

Preaching Jesus Christ

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PREACHING JESUS CHRIST

That whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:15-17

It is difficult for anyone in today's world to want to know of or to investigate the possibilities of religion. For many individuals, what they know of God comes from the outward expression of Him through the witness of others, whether it be through family, friends, an acquaintance, the media, or even through entertainment, such as television shows or movies. Unfortunately, some of these do not always express God in the best light, and often times truths and falsehoods are turned on their head, where good becomes evil and evil becomes good. For an individual who has never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ, or has not studied the Scriptures thoroughly, the truth of God is frequently blurred by the precepts of men.

Of course, the astronomical number of different religious beliefs does not help to alleviate the confusion. There are approximately 41,000 different Christian denominations in the world, and naturally, they all proclaim that their beliefs are the right way. To compound the problem further, there are several different versions of the Bible as well. Therefore, it can become easy to confuse eternal truths with falsehoods and stereotypes. Arthur Oakman, a man of spiritual understanding, once said that more damage has been done to the faith through the preaching of falsehoods than atheism.

Individuals who do not have an intimate knowledge in any particular subject, often take the things that they see in their life to form their own opinion. This is nothing new, and is in fact, quite natural. However, problems occur when individuals start to view their opinions as fact without going to the actual source for the truth. The problems are magnified when individuals begin to view their opinion as valid, not only for themselves, but for everyone else as well. This is especially true when considering the Gospel.

Sadly, because of all the clutter and confusion, too often the ideas and the precepts of men shine through the muddle, which affects and prevents many from seeking the truth of God. The author too has his own beliefs, and naturally, believes that he is a member of the true Church of Jesus Christ. However, the most important part of witnessing or learning is not necessarily to teach or listen for our "beliefs," but to share and to seek to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ *as it is written*. For the first chapter of John tells us that Jesus was from the beginning and that the Gospel was with Him and in Him [read John 1:1-5]. The Son of God preached the Gospel and the Gospel was the light and life of the world.

How many have actually studied the Scriptures to learn of Jesus Christ and to form their own personal relationship with Him? How many know of His teachings? What was Christ's purpose? Was He simply a man or a prophet? Was He truly the Son of God? We would ask the reader, what do you know of Jesus Christ? In the subsequent chapter, we will address and answer some of these questions in order to provide the reader with the basic truths of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

Jesus Christ From the Beginning

Perhaps one of the largest misconceptions of Jesus Christ is that He was just a man and that He was not divine. As some people believe that Jesus was simply a prophet and nothing more, while others believe that He was merely a good person. In fact, there are many Christians and theologians today who believe that Jesus only came into existence when He was born more than two thousand years ago, and that Christ's Church was not established until His birth. However, as we delve into the Scriptures we will discover who Christ really was and is, and that the Son of God was with the Father from the foundation of the world.

Many people, even those who believe in Christ, may be surprised to learn that Jesus is first mentioned in the opening chapter of the book of Genesis. "And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me *from the beginning*, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so.¹" The verse not only communicates to us that the Son was from the beginning, but that He was also involved in the creation of man.

We find further truth of this statement by looking to the New Testament and in particular, to the words of Jesus Himself, for He told the Jews during His ministry, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.²" The Lord Jesus also said while He prayed over the disciples, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.³"

The Apostle John also testified of the Master's divinity by writing that Jesus was with God and of God from the beginning, saying, "All things were made *by him*; and *without him* was not anything made which was made.⁴"

It is important for the reader to understand that God is one eternal round; He does not lean to the left or to the right, but is the same yesterday, today, and forever.⁵ Thus even a statement taken from Scripture, such as "the Son of God was in the beginning" and was involved in the creation of all things, must be verified and confirmed by other Scriptures. For this very purpose, it is important for all to study and know the Scriptures so that we will not be lead astray by the precepts of men or the craftiness of

¹ Genesis 1:27

² John 8:56-58

³ John 17:24

⁴ John 1:3

⁵ Isaiah 29:25

the adversary. We would direct the reader to read the following Scripture passages from Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:13-17, and 1 Peter 1:19-20:

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,⁶ which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who **created all things *by Jesus Christ***.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: **1:15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

1:16 For ***by him*** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him**, and for him: **1:17** And he is ***before*** all things, and by him all things consist.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; **1:20** Who verily was foreordained ***before*** the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Jesus Coming Prophesied

The reader has thus learned that Jesus Christ was more than a man, and in fact, was divine and from the foundation of the world. The divinity of Jesus can further be understood by reading passages of Scripture from both the Old and the New Testaments, which bore record of Christ's advent hundreds of years before He was born. In the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy, in the first chapter of John, and the third chapter of Acts, we read that Moses spoke of Jesus of Nazareth who would be raised up from the seed of their brethren, the Jews. "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."⁷ We also learn in first chapter of Matthew and the second chapter of Luke, that Jesus was a direct decedent of King David, who was of the house of Judah.⁸

While all of the law and the prophets from the Old Testament testified of the Lord Jesus, Isaiah bore record of the Son of God perhaps more than any other, writing seven hundred years before Jesus's birth, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel...For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there is no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."⁹

One of Isaiah's more powerful prophecies of Christ's coming and His ministry on the earth can be found in the fifty-third chapter. Because of the beauty and strength within Isaiah's words, the author will not attempt to paraphrase these verses, but will instead present them to the reader. The following

⁶ The "fellowship of the mystery" is a referring to the mystery that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was resurrected to live unto God.

