

An Introduction to the Doctrine of Christ

Introduction:

There are 3 basic reasons why this study of the Bible teachings concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is of the utmost importance:

1. Jesus Christ is the SUM and SUBSTANCE, the CENTER and ESSENCE of the Bible Christianity.

If we take Buddha from Buddhism — we still have a system of belief.

If we take Mahomet from Islam — we still have a system of belief.

If we take Smith from Mormonism — we still have a system of belief.

BUT

If we take Christ from Christianity — we have nothing!!

Christianity is not a system of believes, but a PERSON. We do not become Christians through the observance of rules and rites, but through a PERSON, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hence we may conclude that if we are wrong on the doctrine of Christ we will have the wrong kind of Christianity. See. II John 9-11

2. Jesus Christ is the central figure of human history.

Jesus Christ cannot be ignored. Even the most avowed atheist must acknowledge Him every time he writes a date, for all history is separated by this Man. No other Person has influenced the lives of men and women — or the course of nations, as has the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is ...

Heaven's bread for earth's hunger

John 6:48-51 "...I am the Living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Heaven's water for earth's thirst

John 4:10 "Jesus answered and said unto her, I thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

John 4:13 "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Heaven's light for earth's guilt

John 1:4-5 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

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Matthew 4:16 “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”

Isaiah 42:6-7 “I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee 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.”

Heaven’s wisdom for earth’s folly

James 3:15 “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

Proverb 8

Heaven’s peace for earth’s strife

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Matthew 10:34 “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.”

Luke 12:51 “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Heaven’s justification for earth’s condemnation

Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Heaven’s salvation for earth’s domination.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Acts 16:31 “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

3. Jesus Christ is the target for Satanic attack.

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The whole thrust of the Devil's attacks upon Bible Christianity is directed toward the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan seeks to discredit Christ by tempting men to doubt the Bible (which Christ accredited) and the miracles (which Christ performed.)

Satan knows that stakes — there can be only ONE Lord! This is why the temptation of Christ was so critical:

“Fall down and worship me ...” Satan was trying to make a devil-worshiper out of Christ, knowing that a successful outcome would have made him Lord.

Satan's emissaries (which include a lot of modernistic “churchmen” and “xcholars”) have fomented much false doctrine concerning the Son of god — Thus it is of the greatest importance that each student KNOW the truth and be able to STAND by it.

In studying the doctrine of Christ (known theologically as “Christology”) we are concerned with two ares — the PERSON and the WORK of Christ.

Person — Humanity and Deity

Work — Past, Present, Prospective

It is very important for the student of the Word of God to understand at all times which of the above categories applies to any given passage of Scripture dealing with Christ. This will explain why the Bible sometimes refers to Jesus Christ as a man. An overall, balanced viewpoint needs to be developed.

eg. The four Gospels each portray the Lord Jesus Christ in a different light:

Matthew	King	Sovereignty	To the Jews
Mark	Servant	Ministry	To the Romans
Luke	Man	Humanity	To the Greeks
John	God	Deity	To all

(Jehovah's Witnesses and other Unitarian cults try to stick to the Gospels of Mark and Luke — and especially steer clear of John's Gospel.)

Some words to explain

1. Jesus

This is transliterated from a Greek word — pronounced “Yaysous”, and is the same as the Hebrew “Joshua.”

The Name means “Savior” (Matthew 1:21), or more particularly “Jehovah-Savior.”

2. Christ

This is transliterated from a Greek word — pronounced “Christos”, which means “anointed.” It is equivalent to the Hebrew “Messiah.”

3. Deity

This a theological term derived from the Latin word “deus” meaning “God.”

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When we speak of the “deity of Christ,” we are referring to the fact that He is God.

4. Incarnation

This word means “to embody in flesh,” and refers to the coming of Christ to this world as a Man.