

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

April 1, 2017

## SEEING CHRIST

The apostles never told us the color of Jesus' eyes, the length of his hair, his height, or any other physical description. Even the prophets were silent on this issue, only saying *"...he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him"* <sup>Isaiah 53:2</sup>. It is evident that his physical features are not what God wants us to see about Jesus Christ, yet it is also clear in the scriptures that the wonderful glory of the gospel of Christ is only received by those who *"see him as he is"* <sup>I John 3:2</sup>.

The gospel is presented as a great light that shines in our hearts. Paul said *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* <sup>II Corinthians 4:6</sup>. This is how we see Christ. We see him when the truth of his gospel shines into our hearts. When this happens we are transformed into the image of the one we see. The scripture says, *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* <sup>II Corinthians 3:18</sup>. This is how the gospel works. It is not a new covenant "law" neither is it a new set of guiding principles. Salvation does not come through determination, it comes through *"illumination"* <sup>Hebrews 10:32</sup>.

The gospel of Christ transforms those who see, but it does nothing for those who are blind to it. This is why Paul said *"...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."* II Corinthians 4:4 Satan does not care if you are religious, but he will do everything he can to keep you from seeing the glorious gospel of Christ. He knows it is the only thing in existence that is invested with the power to make you free from both sin and Satan. It is the truth that Jesus said *"shall make you free"*

John 8:32.

This great "truth" Jesus spoke of is not about you or me, neither is it some religious principle or formula. It is the truth of Christ! **Who Christ is:** He is the one by whom all things were created, who was with God and was God, yet became a man for our redemption. **What Christ came to accomplish:** He came *"to destroy the works of the devil"* I John 3:8, *"...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness..."* Daniel 9:24. **Christ finished it all on the cross:** When he cried *"It is finished"* John 19:30 everything he came to do was accomplished. Our sin was destroyed Romans 6:6, and so was Satan Hebrews 2:14. We were sanctified Hebrews 10:10, and made righteous Romans 5:19. This is the truth, and if you see it, it will make you free!

Satan is destroyed for the child of God, but he still has dominion over those who abide in his kingdom of darkness. Even so, when the gospel is preached, he has no power to hold those who will open their eyes to see and their ears to hear. When the truth is preached, they will see Christ

as He is. Those who were dying from serpent venom needed only to look upon the brazen serpent and they would live. Even so, Jesus said *"...as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life"* John 3:14-15. Sadly, many will perish in their sins because, as Jesus said, *"...their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them"* Matthew 13:15.

There are many "portraits" painted of Christ that are not Christ at all. I am speaking of the doctrines that describe Christ and his work unto us. Some of these "portraits" show us a Christ who either "leaves us in our sins," or "covers our sins to hide them from his Father," and "is ever anxious to fulfill our every fleshly ambitions." Others paint Christ as one who demands perfection, but offers it through religious laws, principles, and precepts. None of these "portraits" show Christ *"as he is."* Therefore none of these doctrines have the power to make you free.

Christ is the Savior. He came to *"save his people from their sin"* Matthew 1:21. He did not come to give you a weapon to use to fight your way out of sin, and he did not come to leave you in sin. HE IS THE SAVIOR! When that light shines into your heart, you will be free! There is no demon, no sin, no bondage that can hold you when the glorious gospel of Christ shines into your heart. This is why John wrote *"whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him"* I John 3:6. For if you see

him, then you know him, and if you know him, you are made free! The promise that "*we shall be like him*" is based upon "*for we shall see him as he is*" 1 John 3:2. Open your eyes to Christ ...and live!