⁷ Acts 3:22

⁸ Luke 2:4

⁹ Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6-7

Scripture can be found in Isaiah 53:1-12. The parentheses are added to give further reference for the Scriptures preceding them.

53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? **53:2** For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground (Matthew 2:6; Luke 1:27-35); he hath **no form nor comeliness**; and when we shall see him, there is **no beauty** that we should desire him. **53:3** He is **despised and rejected** of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not (John 1:10-11). **53:4** Surely he hath **borne** our griefs, and **carried** our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted (Matthew 8:17). **53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (1 Pet 2:21-24). **53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (1 Pet 2:25).

53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened **not** his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth (Matthew 26:51, 60-62; Acts 8:32). **53:8** He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken. **53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make **his soul an offering for sin** (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:25-26; Hebrews 9:14), he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. **53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall **bear their iniquities** (Romans 3:23-26; 1 John 2:1). **53:12** Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great (Philippians 2:5-11), and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare the sin of many**, and made **intercession** for the transgressors (2 Corinthians 5:14-19; Colossians 2:13-15).

In the prophecy from Isaiah, we are able to read how Jesus Christ was to live while on the earth, and we can witness through the New Testament that each one of Isaiah's prophecies came true in the life and ministry of Christ. For Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.¹⁰" Therefore all the works which Jesus accomplished were to fulfill the words of His Father and to show mankind that He truly was the Son of God.

Isaiah's prophecy both foretold and described some of the terrible afflictions that Jesus would face during His ministry, and the Gospel confirmed it as truth. He was despised and rejected; He bore our griefs and sorrows; He was wounded and bruised; and He was oppressed and afflicted. Nonetheless,

¹⁰ Matthew 5:19

none of those afflictions are more powerful, nor more important, than the fact that Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world to save all that believe in Him. We know from Matthew, chapter twenty-six, that Christ could have called upon an army of angels, but to do so, would have gone against the Scriptures and against the plan of salvation. “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But *how then* shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?¹¹” Jesus did not lose His life, but rather He gave it willingly, which is the greatest representation of the love of God that we have. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.¹²”

The following table is a short list of prophecies concerning Jesus:

Reference	Scripture
Resurrection of Christ	Psalms 16:8-11 – I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore. (Luke 24:6-8; John 20)
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16 – For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet (Matthew 27:35)
Garments cast for lots	Psalms 22:18 – They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. (Luke 23:34)
Bones not broken	Psalms 34:20 – He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. ¹³
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9 – Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. (Matthew 26:14-16, 23, 47-50)
Resurrection and Ascension	Psalms 49:15 – But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for he shall receive me. Selah.
Gave gall and vinegar to drink	Psalms 69:20-21 – Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Matthew 27:34)
He will speak in parables	Psalms 78:2 – I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old; (Matthew 13:10-16, 34-35)
Pray for His enemies	Psalms 109:4 – And, notwithstanding my love, they are my adversaries; yet I will continue in prayer for them. (Matthew 5:44)
A high priest after the order of Melchizedek	Psalm 110 – The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:1-10)
Rejecting the	Psalms 118:22-23 – The stone which the builders refused has become the

¹¹ Matthew 26:51-52

¹² John 3:16

¹³ In a crucifixion, people did not die of hunger or thirst, but from suffocation. After an individual had been on the cross for a while, soldiers would break the individual’s legs so that they could not support themselves and thus die quicker. However, they did not do this to Jesus, because he died before they came to break his legs.

cornerstone	headstone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Matthew 21:42)
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14 – Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Matthew 2:6)
Christ is the light of the Gospel	Isaiah 9:1-2 – The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Matthew 4:12-16; John 1:1-11; John 8:12, John 9:5; John 11:9-10; John 12:35-36)
Anointed by God	Isaiah 61:1-2 – The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; (Luke 4:17-20)
Called out of Egypt as a child	Hosea 11:1 – When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-21)
Born in Bethlehem and eternal	Micah 5:2 – But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Matthew 3:6 and John 1:1-4)
Ride a donkey into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9 – Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. (Matthew 21:1-5)
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, and the potter's field	Zechariah 11:12-13 – And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter; a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord. (Matthew 26:14-15 and Matthew 27:3, 6-10)

The Birth of Jesus Christ

There are many people today unfortunately who have trouble believing that Jesus was more than just a man. We have previously discussed that Jesus Christ was from the beginning and that His coming was prophesized thousands of years before His actual birth, as we read in the fifth chapter of Genesis, “And thus the gospel [of Jesus Christ] began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Hopefully however, the birth of the Master will cast out all doubts pertaining to Christ’s divine nature.

During the Christmas season, many people recite the birth of Jesus Christ as a sort of tradition, or perhaps hear of the Son’s birth during a Christmas play. It appears however that the true meaning and purpose spoken of Christ’s birth has become lost to many of us. Traditions can be important, but unfortunately, they can also obscure the truth, and sometimes people become so used to following tradition that it regrettably loses its significance. We must be careful that the traditional reading of Christ’s birth does not become merely a children’s story, for we have a witness through the Scriptures and the Holy Ghost that it is true [read more about the Holy Ghost in **Chapter Three**]. Please read the following Scripture from Matthew 2:1-8:

2:1 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with ***child of the Holy Ghost*** **2:2** Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. **2:3** But while he thought on these things, behold, the **angel of the Lord** appeared unto him in a vision, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her, ***is of the Holy Ghost*** **2:4** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people ***from*** their sins.

