

*A People of the Book*  
*A Topical Study*

A Study of

# Who Is This Jesus?

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## Introductory Remarks

### Introduction

Jesus asked the Pharisees “What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is He?” In the next 13 weeks we will examine Jesus & His character; what people said about Him & what scripture says about Him. Our search is one of the most important searches one might make, because our response its answer will determine our eternal destiny. Our goal in these lessons is to discover truths that will cause us to more fully dedicate our lives to this Jesus – The Christ; The Son of God.

### 1. What people of Jesus’ day said about Jesus

#### a. **The crowds** – Mt.16:13,14

- 1) Elijah; Jeremiah; one of the prophets
- 2) Background of Jesus’ question – near Caesarea Philippi
  - a) Once the center of Baal worship – 14 temples in & around city
  - b) Had a huge marble temple built for the worship of Caesar
  - c) City encouraged worship to Caesar & the gods of ones choice
- 3) People see Jesus as being great spiritually, but not as the Messiah

#### b. **Nicodemus** – Jn.3:1,2

- 1) A teacher that has come from God
- 2) One in whom God was working mightily

#### c. **The 5000** – Jn.6:14 – Prophet that was to come

- 1) Leader who would free them & establish Israel as a great nation again
- 2) Great military leader who lead them in victory over the Romans

#### d. **Crowds** – Jn.7:31 – miraculous worker

#### e. **Guards** – Jn.7:45,46 – remarkable teacher

#### f. **Crowds** – Jn.8:48,52 – a Samaritan & demon possessed

- 1) Samaritan – full of heresy & not worshipping the true God  
(half Jews that mixed idol worship with worship to the true God)
- 2) Demon possessed – full of evil & out to destroy God’s people

#### g. **Pharisees**

- 1) Jn.9:16 – not from God because He violated the Sabbath
- 2) Jn.9:24,25 – a sinner

#### h. **Martha & Peter** – The Son of God

- 1) Mt.16:16 – The Christ – The son of God
- 2) Jn.11:27 – The Christ – The Son of God

### 2. How do people see Jesus today?

#### a. **Christians** – The Messiah; Our Savior; The Son of God; The Lord

#### b. **The world**

- 1) A great teacher & philosopher – leader of Christian religion
- 2) Miracle worker – healer; champion of the poor
- 3) Nuisance – one critical of sinful lifestyles

### 3. What God says about Jesus

#### a. God

1) Rom.1:4 – powerfully declared - God’s Son (by the resurrection)

2) Jn.5:18 – equal with God

3) Heb.1:8 – God called Him God

b. **Human** - Jn.1:14 – God’s glorious word made flesh

c. **The Lord** - Acts 2:36

(Phil.2:9-11 – name above all names – all bow before)

d. **Savior** - Mt.1:21

e. **High Priest** - Heb.4:14,15

f. **Example** - Jn.13:15; 1 Pet.2:21 –to us as a servant & one who willingly obeys

Who is this Jesus?

Lesson # 2

## Jesus Is Divine

### Introduction

As one reads the gospels, there are many things that stand out about Jesus. One of them is the topic of our discussion in this lesson – Jesus is divine. Jesus spoke of Himself as “The Son of God”, someone who had a unique relationship with God that was like no other man. Jesus alone is spoken of this way & there are several evidences given in the gospels proving this claim of Jesus. In this lesson we will examine this claim of Jesus that He is the Son of God.

