

Do You Believe in the True Jesus of the Bible?

Last week we talked about Paul's gospel and we saw that his message wasn't unique to himself but that it was a revelation from the Holy Spirit of the Scriptures. In other words, he wasn't the only one with the revelation of Grace because he was given the understanding of the mystery that others didn't have; and now that we are in the Church age, we only need to focus on Paul's writings. We saw how that understanding is faulty.

I want to make some other points that go along with what we talked about last time, but we ran out of time.

2 Pt. 1:1, 16-21 – Written to those who have obtained like precious faith and advises us to know that the Prophetic scriptures do not have private interpretation. In other words, no one is the sole benefactor of a revelation of the Holy Spirit or interpretation of the Scriptures.

²⁰ [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal *or* private *or* special interpretation (loosening, solving). AMP

1 Pt. 1:10-12

¹² It was then disclosed to them that the services they were rendering were not meant for themselves *and* their period of time, but for you. [It is these very] things which have now already been made known plainly to you by those who preached the good news (the Gospel) to you by the [same] Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Into these things [the very] angels long to look! AMP

Heb. 11:38-39 – Notice that the Old Testament saints are not made perfect apart from us, nor we from them.

Now let's get into tonight's message on the Person of Jesus Christ. There is so much false teaching concerning the person of Jesus that to me it is shocking. If you are confused concerning the Person of Christ, you can get into serious error. Remember, it is always the devil who attacks the nature and person of Jesus Christ. The reason is that it is Jesus Himself who we are supposed to place our absolute faith and trust.

So we will be briefly outlining the Person of Jesus. This will not be an in depth study, but a very brief summary of the various important aspects concerning Jesus Christ.

I. His Virgin Birth

- A. Is. 7:14, Lk. 1:26-38. People doubt the virgin birth because it seems so far fetched, impossible. Sometimes people will state that Isaiah uses the Hebrew word maiden. He does but it also means virgin depending on the context. However, in the Greek Septuagint the Greek word that the Hebrew scholars chose was virgin the same as in Luke. The Greek Septuagint begun in the late 3rd century BCE. The Septuagint is quoted by the New Testament (particularly by Paul), and by the Apostolic Fathers.

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The reason for the virgin birth? Rom 5:12 – The sin nature passes through the seed of man, not the seed of woman. Therefore, when Jesus was conceived, He did not have a physical father. Conception took place because the Word is also likened to seed. In other words, it produces life. When the Word of God was spoken through God's mouth, it was able to create the universe. So Jesus was born without a sin nature. This is important because if Jesus was born with a sin nature like every other man and woman since Adam, He could not have been the perfect, sinless sacrifice, the lamb of God without spot or wrinkle and His death on the cross would have been meaningless. But because He was God in the flesh, the creator of the universe, His sinless blood was more than enough to pay for the sins of the entire world. Remember, people are not sinners because they commit acts of sin, they commit acts of sin because they were born with a sin nature. Quickly, in Heb. 9:22 it states that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. In Lev. 17:11 it states that the blood produces atonement. In Heb. 10:4, it states that the blood of animals can't take away sins but in Heb. 9:12 it states that Jesus entered the most Holy Place with His own blood. Eph. 1:7 states that in Jesus we have redemption and forgiveness through His blood. For His blood to have been perfect, He could not have had a sin nature, but holy nature. Jesus didn't need to get born again. Remember, it isn't your sins that produce a sin nature, but your sin nature that produce sins.

I heard someone say that Jesus was born in sin. I have no idea why they think this is the truth, but they didn't get it from the bible or the Holy Spirit, but a false, Jesus-despising spirit.

II. His Divine Attributes

- A. Phil. 2:5-9 – Some have incorrectly interpreted verse 7 where it states that he made Himself of no reputation, that He emptied Himself of being God or His divine attributes. This is due to the Greek word Kenoo which means to empty or make void. So some people will state that Jesus was only a man while living on earth and that He was baptized with the Spirit in Mt. 3 and that is when the Spirit of God came upon Him and so there is no difference between Jesus while He walked the earth and us today who have the same Holy Spirit.

That interpretation is so incorrect that it almost seems foolish to even discuss it, but it is more prevalent that we imagine. Jn. 1:1-3,14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Mk. 9:2-3, 7-9

A Correct interpretation of v. 7 is that Jesus didn't empty Himself of being God in the flesh but that He didn't hold onto His heavenly position but humbled Himself and became a Man in order to die for us in order to redeem us back to Himself. Jn. 10:18. Remember, He stated that no one takes His life, but that He lays it down and will take it back up again. He also limited Himself in that He lived and functioned in complete submission unto the Father and did everything He was told to

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do by the power of the Holy Spirit. However, when we truly study Scripture, we will see that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have always done everything in complete harmony and unity. In other words, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are always involved together in everything that they do.

