

"Jesus the Christ"

We frequently hear Jesus called Jesus Christ. What does the word "Christ" mean? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." Grab your Bible and examine the passages telling us Jesus is the Christ!

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. Like Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2 and verse 2, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." The focus of this ministry is our Lord Jesus Christ, how He suffered for our sins and rose from the dead by the power of God. Jesus is both our Savior and our Lord, but He came into this world in fulfillment of many prophecies to be the Christ, the Messiah. The Scriptures describe this and it's worth our time to study. So thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week. We also want to be part of the lives of your friends and neighbors. Tell them about the program.

Today we're examining passages that speak of Jesus as the Christ. The word "Christ" is not the name of Jesus but an official title given to Him in the New Testament. The title signifies his office 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." You'll remember John 1 and verse 41 tells of Andrew saying to his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah"; and John adds "(which means Christ)." Both Messiah and Christ come from words that mean "to anoint with sacred oil"; now these titles refer to "the anointed one."

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

We offer this study free on Jesus the Christ. If you'd like a printed copy of our study and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at www.searchtv.org.

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Matthew 16:13 to 18, and explore Jesus as the Christ.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 16 verses 13 to 18. And contains a question that many of us need to consider.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Asking that question, "Who do we think the Lord is?" is so important. Let's pray.

Father help us to always to come to understand what you would have to know from Your word. To recognized Jesus Christ as indeed the Son of God. And Father may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Old Testament prophesies how the Messiah would come and would save His people. The New Testament reveals how Jesus fulfilled these prophecies and was indeed the Messiah or the Christ. The Lord Jesus was Himself a prophet. And God revealed to Moses and Moses declared in Deuteronomy 18:18 to 19, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words 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 require it of him." The apostle Peter in Acts 3 verses 22 to 23 referred to this prophecy and pointed to Jesus Christ.

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

Now, I am grateful Jesus is our high priest. Hebrews 4:14 to 16 says, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted 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 need. Not only did Jesus die on the cross for my sins; He also stands ready to give me mercy and grace in those times of need, when I am tempted.

The Old Testament also predicts that Jesus is a king. God told David through Nathan the prophet in 2 Samuel 7 verses 12 to 13, "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 kingdom. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

Now, Isaiah also knew a child in the future would establish a kingdom that would last forever. Isaiah 9 verses 6 to 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 name 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 throne 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 spoke of Jesus' kingdom in Daniel 2, 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 in Luke 1:32 and 3, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Even the Samaritan woman at the well knew that the "Messiah is coming (that is He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us" (John 4 and verse 25).

On the day of Pentecost, Peter in Acts 2:30 to 31, "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 resurrection of the Christ." Peter concluded in verses 34 to 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 made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

Paul wrote to the church in Colossae and said in Colossians 1:13 to 14, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Now many are accountable to Jesus but remain in that domain of darkness outside the kingdom of His beloved Son. The apostle John said in 1 John 5 and verse 19, that "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." You see without Christ, we're following the world; we're lost and under the power of the evil one.

The Father never wanted us to follow darkness but to come to the light. The kingdom of Christ brings redemption and the forgiveness of sins. And the kingdom today is the church. In Acts 20 and verse 28 Jesus shed His blood to purchase the church. In Revelation 5 verses 9 to 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." Now the blood that purchased the church purchased also the kingdom, and those who are in the church are also in the kingdom and described as priests.

Now, 1 Peter 2 verses 9 to 10 says, "But you are a chosen race, a royal (that is kingdom) priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called 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." Now every Christian can enjoy God's mercy in God's holy nation, His holy kingdom, as a priest. When they become members of that kingdom.

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

The Lord Jesus said after His resurrection in Matthew 28 and verse 18, that, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Now, Acts 2 has Jesus already sitting as the Messiah or Christ on the throne; and He is already ruling as the son of David. Ephesians 1:20 to 23 says that 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 (has) put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." You see, from the moment that He arose from the dead, Jesus has been ruling over all.

Jesus Christ not only has all authority in heaven and on earth, He is also the "head" of the church. And He is the only "head" of the church in this or in any generation. Some ignore this; they have an earthly leader they exalt in the place of Christ. But no human can ever replace Christ. Just as there is but "one Lord" (Ephesians 4 verse 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 true Christianity. 1 Corinthians 3 and verse 11 says, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The Lord Jesus Himself said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; (and no one) no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Colossians 1 verse 16 explains a little more, "For by him (that is by Christ) all things were created, 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 serve the Lord Jesus. And whether in this life or in the life to come, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14 verse 7 to 9 says, "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." Now the word "Christian" actually means one who belongs 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 in Matthew 10:38 to 39, "And whoever does not take his cross 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." Many people spend a lifetime trying to find themselves only to miss having a relationship with the Lord Jesus. Now 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 spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. And you'll live with a purpose 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 live 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. James 3 verses 14 to 16 says, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, no, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." The Lord Jesus Christ "gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age" (Galatians 1 verse 4). And as the Messiah, as the Christ, He gave us a way of life and a kingdom that delivers us from all the harm that evil does in this world. Do you live for yourself? Or, do you live for Jesus Christ?

Let's pray. Oh Father help each of us to give ourselves more fully to You. To love You and to serve You in every way. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?" Well, they gave a variety of answers, and all of them were incorrect. At that point, 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 revealed that to him. Now I ask you, and think seriously about your answer, "Who do you say Jesus is?" You see, that's the most important question 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 in John 8:24, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." Now what the Lord Jesus said is still true; faith is necessary to be saved. "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 verse 6).

Now, if you believe in Jesus, you will penitently forsake your sins. You see, 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 Jesus Christ. You see, baptism is a burial and a resurrection in water that unites us with Christ. Romans 6 verses 3 to 7 says that 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.

Well we hope that today's study about Jesus Christ has deepened your faith and makes you want to draw close to Jesus Christ. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons or a newsletter online at our website: www.searchtv.org. There's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches that are in your area. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, if you get a hold of us, we're not asking for money. We're here to help you get to heaven.

So focus your heart on God today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family and there's probably a church of Christ that's in your area. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. Well we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about this program. And always we say, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.