

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28,29

Who is Jesus Christ?

Author: Kurian Abraham

Introduction: Christ is the central theme of the Bible. Jesus is a historical person. History is His story and it is incomprehensible without Christ. It is sad that secular historians paid little attention to Jesus. He is a mystery to fallen world and He can not be understood apart from divine revelations. The Bible is the book about Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament Jesus is predicted, in the Gospels He is revealed, in Acts, Christ is preached, in the Epistles He is explained and in Revelation Christ is anticipated. He is more than a Good man, a Humanitarian, a Prophet, a Miracle Worker and a Political leader. In the Gospel we see the eye witness account of His life and the Personal testimony of His disciples. To Matthew, Jesus is the promised Messiah and the Savior (Matt 1:21). To Mark, He is the servant of God (Mark 10:45). To Luke, Jesus is the seeking Savior of the world (Luke 10:10). To John, Christ is the Son of God who gives eternal life to all those who believe in Him (John 20:31)..

The Deity of Christ: How do we know that Christ is God? The uniqueness of the personality of Christ is based on His divine nature. His deity is confirmed by His perfect life, unique ministry, His resurrection from the dead and the testimony of the Bible (Rom 1:4). He claimed that He is the Messiah (John 4:25,26). Jesus said that He is one with the Father (John 10:30). He accepted the worship of Mary and confession of Thomas "My Lord and my God" (John 12:7; 20:28,29). His conception was supernatural and He was sinless (Matt 1:23; 1 Pet 2:22). His miracles were signs of His deity (John 20:30,31). There is strong evidence of Christ resurrection (Luke 24:25-34). The apostolic preaching was about His resurrection (Acts 2:32). The Church is built upon the truth of Christ's deity and He is the object of our faith (Matt 16:31; Acts 16:31).

Christ and His Divine Attributes:

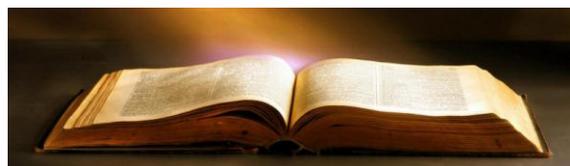
1. Christ is eternal: He has no beginning or ending (John 17:5) He is the Alpha and Omega (Col 1:17).
2. Christ is self-existing: He has life in Himself (John 1:5; John 5:26).
3. Christ is omnipotent: He is able to do everything (Revelation 1:18; John 1:3).
4. Christ is omnipresent: He can be anywhere at any time (Matthew 18:20; 28:20).
5. Christ is omniscient: He knows everything (John 21:17). He knew the way of a fish (John 21:6).
6. Christ is immutable: He is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).
7. Christ is holy: He was holy all through His life (Luke 1:35; Mark 1:24; 15:39).
8. He is merciful: He had compassion when He saw the people helpless (Matthew 9:36).

Christ did the works that only God can do:

1. He is the creator (John 1:3)
2. Everything came into existence through Him (Colossians 1:16, 17).
3. He rose again from the dead (John 2:19, 2; Mark 16:6).
4. He demonstrated God's love (Romans 5:8).
5. Christ received the worship (John 9:38; 12:7).
6. Even the demons knew that Christ is God (Mark 1:24).
7. Christ Himself claimed that He is God (John 10:30).

The Incarnation of Christ: How do we know that Christ is both God and man? Both the Divinity and the Humanity of Christ are very important. It was only by Christ being both God and man that salvation could be obtained for sinful human race.

The Description of Incarnation: The human and divine nature of Christ is portrayed in the Old Testament (Isaiah 9:6,7; Micah 5:2). He was 100% divine and 100% human. The New Testament also describes of Christ as both God and man (John 1:14; Col 2:9). The virgin conception of Jesus points to His perfect deity and humanity (Luke 2:6,7). It was promised by God through the prophet Isaiah (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23). Christ became human to make atonement for our sins and thus reconciled us to holy God (Hebrews 9:26). By his death Christ destroyed Devil who had the power over death and set us free from the fear of death (Heb 2:14, 15). The incarnation is a mystery and beyond the understanding of the human mind. But any denial of Christ's perfect deity and humanity is heresy (1 John 4:2,3). Christ's perfect deity and humanity are fundamental to the Christian faith. He took humanity to become like us in all things except sin. He had a normal body. He experienced temptations yet He did not sin.. He is truly God and perfect man.



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The Work of Redemption: To redeem means to purchase and set free by paying a ransom or price. We have all sinned against God and separated from Him. We were under the bondage of Satan. The blood of Christ was the ransom price for our redemption (1 Pet 1:18,19). Forgiveness of sin is the result of redemption (Eph 1:7). The death of Christ was not an accident (Hebrews 10:17). The Old Testament sacrifices were looking forward to the coming of Christ and His death (John 1:29). It was initiated by God (John 3:16; Isaiah 53:5,6). Christ willingly died for our sins on the cross (John 10:11,18). He bore our sin in His body on the cross and reconciled us to God. He took upon himself the wrath of God (1 Pet 2:24). Christ's sacrifice was once and for all. The price of our redemption has been paid in full. Only by Christ death we are reconciled.

The Resurrection of Christ: The resurrection of Christ is the pillar of Christian faith. The fact of Christ's resurrection is at the core of the gospel and the central message of the apostles. They preached the living Christ (Act 4:33). The old Testament foretold that the Christ should be resurrected (Psalms 16:10). Christ spoke about His resurrection (Mark 14:28). The resurrection proves that the claims of Jesus are true. If Christ is not risen then our preaching is in vain (I Corinthians 15:14-16). He was delivered for our sins and raised for our justification (Rom 4:25). Resurrection gives hope and assurance (1 Cor. 15:20,23). Jesus rose from the dead in His glorified body (John 20:27). In His resurrected body Christ appeared to his disciples more than ten times. More than five hundred people have seen the risen Christ (I Corinthians 15:6). He is our living Savior (Romans 8:34).

1. The Evidences of Resurrection:

- The disciples saw the risen Lord (I Corinthians 15:5-8).
- They proclaimed the risen savior and became martyrs for the same (Acts 2:36).
- The empty tomb of Christ (John 20:7).
- The testimony of angels. "Why do you seek the living among the dead" (Luke 24:4-6).
- The growth of Christian church.

2. The Effect of Resurrection:

- It gives the proof of Christ's deity (Romans 1:4).
- It proves the powerful existence of God (Acts 2:32).
- It guarantees our resurrection (John 5:28).
- It gives assurance of the second coming of Christ.
- It gives believers the power to live for Christ (Phil 3:10).
- It proves that God is satisfied with the atoning death of Christ (Rom 1:4).

3. The ascension of Christ:

- At the ascension Christ returned to the Father was glorified.
- It is the final proof of Christ's completed atoning sacrifice to God (Heb 1:3).
- It was an act of God's power (Eph 1:19-22).
- It was the fulfillment of prophecy promised in the Old Testament (Psalms 110:1)
- He is our High Priest representing us before the Father (Heb 9:24).
- By ascension Christ is seated as the right hand of God as our Lord and King (Acts 2:36).
- Christ ascended to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- By His ascension believers are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. (Col 3:1,2).