2:5 Now this took place, that all things might be ***fulfilled***, which were **spoken of the Lord, by** the prophets, saying, **2:6** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us (Isaiah 7:14). **2:7** Then Joseph, awaking out of his vision, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; **2:8** And knew her not until she had brought forth her first-born son; and they called his name Jesus. [The name Jesus means “God’s salvation”]

The Scripture above, along with the second chapter of Luke, tells us of Jesus Christ’s birth. In both passages of Scripture, we read that Jesus was not conceived by man but by the power of the Holy Ghost. Christ’s birth was not the creation of a new person or being, but was something so much more, as we know that the Only Begotten Son was from the foundation of the world. What was once God became man in order that man might become the sons and daughters of God. Paul wrote in Philippians, chapter two, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; 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; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.¹⁴”

The Authority of Jesus Christ

It is important to understand that the disciples did not follow Jesus only because of Himself, as He had no form of comeliness, but in part they followed Him because of the power and authority that He had through the Holy Ghost, which was exhibited in the miracles and works that He performed, which testified of His divinity. Nonetheless, throughout His ministry, many individuals were amazed by the authority and doctrine which Jesus possessed as they recognized that His authority did not come from man, but from God. “And no man taketh this honor [meaning priesthood] unto himself, but *he that is called of God*, as was Aaron. So ***also Christ*** glorified not himself to be made a high priest.¹⁵” Although Jesus “thought it not robbery to be equal with God,” He too had to follow the example of priesthood which was established by His Heavenly Father, meaning that individuals are not to call themselves to this responsibility, but rather they are to wait until they have received a testimony from God. Only God possesses the authority to choose who will represent Him.

Following His sermon on the mount to His disciples, we read that even the unbelievers recognized that Jesus’ authority was not of Himself. “And it came to pass when Jesus had ended these sayings with his

¹⁴ Philippians 2:5-8

¹⁵ Hebrews 5:4-5

disciples, the people were astonished at his doctrine; For he taught them as one having authority from God, and not as having authority from the scribes.¹⁶ The word “scribes” referenced the two prominent religious sects of the Jews during this time, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who studied and interpreted the Law. They did this through the wisdom of men, much as theologians do today.

If Christ’s authority did not come from man, then where did it derive from? This question is addressed in the seventh chapter of John. “Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and *I am not* come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him and he hath sent me.¹⁷” Christ’s authority came from the one who sent him – God!

Throughout Jesus’s life, He frequently told the people that He was not doing His own work, but His Father’s work, and that it was the works themselves that testified to the people that He was truly the Son of God. In Luke, chapter two, Christ told His mother, “Knew ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” In everything that Christ did, He always gave the glory unto God. Read the following verses in the table below to see further evidence of Christ’s authority.

Reference	Scripture
Matthew 3:46	And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
John 5:37-38	But I have a greater witness than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me , that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself who sent me, hath borne witness of me...
John 7:14-18	Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me . If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.
John 10:27, 36-38	My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: Say ye to him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works : that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.
John 17:1-5	These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; As thou hast given him power over all flesh , that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee <u>before</u> the world was.

¹⁶ Matthew 7:36-37

¹⁷ John 7:28-29

The Works of Christ

In the verses above, we read that Jesus spoke to Jews that they should believe on Him because of the works which He performed, and in particular, He told them that His works, which were of God, bore witness that He was the Son of God. In Matthew, chapter five, the Master commanded the disciples to be the light of the world and to bear witness of Him, which thing glorifies God, saying, “Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.¹⁸” To be a good witness of God and the Kingdom, Jesus explained that men must live faithfully by keeping the commandments of the Lord, for it is by these things that we will be judged. “Verily I say unto you, it is not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, that shall enter unto the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. For the day soon cometh, that men shall come before me to judgment, *to be judged according to their works.*¹⁹”

The works which the Lord Jesus performed were the works of His Father’s Kingdom, for “it came to pass...that he [Jesus] went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.²⁰” The Scriptures testify that Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom of God through His life and His compassion for the people, thereby setting the perfect example for men to follow. In the eighth chapter of Matthew alone, Jesus performed many works. In the first few verses, Jesus encountered a leper, who was also a man of great faith. For when the leper saw Jesus walking along the road, he knew that Jesus was the Christ and he came to worship at His feet. Please read the following from Matthew 8:2-3:

8:2 And, behold, there came a leper worshipping him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. **8:3** And Jesus put forth his hand and touched him, saying, I will; ***be thou clean.*** And ***immediately*** his leprosy was cleansed.

After Jesus healed the leper, He entered into Capernaum where a centurion, who had a servant in his household who was sick with the palsy, entreated Him. The centurion, just like the leper, had tremendous faith in Christ. In fact, he had so much faith that the centurion understood that Christ did not physically need to come to his household in order to administer to the servant, but that if Jesus merely spoke the words then it would be done. Of course, that is what Jesus did, and the servant was healed, read from Matthew 8:5-13:

8:5 And when Jesus was entered unto Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. **8:6** And Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him. **8:7** The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. **8:8** For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

¹⁸ Matthew 5:18

¹⁹ Matthew 7:30-31

²⁰ Luke 8:1

8:9 And when they that followed him, heard this, they marveled. And when Jesus heard this, he said unto them that followed, **8:10** Verily I say unto you, **I have not found so great faith**; no, not in Israel. **8:11** And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east, and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. **8:12** But the children of the wicked one shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **8:13** And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, **so be it done unto thee**. And his servant was healed in the self-same hour.

