

Doctrines 101

Lesson 5

Christology

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: The entire plan and drama of redemption is wrapped up in the Person of Jesus Christ. While it is tolerated in other doctrines to allow for a measure of disagreement among Christians, the doctrine of Christ is a subject about which there is very little room for disagreement. False teaching concerning the Person of Christ is not tolerated to any degree.

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” III John 9-11 The primary teachings concerning the doctrine of Christ are His Incarnation, His deity, His death and resurrection, and His exaltation. Without these essential truths, the foundations of Christianity are destroyed. These doctrines must be studied, understood, and defended to preserve the truth to another generation. Without Christ there is no Christianity or salvation.

The incarnation of Christ, which is also known as humiliation, is the wonder of wonders; that God became a man. Christ was born of a virgin escaping the sin curse of Adam. He is both God and man; He is the God-man. Jesus is 100% God and yet 100% man. The two natures of God and man are distinctly found to be in Him. As man he was subject to the ordinary limitations of human nature, such as hunger, thirst, weariness, pain, and death. As God He was to be the object and recipient of worship that could only rightly be offered to Deity. He alone is the Creator of the universe, able to forgive sins, the giver of eternal life, and the Judge of all.

He is the perfect man that lived a perfect sinless life. This was necessary in order to reconcile man to God. The sinfulness of man was placed upon Him at the cross and the righteousness of Christ is placed upon the believer. His sacrifice is the fulfillment of both the Old Testament priest and the Old Testament sacrifice for sin. He came to offer His life as a sacrificial, substitutionary death in the place of God’s elect in order to reconcile them to God.

The resurrection is also of primary importance, for if He were unable to rise from the dead we would be yet in our sins. Paul says in I Corinthians 15 that if there be no resurrection from the dead that preaching is a waste of time, faith is worthless, that he would be a false witness, that every person who has died has perished eternally, and that the Christian is to be pitied as the most miserable person in existence. Without a resurrection there is no gospel and there is no hope for man. His resurrection is the proof of His victory over sin and death. That is why the Bible records that after His resurrection he was seen of all of the apostles and by over five hundred brethren at one time. The entire Christian faith rests on the validity of the resurrection.

Following the resurrection of Christ He ascended back to heaven to be seated on the Father’s right hand until the consummation of all things. This is known as the Exaltation of Christ, where all things will be delivered to His control and rule. He is seated there waiting for the Father to give Him the heathen for His inheritance. Until then, He works as our Intercessor and Advocate before God, ever living to make intercession for the saints to God.

Definitions: For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.

English: **Christ** -

Greek: (2424) **Iesous** *ee-ay-sooce'* -

(5547) **Christos** *khris-tos'*

Hebrew: (4899) **mashiyach** *maw-shee'-akh*

Quotation:

“You may have Confucianism without Confucius; Buddhism without Buddha; Islam without Muhammad; Mormonism without Joseph Smith; and Christian Science without Mary Baker Eddy. But you cannot have Christianity without Christ, for strictly speaking, Christianity is Christ and Christ is Christianity. It is not primarily a religion, but a life; and the life is His life made living in men.” unknown

“I think I understand somewhat of human nature, and I tell you all these (heroes of antiquity) were men, and I am a man, but not like Him: Jesus Christ was more than Man.” Napoleon

“The lawyer can deliver his client but from strife, the physician can deliver his patient but from sickness, the master can deliver his servant but from bondage, but the Lord delivereth us from them all” Henry Smith

“God is best known in Christ; the sun is not seen but by the light of the sun.” William Bridge

“As a sacrifice, our sins were laid upon Him, (Isaiah 53); as a Priest, He beareth them (Exodus 28:38); and as an Advocate, He acknowledges them to be His own. (Ps. 69:5)” John Bunyan

Sin could not die, unless Christ died; Christ could not die without being made sin; nor could He die, but sin must die with Him. Elisha Coles

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us in the world that He might hereby make our peace, reconciling God to man and man to God. By this happy match the Son of God is become the Son of Man, even flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bones; and the sons of men are made the sons of God.” John Boys

“Since He looked upon me my heart is not my own, He hath run away to heaven with it.” Samuel Rutherford

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith of 1833

Article II The Name, Nature, and Being Of God

Article IV The Way Of Salvation

London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

Chapter 2 Of God and the Holy Trinity - paragraphs 1-3

Chapter 8 Of Christ the Mediator - paragraphs 1-10

Spurgeon's Catechism

Questions: 19-27

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. Why are differences concerning the doctrine and Person of Christ not to be tolerated?
2. What are five essential truths regarding the doctrine of Christ?
3. What is another name for the incarnation of Christ?
4. What are indications that Jesus is both God and man?
5. What two Old Testament types did Christ fulfill?
6. Give 5 consequences that would result if there were no resurrection.
7. What proofs does the Bible offer of the resurrection of Christ?
8. Where did Christ go following His resurrection?
9. What is the exaltation of Christ?
10. What is Christ doing while awaits His exaltation?

