

The Lord Jesus Christ

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

II Acts 16:31

The term "Lord Jesus Christ" is used eighty six times in the New Testament. This is not the name of our Lord, but rather a term which tells us clearly who Jesus is. The Apostle John said, "Whosoever believeth Jesus is the Christ is born of God" I John 5:1. Such believing requires a little more depth of knowledge than the average Christian is willing to acquire. Jesus said to some Jews who claimed to believe on Him John 8:30, "If you continue in my word...ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8:31-32. It is obvious to the honest observer that Jesus was speaking to them about being made "free from sin," and what they must know in order to receive that freedom. It is a very simple knowledge. It is knowing and believing who Jesus of Nazareth truly is. He said to those "believing Jews," "Whosoever committeth sin is the slave to sin" John 8:34. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed" John 8:36. "If you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins" John 8:24. The issue of eternal life or eternal death for these Jews hung on this single issue: Who did they believe Jesus of Nazareth to be?

Jesus is...The Savior! I suppose every "believer" believes that Jesus is our "savior." His name is Jesus, which by definition means "savior," or "Jehovah saves" in the Hebrew. The angel Gabriel visited Joseph to inform him that the child in Mary's womb was the savior the Old Testament prophets of God had spoken of. He was the Son of God and was conceived of the Holy Ghost Matthew 1:20. He said to Joseph, "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:21. Peter said of the name of Jesus, "...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" Acts 4:12.

Jesus was His given name, given by God Himself. There were, however, others in that generation, as well as today, who have been given that same name. Certainly the name "Jesus" has no magical powers, yet in my lifetime I have seen many disasters avoided by instantly crying out in that precious name of Jesus. It is not the name itself, but the one behind the name. The apostle Paul acknowledged there are "other Jesus's," some of whom were being preached to the Corinthians in that day II Corinthians 11:4. That being understood, how do we know who the true Jesus is?

Jesus is...The Lord! The apostle Paul did a comparison between the first man Adam and Jesus of Nazareth, whom he called "the second man." He said, "The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is **the Lord from heaven**" I Corinthians 15:47. The angel Gabriel said to the shepherds in the field in the night Jesus was born to Mary, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, **which is Christ the Lord**" Luke 2:11. Even in the manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, He was "The Lord Jesus Christ." His Father was in heaven, and his mother was at his side. Mary was the mother of the Son of God, but she was not, as some say, "the mother of God." At no time did Jesus claim to be God, even though

as the Son of God, He did possess divinity. According to the Apostle Paul, He was the "express image" of God's person Hebrews 1:3, and not "the person of God" Himself. The Son of God was "made of a woman, made under the law..." Galatians 4:4, but He preexisted as "The Word of God" who was "with God, and was God" John 1:1. John said, "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**" John 1:14. Being "made flesh," He that "was God" while He was "with God" was "made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death" Hebrews 2:9. Paul spoke to the Philippians of Christ, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" Philippians 2:6-7.

When Paul spoke of Jesus as "The Lord from heaven" I Corinthians 15:47, he was not indicating that Jesus is the Father, nor was he indicating there are two or three God's in heaven. John spoke specifically to this issue, saying "...there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the **Word**, and the **Holy Ghost**: and these three are one" I John 5:7. The Father is "the person of God." Christ is "the Word of God," and the Holy Ghost is "the Spirit of God." Both "the Word" and "the Spirit" are extensions of the person of God. For all eternity, "the Word" John 1:1 is the "divine expression," and the Holy Ghost is "divine action." The prophet Isaiah saw Christ-crucified as "the arm of the LORD," saying, "The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations" Isaiah 52:10, and "to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed" Isaiah 53:1. These speak of the sufferings of Christ on the cross. The apostles saw the Holy Ghost as "the hand of God." In a time of great persecution, they prayed "grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, **by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus**" Acts 4:29-30. "**And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord**" Acts 11:21.

"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Psalms 110:1

Notice that David spoke of "The LORD (the Father)" and "my Lord (God's Son)" when he wrote this beautiful psalm which was a prophecy of Jesus, which would be fulfilled only after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul referred to this prophecy when he wrote of Jesus, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" Hebrews 10:12-13. Jesus is "David's Lord," to whom God said "Sit thou at my right hand." This is He of whom God said, "...every knee shall bow...and every tongue shall confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father" Philippians 2:10-11. Jesus Christ is "our Lord."

