

Lesson 4

JESUS CHRIST

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Every lesson that we've looked at and will look at really revolves around Christ. His work is the focus of the entire Word of God, and therefore no matter what portion of God's Word you're discussing, it somehow relates to the way Christ saved us. Therefore, in this lesson we're going to take a detailed look at what God's Word has to say about Jesus Christ and his work. To do that we'll need to answer the following questions.

- ◆ Who is Jesus Christ?
- ◆ What is Jesus Christ's work?

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the *Deity* lives in bodily form.

Romans 9:5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, *who is God* over all, forever praised!

1 John 4:9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only *Son* into the world that we might live through him.

- 1) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what does the Bible call Jesus Christ?

John 2:7-9 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.

John 11:43,44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Mark 6:41-44 He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Mark 4:39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 1:34 Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons.

- 2) Do these passages support your answer to question #1. If so, how?

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the *man* Christ Jesus.

Romans 9:5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the *human* ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!

Romans 5:15 If the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one *man*, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

3) According to the italicized portions of those verses, what else does the Bible call Jesus Christ?

Mark 11:12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.

John 19:28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

John 4:6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well.

Galatians 4:4 God sent his son, born of a woman.

Matthew 26:38 My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.

4) Do these passages support the your answer to question #3. If so, how?

On the basis of what we've looked at so far, how would you answer that question "WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?"

The way that Jesus was conceived and born is evidence of this, as well. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and *will give birth to a son*, and will call him Immanuel. (Immanuel means "God with us.")

Luke 1:30,31,34,45 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and *give birth to a son*, and you are to give him the name Jesus. "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, *born of a woman...*

5) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what about Jesus' conception and birth shows that he is true man?

6) According to the underlined portions of those passages, what about Jesus' conception and birth shows that he is true God?

We generally refer to this miracle as the “incarnation.”

✔ **DEFINITION: incarnation** — *The taking on of a human nature by the Son of God. It refers to the conception and birth of Jesus.*

This was crucial to the plan of salvation. In this following section we’ll explore why the Son of God had to become human in order to pay for sins. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Galatians 4:4,5 God sent his Son, born of a woman, *born under law*, to redeem those under law.

Romans 7:1 Do you not know, brothers -- for I am speaking to men who know the law -- *that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?*

John 8:46 [Jesus said], “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”

Hebrews 4:15 We have one who has been *tempted in every way, just as we are* – yet was without sin.

- 7) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what is one reason that Jesus had to be a man in order to pay for our sins?
- 8) According to the underlined portions of those passages, what is one reason that Jesus had to be God in order to pay for our sins.

Hebrews 2:14,15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that *by his death* he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 We believe that Jesus *died* and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Psalm 49:7,8 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him — the ransom for a life is costly.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that *one died* for all.

Mark 10:45 The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give his life* as a ransom for many.

- 9) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what is another reason Jesus had to be a man in order to pay for our sins?
- 10) According to Psalm 49 can one man simply make a bargain to trade his life for another? (For example, could one pray, “God, punish me for the sins of my friend”?)
- 11) Therefore, what is another reason that Jesus had to be God in order to pay for our sins? (Look at the underlined portions of those passages for help.)

Acts 3:18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had *foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.*

Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said to me, "... You must *go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.*

Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Titus 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness— a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.

Luke 10:16 [Speaking to his disciples Jesus said], "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

13) According to the italicized portions of those verses, what was the job of the Old Testament prophets?

14) How did Jesus function as a prophet when he was working on earth?

15) According to the underlined portions of those passages, how does Jesus function as a prophet and share the Gospel today?

Leviticus 16:24 Then [the high priest] shall come out and *sacrifice* the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people.

Hebrews 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again *he offers the same sacrifices*, which can never take away sins.

Hebrews 9:7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:22 Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

16) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what was one very important job that the Old Testament priests did?

17) According to Hebrews 10:11, how often was that job performed?

18) According to the underlined portions of those passages, what was the key component in this job?

19) According to Hebrews 9:22, why was this such a key component? What was it meant to illustrate?

Hebrews 7:26,27 Such a high priest meets our need—one who is *holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens*. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Ephesians 5:2 Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.


Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

20) Jesus was different from the Old Testament priests in three ways.

- First, the Old Testament priests made sacrifices for both the peoples’ sins and for *their own* sins (cf. Leviticus 16:24 on the previous page). According to the italicized portions of these verses, why didn’t Jesus need to do that?
- Secondly, the Old Testament priest sacrificed animals and dealt with their blood. How is Christ different?
- Thirdly, the Old Testament priest made sacrifices every day (cf. Hebrews 10:11 on the previous page). According to the underlined portions of the above verses, how often will Jesus need to make the sacrifice?

21) According to Romans 4:25, what is the proof that the sacrifice that Jesus made was complete?

This is the most important aspect of Christ work, for it is at the heart of God’s plan of salvation. It answers the question, “How can God’s perfect justice be satisfied without him damning the sinner?” Christ is a “substitutionary sacrifice” on behalf of the sinner. He is a substitute in the sense that he lived a perfect life on our behalf. And he is a sacrifice in that he gave up that life to “redeem” us, just as we read in Ephesians 1:7. “In him we have redemption through his blood.”

 **DEFINITION:** *redeem* — to buy back; to pay a price to set someone free

There is more to Christ’s work as priest. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

2 Chronicles 30:27 The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their *prayer* reached heaven, his holy dwelling place.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 John 2:1 If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

22) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what was another function of the Old Testament priests?

23) According to the underlined portions of those passages, how does Jesus do this function today?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

1 Samuel 9:17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will *govern* my people.”

1 Samuel 8:20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to *lead* us and to go out before us and *fight our battles*.”

