



The Essentials: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine
Class #3 – Jesus Christ

I. **The Importance of Studying Christ**

- a. One of the greatest joys in life is studying the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - i. **Philippians 3:7-8** – *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”*
 - ii. **2 Peter 3:18** – *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”*
 - iii. The Christian walk is all about getting to know Jesus – our greatest desire and supreme passion must be to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ in a greater way
 - iv. Our desire should be to see Him *“high and lifted up, exalted”* as the prophet Isaiah saw Him in **Isaiah 6:1**
 - v. Our desire should be to see Him *“glorified, exalted, and resurrected”* as the apostle John saw Him in **Revelation 1:12-16**
 - vi. Our desire should be to see Him in all His *“glory, splendor, and majesty”* as the prophet Daniel saw Him in **Daniel 7:13-14**
 - vii. Our desire should be that of the Greeks who said to Philip, *“Sir, we wish to see Jesus”* in **John 12:21**
 - viii. As believers, we must devote ourselves to the art and discipline of getting to know Jesus – *“It doesn’t get any greater than Him!”*
- b. Therefore, for the next few weeks, we are going to focus our attention on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

II. **The Titles of Christ**

- a. Let’s look at a few of the titles used in the Bible to describe the Lord Jesus – each title gives us a greater understanding of **who He is** and **what He wants to be** in our lives (sheds light on His person, work, character, nature, etc.):
 - i. Advocate – *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* Cf. **1 John 2:1**
 - ii. Faithful and True – *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.”* Cf. **Revelation 19:11**
 - iii. Head of the Church – *“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body”* Cf. **Ephesians 5:23**
 - iv. Lamb of God – *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”* Cf. **John 1:29**
 - v. Lion of the Tribe of Judah – *“But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’”* Cf. **Revelation 5:5**

- vi. Lord of All – “*The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ – He is Lord of All*” Cf. Acts 10:36
- vii. Mediator – “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus*” Cf. 1 Timothy 2:5
- viii. Prince of Peace – “*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called...Prince of Peace*” Cf. Isaiah 9:6
- ix. Son of David – “*When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, ‘Son of David, have mercy on us!’*” Cf. Matthew 9:27
- x. Word of God – “*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God*” Cf. Revelation 19:13

III. The Prophecies of Christ

- a. Let’s look at some of the prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus found in the Old Testament
 - i. Throughout the Old Testament, we find many prophecies concerning the Divine Messiah who would come into the world
 - ii. These prophecies are commonly referred to as “*Messianic Prophecies*” because they make reference to the Messiah
 - iii. They paint a very detailed portrait of the lineage, birth, life, death, resurrection, triumph, and reign of the Messiah
 - iv. Miraculously, every single prophecy found in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah finds its perfect fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth
 - v. These fulfilled prophecies serve as a very strong piece of evidence confirming Jesus’ *Messiahship* and *Deity*
- b. Therefore, let’s take a look at a few of these prophecies concerning the Messiah which find their fulfillment in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth
 - i. Many of these prophecies **explicitly** refer to the Messiah, however, a few of these prophecies **implicitly** refer to the Messiah
 - ii. Ultimately, we are able to conclude whether or not a prophecy refers to the Messiah by the context and tone of the verse in which the prophecy is found and through the interpretation of the New Testament:
- c. Messiah was going to be from the Seed of Abraham
 - i. **Genesis 22:18** – “*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice*”
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – “*Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ*” Cf. Galatians 3:16
- d. Messiah was going to be from the Tribe of Judah
 - i. **Genesis 49:10** – “*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*”
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – “*For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah...*” Cf. Hebrews 7:14
- e. Messiah was going to be from the House of David
 - i. **Psalms 89:3-4** – “*I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David, ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’*”
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – “*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David...*” Matthew 1:1a
- f. Messiah was going to be born from a Virgin

- i. **Isaiah 7:14** – *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit...and he did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son...”* Cf. **Matthew 1:18, 25a**
 - g. Messiah was going to be born in *Bethlehem*
 - i. **Micah 5:2** – *“But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea”* Cf. **Matthew 2:1**
 - h. Messiah was going to be *Rejected*
 - i. **Isaiah 53:3** – *“He is despised and rejected by men...”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”* Cf. **John 1:11**
 - i. Messiah was going to be *Crucified*
 - i. **Psalm 22:16** – *“...They pierced My hands and My feet”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him...”* Cf. **Luke 23:33**
 - j. Messiah was going to be *Buried in a Rich Man’s Tomb*
 - i. **Isaiah 53:19** – *“And they made His grave with the wicked – but with the rich at His death.”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“There came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph...and asked for the body of Jesus...when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb...”* Cf. **Matthew 27:57-60**
 - k. Messiah was going to be *Resurrected from the Dead*
 - i. **Psalm 16:10** – *“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead...”* Cf. **2 Timothy 2:8**
 - l. Messiah was going to be *Glorified to the Right Hand of God*
 - i. **Psalm 110:1** – *“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”*
 - ii. Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – *“...Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him”* Cf. **1 Peter 3:21b-22**