Continue to next page

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." I Corinthians 8:6

Jesus is...The Christ! Peter said, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"* Matthew 16:16. This is the necessary understanding of those who will receive the gospel promise of "freedom from sin." John said, *"Whosoever believeth Jesus is the Christ is born of God"* I John 5:1. This absolute statement is not made about any other doctrine in the bible. A person may miss it in their understanding of the Trinity or the Oneness of God and yet be saved and filled with the Spirit of God. The Apostle John places much emphasis on the subject, however, when he writes, *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son"* I John 2:22.

The Jews in the generation of Jesus of Nazareth were expecting the appearance of their Messiah (the Christ) in the year Jesus was anointed and began His ministry on earth. They knew the promise of God concerning the Christ; He would *"finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up the vision and prophecy, and anoint the most holy"* Daniel 9:24-25. Actually, these were six things which must be accomplished before a period of "seventy weeks (490 years)" had passed, and it was one called *"The Messiah, the Prince (The Christ, the Son of God)"* who would come at the beginning of the seventieth week to do these things. If Jesus were *"the Christ,"* He would accomplish all these things within seven years of the day the Holy Ghost came upon Him and the voice from heaven declared Him to be the Son of God Matthew 3:16-17. If Jesus did not accomplish these six things within seven years, He would be proven not to be *"the Christ,"* and His death on the cross would have been in vain. But, He did not die in vain! When Jesus cried with His last breath on the cross, *"It is finished,"* everything the prophets had prophesied concerning redemption and reconciliation was fulfilled. The *"transgression"* was finished, *"sin"* had come to its end (nailed to the cross with Christ), *"reconciliation"* was made, *"everlasting righteousness"* was brought in, and *"the visions of the prophets"* were fulfilled, all through the death of the *"holy one"* whom God had anointed at the river Jordan.

The Jews had expected their Messiah to come as a mighty warrior, born of royalty, to drive the Romans out of their land and establish himself as king in Jerusalem to sit on the throne of David. They believed he would be just a man, a descendant of David. Jesus of Nazareth, though descended from David, did not fit their image of the Christ. They had Him crucified and thought it was over. It was obvious to the Jews that sin still abounded, and the Romans still oppressed their land. This was proof to them that Jesus is not *"the Christ."* John wrote, *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power (privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them*

that believe on his name" John 1:11-12. We who *"believe on His name"* are the *"privileged people."* Everything He came to do, He did in the heart and nature of those who believe on Him. John wrote, *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not"* I John 3:5-6. The Jew is still looking for Christ to come. They know that when He comes, He will *"make an end of sins"* and *"bring in everlasting righteousness."* Sadly, the modern church does not understand the gospel of Christ as well as the Jews. Many in the modern church are doing everything possible to reach the Jews for Jesus, but every time a Jew hears a Christian say, *"We are all sinners, we sin every day,"* the Jew only hears them say, *"Jesus is not the Christ! Jesus is not the Christ!"* Do you profess to believe *"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?"* Has your heart been washed and made pure by the precious blood of Christ? Do you believe Jesus *"made an end of sins"* when He died on the cross, or do you believe He failed in His mission, and only at his second coming will he be able to accomplish what He could not do the first time?

There are many who believe Jesus was just a man while on earth, who could have sinned, and was tempted to sin. Just as many on the other side of the spectrum believe He was God the Father, Jehovah, the "I AM" of the Old Testament. Either of these positions are equally dangerous. If we see Him to be less than He is, we lose the savior. If we see Him as more than He is, we also have lost the savior. This *"second man,"* Jesus, was not just a man; He was David's Lord from heaven, sent by God to offer His body and blood, sufficient to take away the sin of the world. He was God's sacrifice for man, God's only begotten Son John 3:16, whom God offered to *"take away the sin of the world"* John 1:29.



FREE BOOK!
Who is this Son of Man?
by Leroy Surface

To order, visit cochurch.org or write to:
Behold the Lamb • PO Box 750 • Porter, TX 77365

Behold the Lamb
Publications