III. His Sinless Life, Atoning Death and Burial

- A. 1 Jn 3:5, 1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom. 4:24-25 – Jesus had no sin in Himself. He died for our sins. Remember that it takes sinless, spotless blood to pay for sins. 1 Pt. 1:18-19. We looked at the importance of the blood in the section about the necessity of the virgin birth. There needs to be sinless, spotless blood in order to take away sin. But the blood of animals cannot take away sins and the blood of man is tainted with the sin nature. So it is the blood that pays for sin, not hell or the lake of fire. Hell and the lake of fire are the penalty for dying without the payment for sin being made. But hell and the lake of fire are not the payment for sin, the blood of Jesus is. There is no redeeming quality of hell or the lake of fire, that is why it will last forever.

Let's liken this to if you were pulled over for speeding and you had to go to court. The judge passes sentence and the sentence is composed of two options. (1) A fine of R1000 or (2) 100 days in jail. If you do not have R1000, you would have to spend 100 days in jail. However, if a friend gives you R1000 you can pay the fine and get out of having to go to jail for 100 days even though it wasn't your money.

Likewise, in the heavenly jurisdiction, the sentence is (1) Pure, spotless blood of a man to pay for sin or (2) Eternity in the lake of fire. Jesus died and gave His blood for us to pay for our debt. If we refuse His payment through not receiving Jesus, the only option is to pay the debt ourselves and since we do not have sinless spotless blood, we get the 2nd option – eternity in the lake of fire.

- B. 2 Cor. 5:21 – Many incorrectly assume that this means that Jesus literally became sinful with our sin. Is. 53:10 – God made Jesus the offering for sin, not literally sin itself. 1 Pt. 2:24; 3:18; 4:1. They will say that He literally became corrupted with our corruption and had to taste spiritual death for us and suffer in hell being now literally sinful. This was done in order to complete His atoning or redeeming work. They will use Heb. 2:9 as their proof. So if the Bible means, when it states that Jesus tasted death for all men, that Jesus had to literally experience all manner of death in addition to His work on the cross, including spiritual death in hell in order to complete His work of redemption, then His work of redemption is not yet complete because Jesus has not tasted “Second Death”. Why? Because Second Death has not yet occurred, thus He could not have yet have experienced Second Death that is mentioned taking place at the end of this age. Rev. 20:6, 11-14. No one gets out of the Lake of Fire so obviously He didn't taste the “Second Death” since He is seated at the right hand of God. Also,

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the bible doesn't say that hell or the lake of fire atone for sins, the shedding of blood does. If hell or the lake of fire atones for sin, then it won't last forever and everyone eventually would have burned up and paid for their own sins while suffering in the flames. Plus, in Jn. 19:30, Jesus stated on the cross that, "It is finished!" He did not say, "It is almost finished!"

Also, with this line of thinking that Jesus became literally sin itself, the teaching is that Jesus was of necessity, the first man born-again or the first man with a recreated spirit. Then they incorrectly state that Jesus was the first man to be born again in hell. There is no Scriptural record of anyone being born again in hell. They incorrectly use scriptures such as Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:15,18; stating that Jesus was the firstborn among many brethren, firstborn over all creation or the firstborn from the dead. They will state that Jesus wasn't the first man to be raised from the dead, so this must be speaking of being born-again. Let's briefly explain these statements of being the firstborn. Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 15:20-23. Jesus is the first to receive a glorified, immortal-spiritual body. Rev. 13:8 – Lamb slain.

If Jesus needed to be born-again, how would He go about doing so? Remember how we are born-again. Rom. 10:9-10,14. Who preached to Jesus? What did they preach to Him? Did He need to believe in Himself or was there another God that died for Him that we haven't heard of? Also, you must believe that He died for our sins and that He was raised from the dead. Obviously, He had not been raised from the dead, so what did Jesus believe in if He had to be born-again? Let's look at a few scriptures.

Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Eph. 2:10. Notice that there is nothing created but by Jesus. Also, we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. Could Jesus recreate Himself in Himself?

