

# *New Way of Living*

STUDIES IN GODS WORD  
TO STIMULATE GROWTH

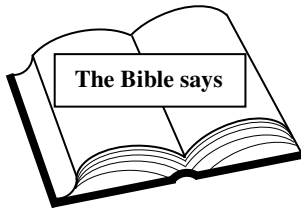
## **1** Christology: Knowing Who Christ Is



## *Bible Studies*

### **Introduction**

It is essential young Christians establish in their minds exactly who Jesus is Biblically, doctrinally and relationally that they may believe in Him as He is truly is and thereby enjoy the blessing of relationship with Him that He desires of us. Scripturally the thought of light is inseparable from God and His Word, for God is light (1John 1:5) and His Word is light (Psalm 119:105). John the apostle encourages us:



**1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

Paul is very bold proclaiming:

**2Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**

Surrounded by much unbelief and argument against His faith in Christ, Paul stood firm on his convictions. His convictions involved knowing exactly who Jesus is.

### **This came to him:**

1. By the revelation of the Scriptures. Revelation means: The enlightenment of the understanding by the Holy Spirit to the Word of God.
2. By personal relationship. Personal relationship with Jesus comes to us by our obedient walking in the light exemplified by Jesus walking in the light.

### **Christology**

When we speak of Christology we are simply speaking of the doctrine or teaching about the person of the Lord Jesus Christ that is comprehended only by the revelation of the Scriptures.

Everything Jesus is now is dependent upon who He was when on earth. If Jesus was not who the Scriptures and particularly the Gospels say He was, and Jesus said He was, and the apostles believed He was, then everything said of Him and all that He did is of no consequence or meaning.

**Our eternal salvation and future existence and prosperity is dependent upon who Jesus is and who we believe Him to be.**

### **There were Five Heresies in New Testament Times**

In the times of the apostles there were five areas of heresy concerning the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are still in circulation and believed and preached today in their variants. They are:

1. Christ was a created being. That is He had beginning, implying there was a time when He did not exist. Such a teaching is based upon:  
**Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;**

2. Christ was an angelic being of the highest order.
3. Christ is a God, but not equal with the Father God. This teaching is based upon:  
**John 14:28** **Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.**
4. Christ did not pre-exist before His incarnation. Incarnation: embodied in flesh. His birth was His beginning.
5. Christ was only a man. A great man; a God sent man; a man with a great cause that He died for, but still only a man.

**The error: All have failed to realize Christ's dual aspect of His one nature. He was and is both God and man**

## The Testimony of the Old Testament Prophets

**Isaiah:** Isaiah prophesied the birth of Christ:

**Isa 7:14** **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

### Note the Three Important Statements

1. **A virgin:** That is a woman that has not known a man sexually, will conceive.
2. **A Son:** The child to be born to the virgin is to be a Son, therefore a male.
3. **His name:** His name shall be called Immanuel, which means: **God with us**. The term "God with us" must not be thought to mean "God with Him" in the fashion God was with Abraham, Moses or David, as He was with the prophets, kings, high priests and countless thousands of believers throughout the ages, but to be believed as it is written: It is "God with us." God being born as a Son to a virgin. Matthew in his account of the birth of Jesus applies the name prophesied by Isaiah to Jesus:  
**Matt 1:23** **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

**Isaiah:** Isaiah prophecies of Christ's birth and ministry:

**Isa 9:6** **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

**:7** **Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

Note: 9: He that is to be born, when He is born will be "The mighty God."

**Micah:** Micah prophecies Christ's birth was to take place in Bethlehem.

**Mic 5:2** **But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.**

Note: "Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." That is eternal, has always been.

**Conclusion: The prophets prophesied God would be born into a human body**

## The Testimony of John the Baptist:

- John 1:25** And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elijah, neither that prophet?
- :26** John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;
- :27** He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.
- :28** These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.
- :29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
- :30** This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.
- :31** And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.
- :32** And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.
- :33** And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.
- :34** And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Note: John was born six months before Jesus yet said of Jesus: “**He was before me**” (:30). John knew by the Spirit and the revelation of the Scriptures:

- That Jesus was before him and therefore eternal (:30).
- That Jesus was actually God born into a human body (:34).
- That Jesus as the Lamb of God was the offspring of the Father and the Father’s provision for the salvation of the world (29).
- He understood Jesus was come to take away the sin of the world (:29).

