



Sound Doctrine: Applying Core Beliefs to Everyday Life

Christology: Jesus Christ is Lord of All

Philippians 3:7-8

- According to Jesus Christ, building your life on the right foundation is the difference between being eternally smart or eternally stupid (Matt. 7:24-27). The most important question anyone will ever answer is “*Who is Jesus Christ?*” and yet the world of religion is full of the wrong answer. Misidentifying Jesus detaches you from receiving what is needed most in your life: forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.
- Christianity is all about knowing Christ and this value has no comparison to any other kind of knowledge (Phil 3:7-8)
- What makes Jesus Christ so unique, so remarkable, and so worthy “*to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing...and dominion forever and ever*” (Rev. 5:12, 13b) is three sweeping revelations that flow out of His incarnation (God having a human body and being one Person with two distinct natures, fully divine and fully human).

① Jesus Christ is our pre-incarnate Lord (His pre-existing life)

- He was pre-existent (resided in heaven before coming to earth. He referred to this pre-existence when He said, “*before Abraham was born, I am*” (John 8:56)
 - He pre-existed eternally (Heb. 1:10-12; Mic. 5:2; called “*everlasting Father*” (Isa. 9:6)
 - He pre-existed as God (Jn 1:1)
 - He pre-existed as God the Creator (Jn. 1:3, 10; 1 Cor. 8:6)
 - He pre-existed as God the Son (God’s declarations at His birth, baptism, transfiguration, and apostolic declarations about His resurrection are not about Jesus being appointed as Son, but about God’s approval and endorsement of His Son in His earthly ministry)
- He was personified as God in the appearances of “*the angel of the Lord*” (in the Old Testament). Since “*no one has seen God at any time*” (Jn. 1:18), all appearances in the Old Testament must be Christophanies (appearances of Jesus Christ)
- He was predicted to come in the flesh (Gen. 3:15; 12:2-4; 17:19; Isa. 7:17; Mic 5:2 to cite a few). The key is knowing what Jesus said certain prophecies reveal about Him in the Old Testament (Jn. 5:39)

② Jesus Christ is our perfect-incarnate Lord (His earthly life)

- The Bible describes this perfect incarnation as “*the Word became flesh*” (Jn. 1:14) or “*revealed in the flesh*” (1 Tm. 3:16) or God sent “*His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh*” (Rm. 8:3) or “*made like his brethren*” and “*prepared*” by God (Heb. 2:17; 10:8 quoting Isa. 40:6).
- The Lord’s incarnation is described in this way: He “*emptied Himself*” (the kenosis). It is not about becoming less God (impossible) by losing some of His divine attributes, but it was about willingly yielding the independent exercise of His divine attributes to the will of His heavenly Father and becoming an earthly servant (Ph. 2:5-7)

- His Deity is clearly seen in being called “*the Son of God*”, “*the Son of Man*”, “*Lord*”, being born of a virgin, living a sinless life, claiming He was God, forgiving sinners, receiving and answering prayers, performing mighty miracles, bodily rising from the dead, possessing attributes of God, being worshiped, being assigned as the final Judge of the world, and imparting eternal life. His Deity is also seen in descriptions given by His followers and others.
- His Humanity is clearly seen by having a human birth, development, a body, ancestry, names and titles (Son of David, Teacher, Brother, Apostle, etc.), having human experiences (compassion, rejoicing, anger, sorrow, weeping, sleep, pain, hunger, fatigue, etc.), reason and will, was physically baptized, tempted by Satan, dependent upon the Holy Spirit, a Master Teacher, relationship with God (prayer, obedience), falsely accused, mocked, beaten, spit upon, slapped, illegally and unjustly tried, crucified.
 - Jesus is our sin-bearing Savior and able to save anyone by His grace and through our repentance and faith.
 - He rose from the dead as was prophesied in the Old Testament (Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:10) and by Jesus Himself (Matt. 17:9; Lk 18:1-33; Jn 2:19-22). It was recorded in all four gospel accounts and fourteen post-resurrection appearances were recorded during Jesus’ final 40 days.
 - He ascended to the right hand of the Father (Ac. 1:9-11; Heb. 1:3-9; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 3:21)

③ **Jesus Christ is our pre-incarnate Lord** (His glorified life)

- Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 4:15) who knows us, our weaknesses, needs and helps us through His prayerful intercession and advocacy (Heb. 2:17-18; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1)
- Jesus is our soon coming King (Rev. 22:12) and He will rapture His church (1 Thess. 4:13-18), resurrect and reconstruct our bodies (1 Cor. 15:52-53; Phil. 3:20-21), reward His people at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10), release His wrath on the earth for seven years in three series of judgments (Seals, Trumpets, Bowls, Rev. 6-19), rule the world (Rev. 11:15; 19:11-1) by binding Satan (Rev 20:1-3), removing the curse (Rm 8:19-23) during His one-thousand year earthly reign (Rev. 20:4-6) and then reign forever in the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21-22), reconciling all things to Himself (Col. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15:20-28)