

Jesus the Christ

We frequently hear Jesus _____ Jesus Christ. What does the word “Christ” _____? Grab your Bible and _____ the passages telling us Jesus is the Christ! Paul said, “For I determined to know _____ among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). The focus of this _____ is our Lord Jesus Christ, how He suffered for our sins and rose from the dead by the _____ of God. Jesus is both our Savior and our Lord; He came into this world in fulfillment of _____ prophecies to be the Christ, the Messiah. Today, we’re examining passages that speak of Jesus as the Christ. The word “Christ” is not the _____ of Jesus but an official _____ given to Him in the New Testament. It signifies his _____ as the anointed Savior and King that the prophets of the Old Testament predicted. The word “Christ” comes from the Greek word, “Christos,” which translates the Hebrew word, “Messiah.” John 1:41 tells of Andrew saying to his brother Simon Peter, “We have _____ the Messiah”; and John adds “(which means Christ).” Both Messiah and Christ come from words that mean “to anoint with sacred oil”; these titles refer to “the anointed one.”

In the Old Testament three groups received an anointing to establish their _____ as God’s servants: prophets, priests, and kings. The anointed person was not a free agent to do as he _____. As a prophet, priest, or king he spoke, served, or ruled in the name and _____ as God’s representative to the people of God. Jesus Christ, unlike anyone else served in all three ways; God _____ Him prophet, priest, and king.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew 16:13-18, and contains a question that many of us need to consider. Asking that question, “Who do we think the Lord is?” is so important.

The Old Testament prophesies how the Messiah would come and would _____ His people. The New Testament _____ how Jesus fulfilled these prophecies and was indeed the Messiah or the Christ. The Lord Jesus was Himself a _____. God revealed to Moses and Moses declared, “I will raise up for them a prophet _____ you from among their brothers. And I will put my _____ in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will _____ it of him” (Deuteronomy 18:18-19). The apostle Peter, in Acts 3:22-23, referred to this prophecy and _____ to Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus is our high _____. He was not a Levitical priest and did not serve in the _____ of the first century. Rather, He is _____ our high priest. In Psalm 110:4, God declared to the Lord Jesus, who sat at His right hand, “You are a priest _____ According to the order of Melchizedek.” The book of Hebrews several times makes it _____ Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this very prophecy. Hebrews 5:10 says that Jesus was “designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.”

I am grateful Jesus is our high priest. Hebrews 4:14-16 says, “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold _____ our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every

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respect has been _____ as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of _____.” Not only did Jesus die on the cross for my sins; He is ready to give me mercy and grace in those times of need, when I’m _____.

The Old Testament also predicts that Jesus is a _____. God told David through Nathan the prophet, “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his _____. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom _____” (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

Isaiah also knew a child in the _____ would establish a kingdom that would last forever. Isaiah 9:6-7 says, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his _____ shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the _____ of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

The prophet Daniel also _____ of Jesus’ kingdom when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. Daniel 2:44 says, “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed.”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, sang of Him, “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the _____ of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end” (Luke 1:32-33). Even the Samaritan woman at the well knew that the “Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us” (John 4:25).

On the day of Pentecost Peter said, “And so, because he (that is, David) was a prophet and knew that GOD had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on His throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the _____ of the Christ” (Acts 2:30-31). Peter concluded in verses 34-36, “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘The LORD said to my LORD, “sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’” Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has _____ Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Jesus became the prophesied king when God _____ Him from the dead, and He established His kingdom. So He rules and reigns over the _____ world today. Some people think Jesus Christ will one day in the _____ set up an earthly throne in Jerusalem and reign for a thousand years. They miss the fact He is _____ reigning over His kingdom now, and has been since God raised Him up and _____ Him at His right hand. While Christ reigns over all, not everybody is in His kingdom.

Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and _____ us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14). Many are accountable to Jesus but remain in that domain of darkness _____ the kingdom of His beloved Son. The apostle John said, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). Without Christ, we’re following the world; we’re lost and under the _____ of the evil one.