Following the centurion, Jesus then entered in the house of His servant, Peter, where Christ saw Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever. Instead of waiting for Peter to ask Him to administer to his mother-in-law, Jesus immediately went to her and touched her hand, and she was healed [read Matthew 8:14-15]. Nonetheless, Christ did not stop there, but as the evening came He continued to administer unto those who were brought to Him. In the end, we read that Jesus performed many mighty works throughout the eighth chapter of Matthew, for He also cast out devils and rebuked the wind and calmed the seas so that His disciples would not perish on the boat, please read Matthew 8:16-17 and 24-28:

8:16 Now when the evening was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the evil spirits with the word, and healed all that were sick. **8:17** That it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and bear our sicknesses. [Isaiah 53: 4]

8:24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves; but he was asleep. **8:25** And his disciples came unto him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us, else we perish. **8:26** And he said unto them, Why are ye fearful, **O ye of little faith**? **8:27** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm **8:28** But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?

Throughout the Four Gospels,²¹ we can find numerous testimonies of the works which Jesus did, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, teaching and expounding upon the doctrine of the Kingdom of God, and even walking on water. Perhaps one of Christ's greatest works however can be found in John, chapter thirteen, as He washed the feet of His disciples. The following verses can be found in John 13:4-8 and 12-17:

13:4 He [Jesus] riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. **13:5** After that he poureth water into a basin, and he began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. **13:6** Then cometh he to Simon Peter; and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? **13:7** Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but **thou shalt know hereafter**. **13:8** Peter saith unto him, Thou needest not to wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

²¹ The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are often referred to as the Four Gospels. Subsequently, these are the first four books of the New Testament

13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? **13:13** Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. **13:14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **13:15** For I have given you an example, that **ye should do as I have done to you**. **13:16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **13:17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

It is important to understand that the Master was not telling the disciples that they needed to go around washing everyone's feet, but instead that they were called to love and to serve others, not as lords but as examples to the flock of God. "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat...But do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not...And all their works they do to be seen of men...Neither be ye called masters; for one is your master, even he whom your heavenly Father sent, which is Christ; for he hath sent him among you that ye might have life. But he that is greatest among you *shall be your servant*. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased of him; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted of him."²²

In all His doings, the Lord Jesus Christ was humble and sought to glorify His Father, it is therefore important that His disciples do the same, for Jesus said, "Ye should do as I have done to you...A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."²³ Through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, all mankind have been freely presented with the gift of eternal life, even to as many as will believe on Him and do His works. Thus we would ask the reader, "What should be our response?"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

While here on the earth, Jesus primarily spent His time preaching His Father's doctrine, specifically the Kingdom of God. "For I have *not* spoken of *myself*; but the *Father* which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."²⁴ Jesus explained that the purpose of His ministry was to establish the Kingdom of God, for He told the disciples, "I must preach the kingdom of God...for therefore am I sent." Not only was this His purpose during His life, but it was also Christ's purpose following His resurrection, as we read in the first chapter of Acts, "Jesus began both to do and to teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen; To whom also he showed himself alive after his sufferings by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."²⁵

²² Matthew 23:1-2, 4, and 7-9

²³ John 13:34-35

²⁴ John 12:49-50

²⁵ Acts 1:1-3

Many people associate the word “kingdom” with a physical place, however, the Kingdom of God is not physical in nature, but spiritual, which can make it difficult to define. Perhaps the best way to explain the Kingdom of God, without delving deeper into its mysteries, is to simply state that it is a spiritual condition where the pure love of God reigns in the hearts of men. [For more information about God’s Kingdom, please read **Chapter Eight**]

Possibly some of the greatest ministry that the children of men have ever received through the Lord Jesus can be found in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, chapters five, six, and seven. In the sermon, Christ taught His disciples the basics of sainthood and explained how they were to live in the Kingdom of God. It is important for the reader to know that in the Scriptures, the Lord will often give us a commandment which is then followed with a promise, such as in verses four through fourteen in the fifth chapter of Matthew.

In the first section of Matthew, chapter five, which is often called the Beatitudes, Christ told the disciples that if they lived as He had called them to live, they would be blessed with exceeding great and precious promises. The format for these verses is as follows, “blessed are they who...for they shall receive...” In the Beatitudes, Jesus called for His saints to believe on His words, to be humble, and to be baptized in His name in order to receive a remission of their sins.

Christ said blessed are:

- the poor in spirit
- they that mourn
- the meek
- they that hunger and thirst after righteousness
- the merciful
- all the pure in heart
- all the peacemakers
- they that are persecuted for his name’s sake
- ye when men shall revile you and persecute you

For:

- theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- they shall be comforted
- they shall inherit the earth
- they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost
- they shall obtain mercy
- they shall see God
- they shall be called the children of God
- theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- ye shall have great joy

In the next portion of the Sermon on the Mount, the Master taught the disciples to be a witness, to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and a city set on a hill, both by spreading the good news of His Gospel and by living it. “Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house. Therefore, *let your light so shine before this world*, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.²⁶” The Son of Man told His disciples that if they would both keep and teach these commandments, that they would be called great and would have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Lord Jesus further commanded the disciples to love their brethren and to reconcile with them, and told them to beware that those who judge unrighteously will also be judged by God. In fact, in Matthew chapter seven, Jesus said, “Judge not unrighteously, that ye be not judged; but judge righteous

²⁶ Matthew 5:17-18

judgment For with what judgment ye shall judge ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete,²⁷ it shall be measured to you again. And again, ye shall say unto them, Why is it that thou beholdest the mote²⁸ that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?²⁹ In other words, while righteous judgment is important, mankind should never think of himself as being greater than his fellow man, for all are in need of the Only Begotten Son of God.

