t save you: He is not the spiritual offspring of Elohim and one of his celestial wives, and his body is not the result of Elohim having relations with Mary.
2. What do you need to know and believe to believe in the Biblical Jesus?

- a. You must believe that He is the Son of God: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1).
 - (i) In other words, you must believe He is God the Son.
 - (ii) God is triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - (a) The Father is God: “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him” (1 Cor. 8:5-6).
 - (b) The Spirit is God: “But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God’” (Acts 5:1-4).
 - (c) And Jesus is God: the eternal Son of God.
 - (1) He was in the beginning with God: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).
 - (2) He created all things: “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (v. 3).
 - (3) He is one being with the Father: “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).
 - (4) “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form” (Col. 2:9).
 - (5) No wonder Jesus said to Philip when he asked Jesus to show him the Father, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” (John 14:9).
 - (6) They share exactly the same nature, though they are two different persons.
- b. You must also believe that Jesus is the Son of Man: “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man” (John 3:13).
 - (i) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary: The angel said to Joseph in a dream, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 1:20).
 - (ii) He grew up: “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52).

- (iii) He experienced the weakness of humanity: “And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry” (Matt. 4:2).
 - (iv) He died and was raised again from the dead: “Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us” (Rom. 8:33-34).
 - (v) “Who is the Redeemer of God's elect? A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever” (WSC 21).
- c. You must believe that He is the Lord's Messiah.
- (i) The miracles confirmed who He was.
 - (a) “Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see: *the* blind receive sight *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me’” (Matt. 11:2-6).
 - (b) “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30-31).
 - (c) Others performed miracles; but Jesus performed miracles that confirmed His claim to be the Messiah, the Son of God.
 - (ii) You must believe that He lived a sinless life.
 - (a) “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?” (John 8:46).
 - (b) “Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - (c) Even a perfect man (Adam) succumbed to temptation within a week. Jesus lived 33 ½ years without sin – from his childhood up.
 - (iii) That He died.
 - (a) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3).
 - (b) “And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Luke 23:46).
 - (iv) That He was raised from the dead.

- (a) “Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 1:1-4).
- (b) There only need to be two or three witnesses to establish this fact, but the Lord gave five hundred: “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also” (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

C. What did Jesus come to do?

1. He came to save His people from their sins:
 - a. “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).
 - b. “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
 - c. “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:26-28).
2. Why do you need to be saved?
 - a. Because of the guilt of sin.
 - (i) What is sin? “Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4).
 - (ii) Sin brings guilt and guilt the condemnation of death:
 - (a) “Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death” (James 1:15).
 - (b) “For the wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23).
 - b. Because you sinned in Adam.
 - (i) “So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men” (Rom. 5:18).
 - (ii) “For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners” (v. 19).

- (iii) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (v. 12).
 - (iv) “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).
 - c. Because apart from God’s mercy you will be lost forever:
 - (i) “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’” (Luke 18:13).
 - (ii) “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15).
- 3. What did Jesus do to save man? He fulfilled God’s requirement of perfection.
 - a. God is holy and requires that we be holy to enter into heaven:
 - (i) We must be perfect by having obeyed His commandments perfectly.
 - (ii) But we’ve already seen we have failed to do this and are guilty.
 - b. And so to save us, Jesus had to die for our sins – for the guilt we received from Adam, as well as our many failures to obey:
 - (i) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).
 - (ii) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3).
 - (iii) “And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins’” (Matt. 26:27-28).
 - (iv) “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 28:20).
 - c. But we also needed a perfect righteousness, and so Jesus obeyed in our place:
 - (i) First, He came into this world without sin, being born of the Virgin: His being born in this way kept Adam’s sin from being credited to Him.
 - (ii) Then He obeyed God’s Law perfectly:
 - (a) This is what God requires: “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).
 - (b) This is what Jesus provided: “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith” (Phil. 3:8-9).
 - (c) The forgiveness of sins is not enough – it brings the balance of justice to zero – we need a positive righteousness.

- d. When you trust in Jesus, that righteousness is credited to you: “What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness” (Rom. 4:1-5).
- e. Why was it important that Jesus be both God and man to save us?
 - (i) Man owed the debt and so man must pay it: “For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (Heb. 2:16-17).
 - (ii) But the debt is infinite, and so only God could pay it.
 - (a) Sins against an infinitely holy and worthy Being are infinitely serious.
 - (b) Only an infinite payment could be enough.
 - (c) This is another argument for Christ’s deity.