IV. **The Humanity of Christ**

- a. Let’s look at the humanity of the Lord Jesus
 - i. Christ’s humanity, like His deity, is an essential component to our salvation and an essential doctrine to our faith
 - ii. As the perfect mediator between God and Man, the Lord Jesus is fully God and fully Man – He is the **“God-Man”**
 - iii. Now, there are many who deny that Jesus is God, and thus, much attention within the church is given to defend the Deity of Christ
 - iv. However, on the flip side, there are many Christians who find it difficult to believe that Jesus is Human and they deny His humanity *in practice*

- v. Therefore, before we talk about the Deity of Christ, we want to take the time to talk about the Humanity of Christ
- b. We are going to look at *three things* concerning Christ's Humanity:

V. 1st – “The Evidences of Christ's Humanity”

- a. The first thing we want to look at concerning Christ's Humanity is the abundant evidence found in the New Testament **confirming** His Humanity
 - i. The Bible teaches that Christ was human in all points except sin (Hebrews 4:15) – this is confirmed by the following pieces of evidence:
- b. First, Human Parents
 - i. Jesus had a human, biological mother named Mary and a legal, but not biological, human father named Joseph (Matthew 1:18-19)
- c. Second, Human Birth
 - i. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus was “**born of a woman**” (Galatians 4:4) – His mother conceived Him while a virgin (Matthew 1:23)
 - ii. Mary had a normal nine month pregnancy (Luke 1:24, 26, 31) and a natural child birth (Luke 2:6-7, 22-23) under the protection of God
- d. Third, Human Growth
 - i. Jesus grew like any other human being – He grew in His mother's womb, as a baby (Luke 2:16), as a young child (Matthew 2:11), and as a young adult – “**And the Child grew and became strong...Jesus increased in wisdom and stature...**” (Luke 2:40, 52)
- e. Fourth, Human Ethnicity
 - i. Jesus was Jewish – He was born of the Jewish Tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14)
 - ii. He was born and raised under the Jewish Law (Galatians 4:4) – He spoke Aramaic as did the other Jews of His time (Matthew 27:46)
 - iii. By His look and speech, the Samaritan Woman was able to recognize that He was a Jew (John 4:9)
- f. Fifth, Human Relatives
 - i. Jesus has human relatives – the Bible makes mention of His brothers and sisters (John 7:5; Mark 6:3)
 - ii. He was also related to John the Baptist (Luke 1:36)
- g. Sixth, Human Emotions
 - i. Jesus' emotions are seen when He wept at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35), when He wept over the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), when He rejoiced in the Spirit (Luke 10:21), and when He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to His Father (Matthew 26:36-46)
- h. Seventh, Human Hunger and Thirst
 - i. Like any other human being, the Lord Jesus got hungry – after fasting for forty days, we read that Jesus got “**hungry**” (Luke 4:2)
 - ii. Jesus regularly ate food, including the Passover lamb He ate with His disciples (John 13:1-2)
 - iii. He also drank water from the well in Samaria being thirsty after His journey (John 4:17) & He cried out, “**I thirst**” from the Cross (John 19:28)
- i. Eighth, Human Fatigue
 - i. The apostle John tells us, “**Jesus, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well**” (John 4:6)
 - ii. Jesus sometimes became so fatigued and tired from His contact with the crowds that He had to get away from them (Mark 6:31)
- j. Ninth, Human Pain

- i. Death by crucifixion was extremely painful – Jesus was on the Cross for six hours (Mark 15:25-34)
 - ii. On the Cross, the Lord Jesus felt the pain of the nails, the pain of thirst, the pain of suffering, the pain of dislocation of joints, and the pain of separation from His Father (Matthew 27:46)
- k. Tenth, Human Death
 - i. What could be more human than to experience death – the Lord Jesus experienced the agony of death (Acts 2:24), He experienced being separated from His loved ones (John 19:26-27), and He experienced being forsaken by His Father (Matthew 27:46)
 - ii. Even in His resurrection body the Lord Jesus bore the marks of His death by Crucifixion
- l. Now, the only human experience Jesus did not participate in was that of sin
 - i. **Hebrews 4:15** declares that Jesus was “*in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*”
 - ii. Sin is not a requirement to be human for there was no sin before man’s fall into sin and there will be no sin in heaven