Jesus also told disciples that they should suffer no sins to enter into their heart, but instead that they should take up their cross, meaning Christ's mission to do His Father's will and build the Kingdom of God, and come and follow Him. This message was not just given to mankind as individuals however, but also to men as a collective body of saints, for Jesus warned the Church that it is better to cut off a single member than to let the whole Church perish because of unrighteousness. In this lesson, it is important for the reader to understand that no man is infallible, no matter whom they may be. "Wherefore, if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."³⁰

As we draw upon the close of the fifth chapter of Matthew, we read that Christ told the disciples to not forswear their oaths to the Lord. In this, Christ meant that in order for the disciples to follow God's commandments, they either must do or do not, there is no middle ground. This can also be found in the third chapter of Revelation. For God commanded that His saints be either hot or cold, because if they are lukewarm then He will spew them out. For a disciple to take up the cross, they cannot serve God while also having a foot firmly entrenched in the world.

Perhaps one of the most important doctrines that Jesus Christ taught on the mount was for His disciples to have charity. We learn through the Scriptures that charity is the pure love of God unto all men, especially unto our enemies so that we might inherit the Kingdom of God. "But I say unto you, love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use and persecute you; That ye may be the *children of your Father* who is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."³¹

Finally Jesus said unto the disciples, "Ye are therefore commanded to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect."³² Unfortunately, there are many people today that proclaim that no man can become perfect [read **Chapter Fourteen**]. While it is true that no man in and of himself can become perfect, it is not true to state that no man can be perfected through Jesus Christ, for we learn that God gives no commandment unless He prepares a way for us to accomplish it. Therefore, we must become perfect in order to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, for no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God.

²⁷ To give measure, therefore the phrase is interpreted as "by what measure you give measure, you shall also be measured"

²⁸ A small particle of dust

²⁹ Matthew 7:2-4

³⁰ Matthew 5:32

³¹ Matthew 5:46-47

³² Matthew 5:50

Keys to the Kingdom

In chapter five, Jesus called the disciples attention to how they should live. In Matthew chapter six, Christ continued the Sermon on the Mount and taught the disciples the things that they should do in order to mature spiritually and enter into the Kingdom. The Master laid out eight keys for His disciples to follow, the first of which was secret alms, meaning that we should give and serve others graciously without the need to be recognized. Christ taught the people to give alms in secret so that they would not boast or glory in themselves, but rather instead that they would give glory unto the Father in all things just as Jesus did.

Perhaps the most important aspect of alms is not how much a person gives but the intent of their heart. Do we give with a willing heart, or a grudging one? Additionally, it is imperative to learn and to recognize that giving alms does not simply mean giving away money, but it is also giving of ourselves and our time as well. In this lesson, Christ was teaching His disciples to both have and to grow in charity and in humility, both of which are essential to be a part of the Kingdom, “For charity preventeth a multitude of sins.³³”

Jesus continued His sermon by teaching the disciples that they should not pray to be seen and heard of men, but that they should pray with a sincere heart in their closets and in their secret places. In this, the Master was teaching the disciples to develop their own personal relationship with the Lord, and to understand that no matter what the world might do or what temptations they might encounter, that they were never alone.

For the third key, Jesus taught the disciples *how* they were to pray, and He began by telling them not to use vain repetitions or to be long winded as the hypocrites. A long and elegantly worded prayer can be nice to hear, but without true intent of heart, it has no meaning with the Heavenly Father. In order to instruct the disciples on how to pray, Christ gave them the basic example and template of prayer. The reader will notice that the prayer is not long, but it is simple and plain. It is also important to recognize how Christ first gave honor to God and prayed for the Kingdom before He did anything else. In so doing, Jesus showed the significance in praying in like manner. It was especially critical that the disciples should always give the glory unto God and seek first to build up the Kingdom. [For more on prayer, read **Chapter Sixteen**.] Read the following passage from Matthew 6:8-15:

6:8 Therefore be ye not like unto them [hypocrites]; for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. **6:9** Therefore after this *manner* shall ye pray, saying, **6:10** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **6:11** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. **6:12** Give us this day, our daily bread. **6:13** And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. **6:14** And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **6:15** For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The next key that the Lord Jesus taught was forgiveness, which is an exceedingly important, but sometimes overlooked, principle. “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, who trespass against you, your

³³ 1 Peter 4:8

heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, *neither* will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.³⁴ Jesus told the disciples that God would judge them, as they judged others. Predominantly, this key taught the disciples to love their brethren, and that it was imperative to judge righteously, which can only be done by following the Father's commandments. This Scripture coupled with the parable of the lord and his servants found in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, teach that we should be humble and remember that it is our duty to forgive every man, as their sins are not against us, but against God. Please read from Matthew 18:32-34:

18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant! I forgave thee all that debt; because thou desiredst me; shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow- servant, even as I had pity on thee? **18:33** And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. **18:34** So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not *every one* his brother their trespasses.

