

October 12, 2014

Jesus the Son Colossians 1:15-20

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Spiritually and morally Jesus was the most _____ man who ever lived. Was He just a man? Today we will explore the _____ of Jesus. I'm thankful for the Scriptures because they tell me what I _____ to know about the Lord Jesus Christ; they teach the undeniable truth. It's a great blessing and privilege to know Him and to _____ Him. The Scriptures open the door for us to have a _____ relationship with the One who created us, saves us, and loves us.

What shall we _____ with Jesus Christ? How do we _____ Him? Some say He was a perfect man and nothing more; some say He was a great moral _____; and others question whether he really lived or was an invention. The Scriptures present a different _____ of Jesus. They describe Him as divine and allow Him to be called _____ and _____. They reveal His _____ in creation, in the sustaining of life, and in our salvation. They present Him as the only _____ of the church, the only authority over all flesh, and as our _____ on the last day.

In all history, Jesus _____ as the champion of love, of truth, of hope, of peace, and of righteousness. Utterly selfless, Jesus gave Himself completely to _____ all people. Utterly sinless, He practiced what He preached, gave _____ to the oppressed, and _____ the guilty. His constant _____ to weak and sinful people was to _____ and turn to God. He comforted the grieving, raised the dead, healed the sick, delivered the demon-possessed, and fed the hungry. He told people what they needed to know to have _____ life. No _____ could perform miracles or live without sin as Jesus did. Jesus wasn't merely human; He was _____!

Our reading today comes from Colossians 1:15-20. Was Jesus _____ than a man? Some say He was a great moral teacher and some a prophet like Moses or Elijah, but to us He is the _____ of God. Calling Jesus the Son of God means that we _____ Him as divine. Many passages of Scripture clearly _____ Jesus as deity or divine. **Read The Gospel of John 1:1-4.** In this passage the _____ was God and yet was with God in the beginning. Everything that exists came into being through Him; He _____ it.

The Gospel of John is also clear that Jesus has always _____. In John 8:58 the Lord Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was _____, I am." Abraham lived nearly two thousand years before Jesus was born, but Jesus said that He existed _____ before

Abraham. **Read what the Lord Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:4-5.** Though Jesus didn't have a fleshly existence until two thousand years ago, He has existed _____.

John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten (or the only unique) from the Father, full of grace and truth." It was always God's plan that Jesus would come into the world. First Peter 1:20 says, "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you."

Read what the prophet spoke of the birth and work of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6-7. Jesus was _____ a descendant of David since both Mary and her husband Joseph were descendants of David. He established His _____, the church; and it exists to this day. Jesus is indeed our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.

Read what an angel of the Lord told Joseph in Matthew 1:21-23. Jesus is indeed God _____ us, God manifested in the flesh so that He could _____ His people from their sins. When we look at Jesus, we understand God much _____. John 1:18 says, "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has _____ Him." Jesus _____ God to us.

The Lord Jesus explained Himself in John 14:6-7. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." We know what God is, and what He is like because Jesus came to earth to _____ Him to us. The writer to the Hebrews said that Jesus is "the radiance of His glory and the _____ representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus reveals God's undeniable _____, God's great _____, God's steadfast _____, and God's utter holiness. We can see the _____ of God in His Son, in the life of Jesus Christ.

If we wish to come to the Father, we must recognize that Jesus our Lord is the _____ way (Acts 4:12). You can't find God the Father any other _____ today than through a knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ His Son. The Lord Jesus in prayer said, "This is eternal life, that they may _____ You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). Knowing the Father and the Son brings _____ life and forgiveness; and we can't get these things any other way than through Jesus. Salvation is in no one else.

John also reveals an amazing _____ of a doubter who had to be convinced of Jesus. When Jesus first _____ after His resurrection to His disciples in the upper room "on the evening of that day, the first day of the week (when He was resurrected)," the apostle Thomas

wasn't present. When Thomas heard Jesus had arisen he said, "Unless I _____ in his hands the mark of the nails, and _____ my finger into the mark that's in His side, I will never _____." **Read the rest of the story in John 20:26-28.** Thomas' confession of Jesus as Lord and God is _____ and _____. The word "Lord" is a reference to Deity and has its roots back in Exodus 3:14 when God told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." From this phrase comes the Hebrew word "Yahweh," the name of God, which is translated in the Greek Old Testament with the word "kurios." This is the very word that Thomas used when he said to Jesus, "My Lord ("kurios") and my God!" To say Jesus is Lord is to _____ that He is divine. When Peter concluded His inspired sermon at Pentecost he declared, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for _____ that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). Jesus indeed is Lord!