The Father never wanted us to follow darkness but to come to the _____. The kingdom of Christ _____ redemption and the forgiveness of sins. The kingdom today is the _____. In Acts 20:28 Jesus shed His _____ to purchase the church. In Revelation 5:9-10, the host in heaven sang that Christ “purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” The blood that purchased the church also purchased the kingdom, and those who are in the church are also in the kingdom and described as priests.

First Peter 2:9-10 says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (that is, kingdom), a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who _____ you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Every Christian can enjoy God’s _____ in God’s holy nation, His holy kingdom, as a priest. They become _____ of that kingdom.

Many do not follow Jesus but follow the _____. Jesus Christ said, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to _____, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to _____, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). Some listen to what others say but _____ what God says in Scripture. They were not like the those noble Bereans, “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the _____ with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures _____ to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Many blindly follow the crowd and never _____ where the crowd is going.

The Lord Jesus said after His resurrection, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been _____ to me” (Matthew 28:18). Acts 2 has Jesus _____ as the Messiah or Christ on the throne; He is already ruling as the son of David. Ephesians 1:20-23 says God raised Jesus from the dead “and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as _____ over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” From the moment He arose from the dead Jesus has been _____ over all.

Jesus Christ not only has all authority in heaven and on earth, He is also the “head” of the church. He is the _____ “head” of the church in this or in any generation. Some ignore this; they have an earthly leader they _____ in the place of Christ. But no _____ can ever replace Christ. Just as there is but “one Lord” (Ephesians 4:5), there can only be one head of the church, only one Christ! Men who build their own churches and preach their own doctrines cannot substitute for _____ Christianity. First Corinthians 3:11 says, “For no man can lay a _____ other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” The Lord Jesus Himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes (and no one) to the Father but _____ Me” (John 14:6).

Colossians 1:16 explains, “For by him (that is, Christ) all things were _____, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” God created you and me to _____ the Lord Jesus. Whether in this life or in the life to come, we _____ to the Lord. Read Romans 14:7-9. The word “Christian”

means one who _____ to Christ. If we give ourselves to Him in this life we'll have a relationship with Him in the life to come.

The Lord Jesus said, "And whoever does not take his _____ and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 10:38-39). Many people spend a lifetime trying to find themselves only to _____ having a relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you wish to find yourself, lose your life for Christ's sake. When you give yourself entirely to the Lord, you will find an abundant life enriched by all the _____ blessings in the heavenly places. You'll live with a _____ that God gave you. You'll live with love in your heart, hope for the future, peace in your salvation, and joy in your faith. That's what the Messiah came to give.

Many _____ in selfish ambition; they lust for money and power and step on others to possess and keep it. They have bitter jealousy if they cannot be first, if they can't get their way, and if others don't fall at their feet. Read James 3:14-16. The Lord Jesus Christ "gave himself for our _____ to deliver us from the present evil age" (Galatians 1:4). As the Messiah, the Christ, He gave us a way of life and a kingdom that _____ us from all the harm that evil does in this world. Do you live for yourself? Or, do you live for Jesus Christ?

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?" They gave a variety of answers, and all of them were _____. Jesus became personal with His disciples. He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered correctly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said the Father _____ that to him. I ask you, and think seriously about your answer, "Who do you say Jesus is?" That's the most important _____ of your life. It affects your soul, it affects how you think and how you live, it also affects your morals and where you will spend eternity.

The Lord Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God. He told some Jews who didn't believe, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for _____ you believe that I am he you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). What the Lord Jesus said is still true; faith is necessary to be _____. "And without faith it's impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

If you believe in Jesus you will penitently forsake your sins. You can't remain in sin and still please God. If you believe in Jesus you'll confess your faith in the presence of others. You won't hide it. If you truly believe in Jesus you'll choose to be united with Him by being baptized into Christ. Baptism is a burial, a resurrection in water that unites us with Christ. Romans 6:3-7 says God frees us from sin and gives us newness of life when we're baptized into Christ. God will bless you when you put your faith into action.