- C. What happened while Jesus was in the tomb for three days?
- Did not go to hell to be tormented
 - Today you'll be with me in paradise. Lk. 23:43
He didn't say, "In three days, you will be with me in paradise."
 - Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit. Lk. 23:46
He didn't say, "In three days, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."
 - Jesus preached to the spirits in prison. 1 Pt. 3:18-20
 - Remember, the old testament saints were waiting for Jesus and salvation and they are not made perfect apart from us. 1 Pt. 1:10-12; Heb. 11:40.
 - Abraham's Bosom appears to have been in the earth. Lk. 16:19-24
 - The spirit of the Prophet Samuel told King Saul tomorrow you will be with me. He first came up from the earth. 1 Sam. 28:13,15,19
 - Lead captivity captive. Eph. 4:8-10. Jesus conquered sin, sickness and death and removed the fear of death. Heb. 2:14-15

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IV. His Resurrection

- There are over 100 references to Christ's resurrection in the NT.
- Jn. 2:19-22 – Jesus resurrected with the same body that was crucified and buried. Acts 2:31-32; 4:33; 17:31; 23:6; Rom. 1:4; Phil 3:21
- 1 Cor. 15 – Dedicated to the absolute reality that Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead, thus proving that He was who He said He was. In other words, it proved that God accepted His atoning sacrifice for our sins and demonstrated that all was fulfilled by resurrecting Jesus from the dead. Not only did Jesus resurrect from the dead, but that proved that the promise that we too, will be resurrected and be conformed to His glorious body which will be immortal, incorruptible, powerful, glorious and spiritual, will also take place.

VII. His Ascension

- Jn. 20:17; Heb. 9:12; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

VIII. His Return

- Christ's 2nd Coming is mentioned over 300 times in the 216 chapters of the NT. His 2nd Coming is the consummation of the plan of God
- Mt. 24:30; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4,6 – Notice, it is after being resurrected that we rule and reign with Him, not while in our mortal body.
- When Jesus physically returns, He will set up His earthly kingdom. Lk. 19:11-17,27; Col. 3:4 – When Jesus appears or returns we will appear or return with Him.

We will not bring the kingdom of God to this earth via taking over universities, governments, etc. This is sometimes called Kingdom Now, Dominionism, 7 Mountains of God, Latter Rain, doctrines, etc.

Rom. 8:19. – Creation isn't waiting on us to get our act together and realize how powerful we are and take over, thus becoming "the manifestation of the sons of God". It is waiting for us to receive our resurrected bodies, because shortly thereafter, creation will be delivered from the bondage of death when there is a new heaven and new earth. Lk. 20:34-36 – Sons of God corresponds with being sons of the resurrection. These passages are parallel in terminology.

There are some who believe that we must bring the kingdom now to this earth and that Jesus wants to rule and reign through us and when everyone becomes believers or under "Christian" influence, then we will invite Jesus to return and only then will He return. Now, this is an oversimplification of what is believed by the different camps of this train of thought and certainly there are variations, omissions and additions to what I said. However, there is nothing in the Scriptures that actually paint such a picture of the church rising up and taking over every sphere of influence in the earth and that Jesus is going to rule and reign through us.

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These camps do not accept nor teach, as a rule, what the Bible declares for the end-time. When we read the Bible, we see major trouble and problems. We see major governmental or political problems; we see wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. Jesus also said that this is just the beginning of sorrows and it is going to get worse. His actual words were that there would be such a great tribulation, that there would be nothing in the history of mankind to compare it with and that unless He shortened those days, no one would survive. (Matt. 24) I don't know about you, but that doesn't look like the Church was able to solve all of the earth's problems of war, poverty, crime, injustice and sin. We didn't change the earth for Jesus and make everything nice, so that He could return for a Kingdom we prepared for Him.

When the bible talks about the Kingdom of God it is actually talking about making Jesus the actual Lord of our lives and placing Him in charge of our lives individually, not collectively via a physical kingdom, governmental authority with humans in charge. It is talking about a personal choosing to yield to Jesus, not a Christianizing of society where people are governed by laws that reflect godly virtues, etc. This has been attempted many times in various fashions by different groups with failure and corruption taking place. The Catholic Church is a prime example of a literal "Christianized" kingdom ruling over men with devastating results. Even Luther and Calvin obtained considerable power and they both had people killed who disagreed with them, who were labeled heretics or those who were Jews, etc. Remember, no one was worthy to loosen the seals in Rev. 5. Only Jesus was worthy. Only the Man, Jesus can be trusted with such power and authority.

We as the church need to preach the gospel. Can we influence society? Yes, but in the fashion of how the apostles did in the Book of Acts. Neither Jesus nor any of the Apostles taught us to take over the various systems of the world and "sanctify" them. But as the people heard the gospel and had a heart change and turned to the Lord, society changed. Not from the top down, but from the bottom up. Mt. 28:18-20; Phil. 3:20; 2:14-16

No, Jesus will physically return and He doesn't return because everything is great on the earth. He actually literally fights those who have rejected and resisted Him. He comes to set up His kingdom on the earth and He will rule and reign and we will rule and reign with Him. Briefly, let's look at the fact that we will not produce the kingdom of God on this earth for Jesus and thus invite Him to return. Jn. 18:33-37; Acts 1:6-7. Rev. 2:25-27; Mt. 19:28