## The Testimony of the Apostles

### Paul:

Paul speaks of Jesus as the last Adam and as the second man to Adam is the Lord from heaven:

**1Cor 15:47** The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

As such, Paul speaks of Christ’s pre-existence and deity.

**Col 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

- :15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- :16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- :17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- :18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.
- :19** For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fullness dwell;
- Paul speaks of Jesus as the creator (:16). This identifies Jesus with Genesis chapter one as God the Word, who said: **Gen 1:3** And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
  - Paul then addresses the pre-existence of Jesus - **:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.** (The Amplified Bible expresses it more fully)

**Phil 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- :6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- :7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
- :8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- :9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- :10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
- :11** And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Note - :6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

### John:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**:2** The same was in the beginning with God.

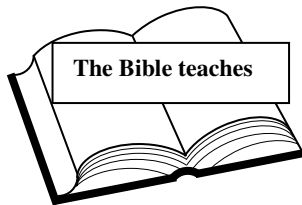
**:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Note :1

- In the beginning was the Word - That is: Eternity of being. Compare with Gen 1:1.
- And the Word was with God - That is: Plurality of being.
- And the Word was God - That is: Equality of being.

:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

- That is: Eternity of persons.
- That is: Plurality of persons.
- That is: Equality of persons.



**The Godhead:** Consists of three persons: 1) The Father.

2) The Son.

3) The Holy Spirit.

**This is how it was, this is how it is, this is how it always has been and this is how it always will be.**

Note: **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Jesus Christ is God, He is the Word made flesh and as God to the generation of His birth "is God with us"**

### The Testimony of Jesus

**John 8:42** Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

**:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

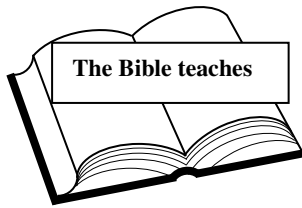
**:59** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

**John 13:3** Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God.

Note: Jesus knew:

- That He was come from God.
- That He went (was to go) to God.

**John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.**



**The Father loves you, if you believe this statement**

**:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.**

Again we see Jesus knew and testified to the truth that He:

- Came from the Father into this world.
- And that He was to return unto the Father out of this world.

**Jesus is now:**

- In Heaven
- With the Father
- In His physical body
- Awaiting the day when He will return

**The disciples believed:**

**John 16:29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.**

**:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.**

**The Prayer of Jesus before His Crucifixion**

**John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:**

**:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**

**:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

**:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

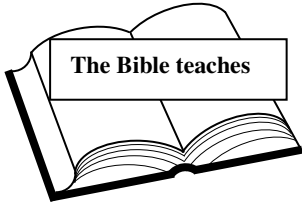
**:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

Note: Jesus asks for the glory that was His before the creation of this present world. What is true is: Jesus would not ask anything of the Father that was not His for the asking. Isaiah said of God: **Isa 48:11 . . . I will not give my glory unto another.**

God the Father could only give to Jesus the glory that belonged to Him because Jesus in His pre-incarnate state was equal with Him. Jesus, on the basis of His pre-existence and return of His glory, prays for them that the Father has given Him (All that have been born again) to be with Him where He is (In heaven with the Father) that they might behold His glory (The shared glory He now enjoys with the Father):

**John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.**

## Jesus was Conscious Of:



- Who He was
- Understood His eternal nature
- Where He came from
- Why He was in the world
- Where He was going
- What He would do when at the right hand of God
- That He would come again
- He knew He was God

## Jesus is God and is Worshipped as God

The first of the Ten Commandments, commands Israel: They were to have no other gods before Him and He only were they to worship, serve or bow down to (Ex 20:1-5). All through the life of Jesus on earth, He received worship, adoration and acclaim as we see in the following scriptures:

### The Wise Men at His Birth:

**Matt 2:11** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

### The Leper Seeking Healing:

**Matt 8:2** And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

:3 And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

### The Certain Ruler:

**Matt 9:18** While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

### Christ Appears Unto His Disciples Following His Resurrection:

**Matt 28:17** And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

There are many instances throughout the Gospels of men or women:

- Falling at His feet.
- Bowing before Him.
- Worshipping Him.
- Many addressed Him as Lord.
- Many called Him Master.
- Many served Him.

