

New Member's Class 2
(Person and Work of Christ)

I. Introduction.

A. Why is it important to study the doctrine of Christ?

1. He is the Savior.
2. It's through faith in Him that we're saved.

B. Can we be saved by believing in the wrong Jesus?

1. We are not saved by a name, but by a person.
2. If we are trusting in the wrong person, we won't be saved.

C. How do we identify the real Jesus?

1. Do we do it by sight?

- a. No.
 - (i) We don't know what He looks like.
 - (ii) He's no longer on earth.
- b. There is no description of His physical appearance, beyond the fact that He was a Jewish male.
- c. What does this tell us about the value of portraits of Jesus?

2. How do we identify Him then?

- a. By who He is in His person.
- b. By what He has done in His work.

II. Christ: Who is He? What has He done?

A. What are some essential things we need to believe to have the right Christ with regard to who He is?

1. He is God the Son.

- a. What is important to believe regarding His deity? That He is God.
 - (i) How many persons are there in the Godhead? Three.
 - (ii) Is Christ one of these persons? Which one? The Second Person/the Son.
 - (iii) Why is He called the Son of God? He is eternally begotten of the Father.
 - (a) The Father is called the Father because He is the One who eternally begot the Son.
 - (b) The Son is called the Son because He is eternally begotten of the Father.
 - (c) The Spirit is called the Spirit because He eternally proceeds from the Father and Son.
 - (d) Edwards believed that the Spirit is the love the Father and Son eternally have for each other, breathed out in a most holy affection.

(iv) Why do we believe He is God?

- (a) He has the names of God.

- (1) He is called God (John 1:1; Rom. 9:5).
 - (2) He is called Father of Eternity (Isa. 9:6).
- (b) He does the works of God.
 - (1) He creates (John 1:3).
 - (2) He forgives (Luke 7:49).
 - (3) He commands the creation and it obeys (Mark 4:41).
 - (c) He receives worship (Matt. 14:33).
- b. Why is it important that He be God?
- (i) He must be God to endure His wrath.
 - (ii) He must be God to make a payment valuable enough to pay for the sins of a multitude no man can number and to pay for their infinite sins.
- c. Why do some doubt His deity?
- (i) Because of statements made of Him that can't be true of God: ignorance of day of His return, Father greater than I.
 - (ii) How can these statement be true of Jesus if He is God? He is also man, with the limitations of a man.
2. He is the Son of God/Son of Man.
- a. What is important to believe regarding His humanity?
- (i) That He was conceived in the womb of the Virgin.
 - (ii) That He was born of her, without sin: a sinful man couldn't pay for His own sins.
 - (iii) That He had a complete human nature: fully man.
 - (iv) He is also called the Son of God because He is begotten of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). What does this tell us about the deity of the Spirit?
- b. Why is it important that Christ be a man?
- (i) That He might die for our sins:
 - (a) God can't die.
 - (b) Man owed the debt.
 - (ii) That He might be a sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 2:17-18).
 - (a) We need someone touched with our weaknesses.
 - (b) We need someone who can come to our rescue when we are tempted.
 - (1) Was Jesus tempted? Yes.
 - (2) Did Jesus sin? No.
 - (3) Could Jesus have sinned? No.
 - (4) Why not? Because of His divine nature it was impossible.
- c. When Jesus became a man did He cease to be God? Did He lay aside any of His attributes?
- (i) No. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

- (ii) If He laid aside any of His divine attributes, He would cease to be God, for God is by definition His attributes.

B. The Work of Christ.

1. What are some of the essentials things we should believe regarding His work?
 - a. He obeyed the Law of God perfectly: fulfilled the Covenant of Works.
 - b. He died on the cross to atone for sins.

2. Why was it important that He do these things?
 - a. If He hadn't obeyed:
 - (i) He would not have been qualified to die for us.
 - (ii) He wouldn't be able to provide us with a perfect obedience: zero guilt is not enough; we need a positive righteousness.

 - b. If He hadn't died, His righteousness wouldn't have done us any good, since we would still be guilty of sin.
 - (i) Any sin, even the least deserves damnation.
 - (ii) If it isn't all removed, we are still unrighteous and guilty.

 - c. For whom did Jesus lay down His life?
 - (i) Not for all men, but for His sheep (John 10:15).
 - (ii) What about passages that say He died for the whole world?
 - (a) They are speaking about Gentile inclusion and not the Jews exclusively.
 - (b) If He had died for the sins of the whole world, then no one could be condemned: no guilt, no hell.

 - (iii) Could it have been merely a potential payment?
 - (a) If so, it was possible He suffered for nothing: Perhaps no one would receive Him.
 - (b) But Jesus tells us that He laid down His life specifically for His sheep: "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd. . . . But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand" (John 10:14-16; 26-29).
 - (c) "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).
 - (d) Does the mean we are limiting the value of His atonement? No, only it's intent.