

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

January 6, 2017

The Revelation of Christ

The foundation of the Church is a simple knowledge ...or revelation. Jesus said *“upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Matthew 16:18. *“This rock”* Jesus spoke of is the revelation that Jesus is *“the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Matthew 16:16. The apostle Paul confirms this as the foundation of the church, saying, *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* (properly understood as *“Jesus, the Christ”*) 1 Corinthians 3:11. This simple revelation is *“the truth”* Jesus was speaking of when he said, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* John 8:32.

Peter’s statement concerning Jesus is so “filled” with “power and truth” that it would be blasphemy if applied to any other man. Let’s look at Peter’s revelation of who Jesus really is.

“THOU ART THE CHRIST...” It is impossible to express the power of this statement in this short letter, or even in a library of books. *“The Christ”* was the fulfillment and embodiment of every promise of God to the Jewish people. Yet he was not promised to the Jews alone. *“The Christ”* was God’s gift to all humanity.

The first promise of *“The Christ”* is found in the first promise of our redemption. When God told of the *“seed”* of the woman who would bruise the Serpent’s head Genesis 3:15, he was giving a promise

of *"The Christ"* who would one day come. Based upon this promise, the apostle John later wrote, *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* I John 3:8. If Jesus was did not destroy the works of the devil, which is sin, he could not be *"The Christ"* which God promised would come into the world.

On the day Abraham offered Isaac on the altar to God, he saw by the Spirit that God would one day provide a *"lamb"* for a sacrifice. Jesus told the Jews, *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."* John 8:56. Two-thousand years before John the Baptist, Abraham saw *"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* John 1:29. It was then that God gave Abraham the promise of a *"seed"* who would *"possess the gates of His enemies"* Genesis 22:1-18. Paul told us that *"seed"* was Christ. Galatians 3:16. This promised is confirmed when Jesus said, *"...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Isaiah saw *"The Christ"* as God's servant who would be given *"...for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."* Isaiah 42:1-7. This servant would suffer greatly and be *"brought as a lamb to the slaughter"* Isaiah 53:7 in order that he might *"...sprinkle many nations."* Isaiah 52:15.

Perhaps the greatest and clearest prophecy of *"The Christ"* was spoken to Daniel by the angel Gabriel. According to Gabriel, *"The Christ"* would come to *"...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. The apostles preached the message of "*Christ in you.*" Jesus the Christ fulfilled this prophecy by offering himself to make an end of sin IN YOU, make reconciliation for iniquity FOR YOU, and bring everlasting righteousness INTO YOU!

"THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD." This second part of Peter's revelation seemed even more blasphemous than saying Jesus is "*The Christ.*" The Jews understood that "*the Son of the living God*" could not be a natural man. They sought to kill Jesus "*because (they claimed) he not only had broken the sabbath, but also said that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*" John 5:18.

Most of the Jewish people believed "*The Christ*" would be a great deliverer like Moses, but he would be just a natural man, "*the son of David.*" Jesus asked them, "*How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?*" Matthew 22:43-45. David prophesied of the day that God would beget his own Son, saying "*Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*" Psalms 2:7. Isaiah saw that he would be "*Immanuel*" (God with us) Isaiah 7:14. If "*The Christ*" is the Son of God then he is much more than just a man. He is "*the Lord from heaven.*" 1 Corinthians 15:47.

The apostles identified Christ as "*the Word*" who was "*in the beginning ...with God and was God*" and "*...by him were all things created.*" The "*Word was made flesh*" in the person of Jesus the Christ and is "*the image of the invisible God*"

Colossians 1:15-16. Jesus was never just a natural man. He is not only "*The Christ,*" but he is also "*the Son of the living God!*"

This simple knowledge of who Jesus is, what he came to do, and that he in fact accomplished it all upon the cross, is "*the truth*" that Jesus said "*shall make you free!*" This simple truth "*turned the world upside down*" in the days of the early church, and it is still the only "*foundation*" that can be laid. Those who believe it, by faith alone are delivered from the presence and power of both Sin and Satan. Those who refuse to believe it are "*damned*" to a lifetime of struggle with both sin and Satan in their own heart, and eternity without God. As Jesus said, "*if ye believe not that I am he (the Christ), ye shall die in your sins.*" John 8:24.