John is not the only _____ to the deity of Jesus. Paul also helps us understand how He was in the _____ of God but fashioned as a man. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** When Jesus came to this earth, He _____ Himself and took the form of a bondservant. He humbled Himself and _____ the Father to the point of death on a cross.

Read what the apostle Paul by inspiration said of Jesus in Colossians 1:15-18. When the Scripture says Jesus is the "firstborn of all creation," that scripture isn't saying that Jesus was _____, but that Jesus has authority over all creation; that's the meaning of the term. Indeed, Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). As firstborn, Jesus has _____ authority over us, you and me, today! Paul also said that Jesus is our _____ and _____ (Titus 2:13).

For any study of Jesus to be _____, we must examine His heart and recognize His love. As the Son of God, Jesus healed the sick, touched the leper, reached out to sinners, offered His forgiveness to the prodigal, and He showed patience to Peter when he denied Him three times. Jesus wept with Mary and Martha at the _____ of Lazarus and wept over spiritually fallen Jerusalem. Jesus taught us to love our _____ and to pray for those who persecute us. He fought the temptations of the devil and _____ us to watch and pray that we might not enter into temptation. Jesus fought the legalism of the Pharisees and the greed and robbery of the moneychangers in the _____. Jesus prayed for the Father's _____ to be done on earth as it is in heaven. He didn't give in to His own _____ at Gethsemane. He _____ the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, the meek, the one who mourned, the peacemaker, the one who hungered for righteousness, and the one who was persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Because He was divine, He knew the _____ of all people. John 2:25 says, "He didn't need anyone to _____ concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man." He knew all the good, all the bad, all the fears, all the pride, all the hurts, and all the desires. He knew

when people _____ about God and when they didn't. He gave the worried reason to _____; He gave the downtrodden _____, gave the sinner forgiveness, gave the doubter _____, gave those who were despised _____, and gave those who were proud a dose of humility. Jesus gave us what we _____ and He gave it to us when we most needed it. Because He had divine wisdom, He knew _____ to say, _____ to say it, and _____ to say it. He spoke simply but profoundly, directly but lovingly, and truthfully but kindly.

We see His heart most _____ at Gethsemane and on the cross. Jesus didn't revile those who reviled Him and didn't threaten those who caused Him to _____. Jesus _____ for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him because they didn't know what they were doing. Jesus never called for the twelve legions of angels to _____ Him from the cross, but He remained there in agony until He died.

Why did He suffer? He suffered because He loved _____ more than He loved _____. He suffered because that was the _____ of His Father in heaven. He suffered because He knew that His death would bring _____ and would open the door for a lost world to see His love and repent. He suffered because He wanted _____ with you and me in this life and in the life to come. Jesus wasn't _____ a man; He was the Son of God! Because He is, you must _____ what you will do with Jesus.

Read Matthew 27:22-25. Pilate _____ his hands in front of the people saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." What are you doing with Jesus? Are you washing your hands of Him? Are you rejecting Him?

Many wouldn't call for Jesus to die on a cross the way that the people did in those days; what they do today is simply _____ Him. Others wish that He'd quietly disappear because they don't want to _____ His teaching on morals or on truth. They'd rather continue living in sin than follow Christ. When you ignore Christ, you're ignoring your only _____ for forgiveness and eternal life. When you reject Christ, you're refusing His _____ and His _____ for you on the cross. You're saying His agony and His cruel death don't _____, that He died for no reason at all, and His love isn't important. Won't you love Him and recognize His love for you?

To demonstrate your love, place your _____ in Jesus Christ, _____ and give up your sins, _____ Him as the Son of God and your Lord, and be _____ into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This baptism is in water and it's for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 22:16 says, "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." When you're baptized, the Lord will add you to His _____; you'll be born again and free from sin, and God will call you His child.