Key Scriptures: (*Look up these verses and fill in the blanks*)

Psalm 2:12 We are encouraged to _____ the Son, or to be on good terms with the Heir of the worlds, lest His wrath be kindled against us. Blessed are those that put their _____ in Him.

Psalm 22:1 This psalm is a foreshadowing of the crucifixion of Christ and are the very words He spoke upon the cross. Because of our sin, He was _____ of His Father.

Matthew 1:21 The name Jesus means Jehovah is salvation. He was called by that name because He shall _____ His people from their _____.

John 1:1-4 Jesus is also called the _____. He was in the _____ with God and He is _____. He _____ everything and is called the _____ and the _____ of men.

John 1:29 John the Baptist identified Him as the _____ of God which taketh away the _____ of the world.

John 3:16 Whosoever believeth on Him shall have _____ life.

John 4:25-26 Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman that He was the _____ that the people were waiting for.

John 5:17-18 The Jews attempted to kill Him because He said that God was His _____ and they realized that meant He was making Himself _____ with God.

John 5:39 The entire Scriptures _____ of Jesus as the Christ.

John 10:24-25 The Jews demanded Him to reveal if He were the _____ sent from God to deliver them. Even after He told them, they _____ not, despite the works He did.

John 10:30-31 Jesus claimed to be _____ with the Father. That caused the Jews to attempt to _____ Him.

II Corinthians 5:21 God made Christ to be _____ for us, who had never sinned, that we might receive His _____.

Ephesians 1:22-23 Christ is the _____ of the church, which is His _____.

Ephesians 2:20 The church is built upon Christ as the _____ stone.

Ephesians 5:23 Christ is not only the _____ of the church, He is also the Saviour of the _____.

Philippians 2:5-11 Christ did not think it _____ to be _____ with God but made Himself of no reputation and was made in the _____ of men. As a man He humbled Himself to become _____ to _____ on a _____. Because of that God has _____ Him by giving Him a

_____ above every name and promised that every _____ should _____ and every _____ confess that Jesus Christ is _____.

Colossians 2:9 In Christ dwells all the _____ of the _____ in a body.

I Timothy 3:16 The mystery of God's plan is that God was _____ in the _____.

II Timothy 4:1 Christ will _____ the saved and unsaved when He appears to establish His kingdom.

Hebrews 1:1-4 God's final spokesman to mankind is His _____ who is the _____ of all things. He is the brightness of His _____ and the _____ of His Person. He is the One responsible for removing our _____ and after He finished the work His Father gave Him to do, He _____ down.

Hebrews 2:9-10 Jesus was willingly made _____ than the angels by becoming a man and died for them to bring them to _____ as the _____ of their salvation.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus is our great _____ that didn't just enter into the temple but entered into the _____ to the very throne of God to pay for our sins. He is a compassionate High Priest because He was _____ like we are, only

_____ sin. Because of His priesthood we can have _____ to approach the throne of grace.

Hebrews 5:6 Jesus is an eternal _____ that needs no replacement, after the priestly order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 9:24-26 Christ as a priest didn't just enter into the temple which is a _____ of the true presence of God but into _____ itself to _____ before God for _____ to offer Himself _____ as a sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 10:4-14 It was not _____ for the sacrifices in the Old Testament to take away _____. God had no _____ in burnt offerings and sacrifices but we are sanctified by the _____ of Jesus Christ _____ for _____ our sins. After He offered _____ sacrifice for sins _____, sat down, having

_____ for ever them that He set apart.

I John 2:1-2 Christ is our _____ with the Father. He represents us before Him and He is the covering for our _____.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Colossians 1

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: Philippians 2:9-11

Personal definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Jesus Christ the Messiah

Personal Confession: *(Study the confessions and summarize them in your own words)*

Jesus Christ

Meditation question: *(be prepared for discussion)*

What does it mean to be the only begotten Son?

Extra Credit:

Research what the Mormon and Jehovah Witness cults believe about the Person of Christ.