VI. 2nd – “The *Mystery of Christ’s Humanity*”

- a. The second thing we want to look at concerning Christ’s Humanity is the Mystery surrounding it – “How can the Creator become part of His Creation and yet remain the Creator?”
 - i. **John 1:1, 14a** – “*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...*”
 - ii. The divine, supernatural act of God becoming a Man is referred to within theological circles as the “*Incarnation*” (Latin=In Flesh)
 - iii. God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, entered time and space and took upon Himself a human nature and body – “**What a Mystery**”
 - iv. **1 Timothy 3:16a** – “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...*”
- b. Now, although there is a great mystery behind the incarnation, the Bible does give us a basic understanding of this divine, supernatural act of God
 - i. **Philippians 2:5-7** – “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*”
 - ii. According to Philippians, during the incarnation the eternal Son of God took to Himself an additional nature (human) through the virgin birth
 - iii. The Incarnation was not a subtraction of Deity (God did not stop becoming God), but an addition of Humanity
 - iv. United within the Person of the Son of God is two distinct natures – divine and human (not overlapping, confused, or separated, but touching)
 - v. We refer to this as the Hypostatic Union – two distinct natures (divine and human) united within the Person of the Son of God
- c. This *diagram* might help you understand a little better
 - i. The Trinity can be defined as followed – One God eternally existent in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - ii. Each Person possesses the same nature, but they are distinct in their person (Person is “*who you are*” and Nature is “*what you are*”)

- iii. During the incarnation, a human nature was added to the Person of the Son of God (circle represents Christ's human nature)
- iv. Therefore, the Lord Jesus is fully God and fully Man, He possesses two natures, divine and human, united in His Person
- v. Because He possesses two natures, He is able to operate from either nature – *“Divine or Human”*
- d. That is why when you read the Gospels you should always ask yourself two questions about Jesus – “Was He operating from His human or divine nature?”
 - i. The Gospels tell us that Jesus became tired and slept, He became hungry and thirsty, He grew in wisdom and stature, He died on a cross, etc.
 - ii. Can God die? Can God grow in wisdom and knowledge? Can God get hungry and tired? Of course not, therefore, Jesus was operating from His human nature
 - iii. However, the Gospels tell us that Jesus knew all things, He knew what was in the heart of man, He forgave sins, etc. – Jesus was operating from His divine nature
- e. Therefore, although we cannot fully comprehend the incarnation (there will always be a mystery behind it), we can apprehend it– “Remaining what He was, He became what He was not”

VII. 3rd – “The Purpose of Christ’s Humanity”

- a. The third thing we want to look at concerning Christ’s Humanity is the Purpose of it – “Why did the Son of God become a Man?”
 - i. The New Testament shares with us many reasons why God the Son became a Man – let’s look at a few of them:
- b. First, the Son came to Reveal the Father
 - i. **John 1:18** – *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*
 - ii. The Son came into the world to reveal the Father to us – everything God wanted to say, He said in His Son Jesus Christ
- c. Second, the Son came to Save Sinners
 - i. **1 Timothy 1:15** – *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to save sinners – He willingly went to the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world (A human sinned, therefore, a human had to pay the price of sin)
- d. Third, the Son came to Destroy the Works of the Devil
 - i. **1 John 3:8** – *“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to destroy the works of the Devil – through His death and resurrection, Christ conquered the Devil
- e. Fourth, the Son came to Provide Redemption
 - i. **Mark 10:45** – *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to provide redemption – to purchase sinners from the slave market of sin and set them free
- f. Fifth, the Son came to Fulfill the Law and the Prophets
 - i. **Matthew 5:17** – *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to fulfill the law and the prophets – He is the only One who has ever perfectly followed and obeyed the Law of God, and as we

repent of our sins and place our faith in Him, His righteousness is accredited to our account

- g. Sixth, the Son came to Free us from the Fear of Death
 - i. **Hebrews 2:15-16** – *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to free us from the fear of death – as believers, we need not to fear death because we serve the One who conquered death
- h. Seventh, the Son came to Do the Will of God
 - i. **John 6:38** – *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to do the will of God – the Lord Jesus was perfectly submitted and obedient to His Father’s will
- i. Eighth, the Son came to Bring Abundant Life
 - i. **John 10:10** – *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to bring abundant life – only in Christ can we find purpose, value, and meaning in life (Quality Life)
- j. Ninth, the Son came to Bring Aid to His People
 - i. **Hebrews 2:17-18** – *“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffering, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to bring aid to His people – as a Man, the Lord Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses and relate to our sufferings and He wants to help us
- k. Tenth, the Son came to Make Grace Available to all Mankind
 - i. **John 1:17** – *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*
 - ii. The Son of God came into the world to make grace available to all mankind – through faith in Christ we have access to the grace of God and God’s grace is sufficient for all things (2 Corinthians 12:9)