Jesus also taught the disciples to fast in secret and to not be boisterous that they were doing the Lord's work, as Jesus Christ did not testify of the works that He did, but instead the works testified of Him that He was indeed the Son of God. The disciples further learned that fasting is critical in growing closer to God and learning of His will, which is essential. As taught in Isaiah, chapter fifty-eight, fasting is not about starving our bodies, but it is about putting aside all the distractions and sins which keep us both from God's presence and from dedicating ourselves totally to Him for a specific purpose or need [read **Chapter Seventeen** to learn more on fasting]. Please read from Isaiah 58:5-9:

58:5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? **58:6** Is not this the fast that I have chosen? **to loose the bands of wickedness**, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? **58:7** Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? **58:8** Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reaward. **58:9** Then shalt thou call, **and the Lord shall answer**; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, *Here I am*.

In the sixth key, Jesus spoke on the value of eternal life. "Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures *in heaven*, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will *your heart* be also.³⁵" The disciples learned not to put value on material or worldly things, but to think on eternal life. They learned that if they did so, then they would always have the Spirit of God in their hearts. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace...But ye are not after the flesh,

³⁴ Matthew 6:16

³⁵ Matthew 6:19-21

but after the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God *dwell in you*. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, though the body shall die because of sin, yet the *Spirit is life*, because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead, dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that *dwelleth in you*.³⁶

Furthermore, the disciples were taught that everything which they did should glorify God, and if they did this, their whole selves would be filled with righteousness. Christ expounded further on this principle by telling the disciples that they could not be single to the glory of God if part of them was filled with darkness, or in other words, if part of them was in the world. “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon [another term meaning the world].³⁷”

The final key is like unto the previous one, for Jesus called the disciples to be in the world but not of the world saying, “And, again I say unto you, go ye into the world, and care not for the world; for the world will hate you, and will persecute you, and will turn you out of their synagogues. Nevertheless, ye shall go forth from house to house, teaching the people.³⁸” Jesus taught the disciples that they were not meant to have concerns of the world, but trust in the Lord for all things. “Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.³⁹” Please read from Matthew 7:34:

7:34 Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon **a rock**, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it **fell not**; for it was founded upon a rock.

Eight Keys to the Kingdom

1. Secret alms
2. Do not pray to be seen or hear of men, but pray in secret places
3. The method of prayer as demonstrated in the Lord’s prayer
4. Forgive others
5. Fast and do God’s work in secret
6. Eternal Life
7. Have your eye single to the glory of God
8. Be not of the world but seek first to build up the Kingdom of God and establish His righteousness

³⁶ Romans 8:5-6 and 9-11

³⁷ Matthew 6:24

³⁸ Matthew 6:25-26

³⁹ Matthew 6:38

Repentance and Baptism

We hope that the reader will have a little understanding of what the Kingdom of God is, as well as about Christ's teachings. However, now that we have some knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we would ask the reader, how does someone enter into the Kingdom? This question will be answered by following Jesus' ministry concerning repentance and baptism.

Repentance

The Lord Jesus called the disciples to preach repentance in Matthew, chapter seven, saying, "Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh at hand."⁴⁰ Nevertheless, the reader may ask, what exactly is repentance? The 1828 Webster's Dictionary defines the word repent as "to feel pain, sorrow, or regret, for what one has done or omitted to do," while in Hebrew the word means "to turn back." The Gospel however, gives a different definition.

We read from the Scriptures that sin is simply the willful disobedience of mankind toward the commandments of God, and that repentance is both confessing and forsaking our sins. In particular, Jesus taught that true repentance was not merely saying that we are sorry and then going back to commit the same sin again, but it was to forsake all sin and to do it no more. After He healed an impotent man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus said, "Behold, thou art made whole; *sin no more*, lest a worse thing come unto thee."⁴¹ Jesus implored further in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew saying, "Therefore, forsake the world, and save your souls; for what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"⁴² What is the profit of sin compared to the joy of God which we can experience while in this life? Perhaps the prophet Isaiah said it best, "Wash ye, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; *cease to do evil; Learn to do well.*"⁴³

Sadly, many people believe that because they have committed so much sin that God could never possibly forgive them. This is not what the Master taught however. Throughout the Four Gospels, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were the religious leaders of the day, often saw Jesus spending His time with the publicans, meaning those who frequented pubs and other sinners, and they confronted Jesus and asked Him why He received such sinners if He was supposedly the Son of God? In response, "he [Jesus Christ] answered them and said, Verily I say unto you, *All* sins which men have committed, when they repent, *shall be forgiven them*; for I came to preach repentance unto the sons of men."⁴⁴ Read the following verses to understand true repentance and God's forgiveness towards man.

Reference	Scripture
Matthew 9:11-14	And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him, and with his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw them, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your master with publicans, and sinners? But when Jesus heard them, he said unto them, They that be whole need

⁴⁰ Matthew 7:9

⁴¹ John 5:14

⁴² Matthew 16:29

⁴³ Isaiah 1:16-17

⁴⁴ Mark 3:22

not a physician, **but they that are sick**. But go ye and learn what this meaneth; I will have mercy and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, **but sinners to repentance**.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. For God sent **not** his Son into the world **to condemn** the world; but that the world through him **might be saved**.