### The Woman in the City:

**Luke 7:37** And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

- The woman washed His feet with her tears.
- She wiped His feet with the hairs of her head.
- She kissed His feet.
- She anointed His feet with ointment.

### **The Testimony of Thomas**

Following the resurrection of Jesus, Thomas was absent from the company of disciples at the initial appearing of Jesus. Thomas on hearing of the appearance refused to believe it without seeing for himself and then and only then if he could do certain things to convince him. Jesus hearing this waits and eight days later appears again. The account is as follows:

**John 20:24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

**:25** The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

**:26** And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace, *be* unto you.

**:27** Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

**:28** And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**

All of Thomas's doubts were banished; he was now convinced in his own mind to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus having accomplished His purpose in appearing to Thomas establishes a principle that gives testimony to the power of the Gospel and the blessing of salvation that proceeds from Jesus to them that hear the Word:

**John 20:29** Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.**

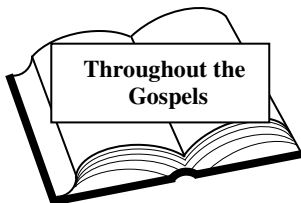
### **You have not Seen, yet You Believe**

**In hearing God's Word allow every doubt you may have about Jesus, as to who He is and His resurrection be banished and believe in Jesus Christ and everything that He is and everything did and confess Him as Thomas did: My Lord and my God.**

### **Angels Worship Him:**

**Heb 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

If Jesus were but a man or an angel, then it would have been idolatry and blasphemy for all that worshipped Him as they did. On the part of Jesus it would have been equally wrong and blasphemous to receive their worship.



**There is not an instance in Scripture where Jesus refused or prevented worship of Him by anyone, nor will He refuse your worship, when it is directed to Him from a blood washed soul.**

### **The Testimony of the Father**

**Heb 1:8** But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of thy kingdom.

**:9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

**:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:**

**:11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;**

**:12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.**

In the above verses we have the witness of the Father who proclaims Jesus in the following statement to be

- Son (His Son) (:8).
- Thy throne, O God, *is* forever and ever (:8).
- King: Having given Him the scepter, the symbol of the office of the King (:8).
- The anointed one: An allusion to His office as the Christ (Messiah) (:9).
- Lord (:10).
- Creator (:10).
- Eternal (:11).
- Unchangeable (:12).

### **Christ is both God and Man**

**John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

**The Word was and is embodied in a sense realm body that man might behold Him and believe in Him.**

Paul writing to the Philippians speaks of the incarnation as a mystery and in doing so, explains the mystery:

**1Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

### **The Greatness of Jesus**

Many instances could be given emphasizing the greatness of Jesus and the list long. But the following are a selection of those of particular importance:

- Greater than the temple (Matt 12:6).
- Greater than Jonah (Matt 12: 41).
- Greater than Solomon (Matt 12:42).
- Greater than Abraham (John 8:53, 58; Heb 6:13).
- Greater than the prophets (Heb 1:1-2).
- Better than the angels (Heb 1:4-7).
- Greater than Moses (Heb 3:1-3).

**The Book of Hebrews Concludes with this Testimony of Jesus  
Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.**





### ***Points Worthy of Noting***

1. Jesus was born of a virgin.
2. Jesus is both God and Man.
3. Jesus is the Word incarnate (The Word made flesh).
4. Jesus is God and as God is equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
5. The Old Testament prophets prophesied of Christ's deity, birth, ministry as the Christ (Messiah), His death and resurrection, ascension, present heavenly ministry and His Second Coming.
6. Jesus is eternal. That is: He always was, He is and He always will be.
7. Jesus is the creator. As the Word, He created all things visible and invisible, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. It is a joint responsibility for everything in this world, the universe and in heaven.
8. Jesus knew who He was, where He came from, why He was on earth and having fulfilled His ministry on earth ascended to take His place at the right hand of the Father in heaven.
9. The New Testament writers confirm the prophet's promise of the coming of the Messiah, by establishing their predictions as they were fulfilled in Christ.
10. The New Testament writers give witness to the deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus.
11. The Father testifies of Jesus to be His Son, declaring His eternal existence, equality with Himself, His authority over all things and His ministry.
12. We are to worship Jesus, as our Lord and Saviour, with understanding, believing in Him and all that He is.
13. Jesus will come again.
14. Our testimony is to be as Paul's: "I know whom I have believed."