1 Corinthians 15:56,57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

24) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what did the Old Testament kings do?

25) According to the underlined portions of those passages, what kingly things did Jesus do when he was on earth?

Ephesians 1:22,23 God placed all things under [Christ’s] feet and appointed him to be *head over everything* for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 2:10 You have been given fullness in Christ, who is the *head over every power and authority*.

Romans 8:38,39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, *will be able to separate us* from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

2 Timothy 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom.

26) According to the italicized portions of those passages, how does Jesus still act as king?

27) According to the underlined portions of those passages, how will Jesus act as a king in the future?

Luke 17:21 “The kingdom of God is within you.”

Ephesians 6:6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

28) The “kingdom of God” would be a reference to Christ’s reign, of course. Therefore, on the basis of these passages, what do you think Jesus meant when he said, “the kingdom of God is within you”?

On the basis of all that we have looked at in this section, how would you answer that question, “WHAT IS JESUS CHRIST’S WORK?”

Note: Another way we describe Christ’s work is through the Apostles’ Creed. For a closer look at this, please see Appendix VII.

TAKING IT DEEPER

- A) Agree or Disagree — Jesus Christ is half-God and half-man.**
- B) Agree or Disagree — Jesus is true God and true man in one person.**
- C) Agree or Disagree — Jesus healed the sick to show that we should care for the sick.**
- D) Agree or Disagree — The virgin birth proves that Jesus was the sinless Son of God.**
- E) Agree or Disagree — Jesus saved us by living a sinless life.**
- F) Agree or Disagree — Jesus’ death pays for believers’ sins.**
- G) Agree or Disagree — It is possible to deny the resurrection of Christ but still be a Christian.**
- H) Question: Last lesson we looked at John 5:23. “He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” On the basis of that passage and what we have learned in this lesson, what would you have to say about religions that deny who Jesus is, or the work that he did?**

Appendix VII — The Work of Christ According to the Apostles’ Creed

Another way of studying the work that Christ did and continues to do is by studying the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed. The Apostles’ Creed does an excellent job of describing what we call Christ’s “humiliation” and his “exaltation.” When speaking of Christ’s work, we define those terms as follows.

✔ **DEFINITION: humiliation** — *the first part of Christ’s ministry, when he usually chose not to make full use of his heavenly power and glory so that he might live and die in a lowly way*

✔ **DEFINITION: exaltation** — *the part of Christ’s ministry beginning with his victorious descent into hell when he again made full use of his heavenly power and glory*

The following chart breaks the Second Article of the Apostles Creed into sections so that we can study and review Christ’s work.

The Second Article	Notes
<p>I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,</p>	<p>This statement is a confession of who Christ is — God’s only Son, and our Master</p> <p>Matthew 26:63,64 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”</p> <p>“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.</p>
<p>who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,</p>	<p>It is important to note that Christ’s conception and birth don’t mark the beginning of Christ’s humiliation. His human birth and human body didn’t limit his power or his glory. For if that were the case, Christ wouldn’t have kept his body after his resurrection. But when he came into this world, Christ willingly laid aside his power and glory. His humiliation, therefore, begins with the <i>manner</i> in which he was born. The king of the universe became the son of a relatively poor family. The Son of God was born in a stable.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.</p>
<p><i>Christ’s humiliation begins with humble birth</i></p>	
<p>suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.</p>	<p>While Christ’s entire humble life was part of his humiliation, his crucifixion and death was the culmination. For on the cross Christ endured the essence of hell: separation from God the Father.</p> <p>Matthew 27:46 [Jesus cried,] “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”</p> <p>It is important to note that throughout Christ’s humiliation, nothing happened to him that he didn’t allow to happen. When Judas came to betray Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemene, Jesus knocked seasoned soldiers over just with his word, but then submitted willingly to the arrest (cf. John 18:4-11). Even his death itself came on Chris’s timeframe.</p> <p>John 19:30 Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.</p> <p>Christ’s humiliation means he gave up his power, but it does not mean he was powerless!</p>

<i>Christ's exaltation begins</i>	
He descended into hell.	<p>This is perhaps the most misunderstood phrase of the Second Article. It is often assumed that Christ went to hell to suffer for sins. That is inaccurate. As we saw in Matthew 27:46, Christ suffered hell on the cross. Christ's descent marks the beginning of his proclamation that he was victorious in his battle with Satan, sin, and death. It just so happens the demons were the first to hear this message.</p> <p>1 Peter 3:18,19 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison.</p> <p>Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.</p>
The third day he rose again from the dead.	<p>At this time Jesus began to announce his resurrection to his followers by making a series of appearances. Paul describes these appearances in 1 Corinthians.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:5-8 He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also.</p> <p>These numerous appearances illustrate that the doctrine of Christ's resurrection is crucial. Jesus wanted many witnesses so that there could be no doubt that he did indeed rise. For without the resurrection, God's plan of salvation is a sham.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.</p>
He ascended into heaven	<p>Christ's ascension is a crucial event for our faith, as well. For the ascension shows that Christ's redemption work is truly complete. Otherwise, he wouldn't have left. Christ ascension assures us that the payment for our sins is final and complete. Heaven is ours!</p> <p>John 14:2,3 [Jesus said,] "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."</p>
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.	<p>Christ is ruling over all things for our good. He does this as prophet, priest, and king. (cf. Lesson 4 of "Faith Builders")</p>
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.	<p>At this time — Judgement Day — no one will be able to deny that Jesus is Lord. As children of God, we long for this day to come, that we might go to our true home — heaven!</p> <p>2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.</p>