Romans 2:11-16

For there is **no respect of persons with God**. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the **doers** of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, **are a law unto themselves**; Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to the gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:16-18

Wherefore, henceforth live we no more after the flesh; yea, though we once lived after the flesh, yet since we have known Christ, now henceforth live we no more after the flesh. Therefore if any man live in Christ, **he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**, And receiveth all the things of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God is in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

1 John 4:8-10

He that loveth not, knoweth not God; **for God is love**. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us**, and sent his son to be the propitiation⁴⁵ for our sins.

Baptism

Baptism happens to be one of the most divisive subjects among the Christian churches today. Many people say that baptism is crucial in God's plan of salvation, whereas others state that baptism is important, but it is not needed in order to be saved. Rather than enter into a debate, we will simply show the reader how Jesus Christ taught and viewed baptism. It is important to remember that when studying Scripture, we should allow the Scriptures to do the talking.

The reader will perhaps notice during this paper, how the Lord Jesus set the example which He called the disciples⁴⁶ to follow. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught how a person was to live and the duties that they were to perform in order to be a part of the Kingdom, but through the Scriptures, we see that Christ also did these things. "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and

⁴⁵ Propitiation is a fancy word for atonement. The scripture means that God sent his son to die and rise from the cross as atonement for the world sins. This atonement is for every person from the time of Adam, or who are or whoever shall be until the end of the world.

⁴⁶ Although Jesus did select twelve disciples who would become the twelve apostles, disciples is just another term for one who follows Christ. Therefore, all who follow his teachings and commandments would be called disciples.

said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that they Son also may glorify thee; I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.⁴⁷”

In the very nature of Christ’s teachings was “do as I do, and do as I teach.” Recall when Christ washed the disciples feet in John, chapter thirteen, Jesus said, “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done.” In addition, Peter, one of Christ’s apostles, who was with the Son from the beginning of His ministry said, “For even here unto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.⁴⁸”

In all four Gospels, Jesus gave the children of men an example by which they are to follow, by walking into the waters of baptism. “And then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan, unto John, to be baptized of him; But John refused him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and why comest thou to me?⁴⁹” In this statement, John recognized that Christ was the Son of God, and he saw that Jesus was innocent, or in other words, that Jesus had no sin. “And Jesus, answering, said unto him, Suffer me to be baptized of thee, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.⁵⁰” In response to John’s question, Jesus told him that He must be baptized in order to fulfill the law and to show others the example.

Jesus Christ demonstrated in the following verses that there are two parts to baptism. “And John went *down into the water and baptized him*. And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and John saw, and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw *the Spirit of God* descending like a dove and *lighting upon Jesus*. And lo, he heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him.⁵¹” The Son of God showed that a person must be baptized by water and by the Spirit of God, which is the reception of the Holy Ghost. If Jesus, who knew no sin and was the Only Begotten Son of God, needed to be baptized in order to fulfill all righteousness, how much more do we need to follow in His footsteps? Please read the following Scriptures concerning the Holy Ghost from John 14:16-17, 26-27, and John 16:13-15:

14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; **14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be *in you*...**14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. **14:27** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **guide you into all truth**; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. **16:14** He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto

⁴⁷ John 17:1 and 4

⁴⁸ 1 Peter 2:21

⁴⁹ Matthew 3:41-42

⁵⁰ Matthew 3:43

⁵¹ Matthew 3:44-46

you. **16:15** All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

Not only did Jesus give the example of baptism, but He also preached baptism to the people. In the third chapter of John, a man named Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, saw some of the miracles that Jesus performed and wished to know how he could receive this power as well. Therefore, Nicodemus came unto Christ and said, “We know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles which thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.⁵²” Jesus essentially told Nicodemus that a man must be baptized in order to enter into the Kingdom. Read on further in John:

3:4 Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the **second time** into his mother's womb and be born? **3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water, and the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **3:6** That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit. **3:7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Jesus Christ did not only preach the message of baptism while He was alive on the earth, but it has been preached from the beginning. In Genesis, chapter six, the reader can learn that repentance and baptism were taught from the foundation of the world, just as Jesus is from the foundation of the world [read more about baptism in **Chapter Two**]. Please read the following from Genesis 6:52-53:

6:52 And he called upon our father Adam, by his own voice, saying, I am God; I made the world, and men before they were in the flesh. **6:53** And he also said unto him, If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and **be baptized, even in water**, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and ye **shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you.

Jesus Christs Resurrection

The reader might be asking why we have passed over Christ's crucifixion. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is recorded in Matthew, chapter twenty-seven, Mark, chapter fifteen, Luke, chapter twenty-three, and John, chapter nineteen. It is a story that has been retold countless times through sermons, Sunday schools, plays, and even movies. The sacrifice that Jesus Christ made was extremely important for all mankind, from Adam and into the future. By dying on the cross, we know that He took upon Himself the sins of the whole world. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. But if any man sin and repent, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world...For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.⁵³” We will not be detailing Christ's death in this chapter, but nonetheless,

⁵² John 3:2-3

⁵³ 1 John 2:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

we would strongly recommend to the reader to take time and study this subject on their own, just remember to let the Scriptures and the Holy Ghost do the talking.

The sacrifice which Jesus made on the cross was significant for us all, as there would be no redemption without Him, but many people often forget about the importance of His resurrection. In the twelfth chapter of Matthew, the scribes and Pharisees attempted to catch Jesus going against the law and to prove that He was not Son of God by asking Him for a sign. Jesus answered them, saying, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall be no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; for as Jonas was *three days and three nights* in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."⁵⁴

Three days and three nights after Christ's crucifixion, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, walked to the sepulcher⁵⁵ where Jesus' body had been taken. However, when they arrived at the tomb they witnessed two angels, whose countenance was like lightning and whose raiment was white as snow, descend from heaven and roll away the stone that covered the door. "And the angels answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for we know that ye seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay; and go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is *risen from the dead*; and, behold he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him; lo, I have told you."⁵⁶

As the reader can imagine, the women were quite startled by the event but they did as the angels commanded them and told the eleven what they had seen. At first, even the disciples disbelieved. Although they had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry and learned from the Master's own mouth that He must die and rise again for the sins of the world, the disciples still doubted. Read the following verses from Luke 24:35-47:

24:35 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. **24:36** But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. **24:37** And he said unto them, Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? **24:38** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I, myself. Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have. **24:39** When he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. **24:40** And while they yet wondered and believed not for joy, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? **24:41** And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and a honey comb. **24:42** And he took it and did eat before them.

24:43 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled** which were *written* in the law of Moses⁵⁷, and in the

⁵⁴ Matthew 12:34

⁵⁵ A vault in which a corpse is buried

⁵⁶ Matthew 28:4-5

⁵⁷ Moses originally was given a higher law but when they began to worship an idol in the form of a golden calf, God became angry with them and took away the higher law. Instead, in God's mercy, he gave the Jews the Law of Moses, which was all that they were able to perform. When Christ came to the earth and was crucified and resurrected, he fulfilled the Law of Moses, and reestablished the higher law.

prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me. **24:44** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, **24:45** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; **24:46** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **24:47** And ye are witnesses of these things.

Jesus remained with His disciples for a little while longer, and during this time, He bestowed upon each of them the Holy Ghost,⁵⁸ and gave the twelve the authority to carry on and perform His ministry. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen.”⁵⁹

Jesus Christ's Sacrifice

The most important aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection fulfilled God's great plan of happiness and gave the children of men the opportunity to exercise their agency [read more about agency in **Chapters Thirteen and Twenty**] and to receive the gift of eternal life. Hopefully, as the reader has come to a greater understanding of what the Scriptures teach us about Jesus, and not the beliefs of men. In the fourth chapter of Matthew, after Christ's baptism, Satan came to Jesus and tried to tempt Him three times. In each occasion, Christ rebuked him by saying it is written. Note how He did not say I believe, but said it is written, whereby Jesus demonstrated the importance of Scripture [read more about how the Scriptures and how to study them in **Chapter Nineteen**]. Therefore, instead of paraphrasing the word of God, we would like the reader to read two final Scriptures, both from the book of Genesis. Please read from Genesis 3:1-5 and 6:54-64:

3:1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning; **3:2** And he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor. **3:3** But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, **thy will be done**, and **the glory be thine forever**. **3:4** Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and **sought to destroy the agency of man**, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan. **3:5** Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

6:54 And our father Adam spake unto the Lord, and said, Why is it that men must repent, and be baptized in water? **6:55** And the Lord said unto Adam, Behold, I have forgiven thee thy transgression in the garden of Eden. **6:56** Hence came the saying abroad among the people,

⁵⁸ The disciples had already been baptized by water, then was the second part of the baptism where they were baptized by the Spirit and received the Holy Ghost. [Read John 20:21-22]

⁵⁹ Matthew 28:17-19

that the Son of God hath atoned for original guilt, wherein the sins of the parents cannot be answered upon the heads of the children, for they are whole from the foundation of the world.

6:57 And the Lord spake unto Adam, saying, Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin [meaning born into the world], even so, when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good. **6:58** And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves. **6:59** And I have given unto you another law and commandment; wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. **6:60** For no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name; and the name of his Only Begotten is the son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time.

6:61 Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying, that by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death; and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so become of dust a living soul; **6:62** Even so ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be **cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten**; that ye may be sanctified from all sin; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory. **6:63** For, **by the water** ye keep the commandment; **by the Spirit** ye are justified; and **by the blood** ye are sanctified. **6:64** Therefore it is given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickeneth all things which maketh alive all things, that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment. **6:65** And now, behold, I say unto you, This is the plan of salvation unto all men, through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall come in the meridian of time.

Conclusion

As the reader has read this chapter, it is our prayer and hope that they have come away with a greater knowledge of who Jesus Christ is and what He taught. From reading the Scriptures, we are able to come to a greater understanding of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. The reader has learned that Jesus Christ was from the foundation of the world and that His nature is truly divine. Not only this, but that His birth was foretold since the beginning of the world and that He came in order to fulfill His Father's word.

In addition, Jesus was not simply a man, but was the Son of God, and was born of a virgin named Mary. The reader has hopefully learned that Christ's authority came not from men, but from God, which can be seen in the many miracles and works that He performed through the Holy Ghost and the many things which He taught. First and foremost the Master taught the disciples about the Kingdom of God, including the way in which they should enter in the Kingdom by repentance and baptism of the water and the Spirit.

Finally, the reader has come to understand that the Lord Jesus Christ did not only come to die on the cross to be an atonement for the sins of the world, but that He also came to be resurrected and to accomplish the will of His Heavenly Father. We pray that if the reader has any questions or doubts concerning Jesus Christ our Lord, that they would seek out God in mighty prayer and diligently search the Scriptures. From James 1:5-7:

1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **1:6** But let him ask in faith, ***nothing wavering***; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **1:7** For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.