### 1. Scriptural claims about Jesus’ divinity

#### a. Jn.1:1-14

- 1) John’s goal with his gospel – Jn.20:30,31 (prove Jesus is Christ)
- 2) Concept of “the word” in John’s day
  - a) More than a mere sound = was active & existing  
(possessed the power to express & do something)
  - b) In OT “word of God” seen as having the power to create
  - c) The Gentiles or Greeks saw the *Word* more philosophically.
    - (1) When they looked at the world of nature, they saw that things were not chaotic, but orderly. Everything had its place and moved or grew in an orderly fashion, including the stars above and the vegetation below.
    - (2) Therefore, the Greeks said that behind the world was a mind, a reason, a power that made and kept things in their proper place. This creative and sustaining mind, this supreme reason, this unlimited power was said to be the *Word*.
    - (3) The *Word* was also seen as the power that enabled men to think and reason.
    - (4) More importantly, the *Word* was the power by which men came into contact with God and expressed their feelings to God.
- 3) Vs.14 – this word became flesh & dwelt among us
- 4) Facts concerning this word
  - a) He was with God at the beginning
    - (1) Was preexistent before the creation
    - (2) Was not created  
(imperfect tense means continuous existence)
    - (3) See also Jn.8:58 – before Abraham was “I am”
    - (4) Rev.1:4,8; 11:17; 16:5
  - b) He was God
  - c) By Him all things were created (came to be)
  - d) In Him was life
  - e) He was the Son of God

- b. Jn.5:16-18
- 1) Called God His own Father making Himself equal with God
  - 2) Proof
    - a) His obedience – vs.19
    - b) His great works – vs.20
    - c) His power to give life (raise the dead) – vs.21
    - d) His control over the whole judicial process – vs.22,23
    - e) His authority over mans destiny – vs.24,25
    - f) His self-existence – vs.26
    - g) His authority to execute judgment – vs.27
    - h) His power to resurrect all men – vs.28-30
- c. Heb.1:1-14
- 1) God spoke to man through His Son (last spokesman)
    - a) Through Him He made the universe (all things)
    - b) Son is exact representation of God's being
    - c) Son sustains everything by His powerful word
    - d) Inherited a superior name (above all names)
  - 2) Referred to Jesus as His Son
  - 3) Everything is to worship Him
  - 4) Calls Him God
  - 5) He sits at the right hand of God
- d. Jn.17:1-5
- 1) Jesus asks God to restore His previous glory
  - 2) He has authority over all people – to give them eternal life
2. It was indeed strange to the people of Palestine to hear a man from Nazareth make a claim to be the Son of God & thus make Himself equal with God. He either was who He claimed to be or He was a liar.
- a. Jesus did not make idle claims – He validated them with miracles
  - b. Jn.20:30,31 – many signs – these to prove He is the Christ, The Son of God
  - c. According to Rom.1:4 His resurrection declared that Jesus was the Son of God
3. **Claims of those who knew Him**
- a. Jn.20:24-29
- 1) Thomas witnessed the risen Jesus
  - 2) Stated He is my Lord & my God
    - a) Referred to Jesus as God
    - b) Was blasphemy if not true
  - 3) Jesus pronounced a blessing upon all who make same statement
- b. Jn.11:17-27
- 1) Jesus refers to Himself as the resurrection & the life
  - 2) States all who believe in Him will live even though he dies
  - 3) She states that Jesus is the Christ, The Son of God
- c. Col.1:15-17 – preeminent over all things

## Jesus Is Human

### Introduction

Mt.1:20-23 - An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us."

### 1. Scriptures emphasize the humanity of Jesus

a. Jn.1:1-3,14 – became flesh & dwelt among us

- 1) The word “flesh” (sarx) = the same word that Paul used to describe man’s nature with all of its weakness and tendency to sin.
- 2) 1 John 4:2-3 - This is a staggering thought. Jesus Christ is God—fully God, yet Jesus Christ is man—fully man.
- 3) The word “seen” (“beheld”KJV) (theasthai) means actually seeing with the human eye.
  - a) It is used about twenty times in the New Testament.
  - b) There is no room whatever for saying that God becoming a man was merely a vision of some man’s mind or imagination.
  - c) John was saying that he and others actually saw the Word made flesh.
  - d) Jesus Christ was beyond question God Himself who became man, who partook of the very same flesh as all other men.

b. Phil.2:5-8 – existed in the form of God – emptied Himself & became man

- 1) The word “emptied” (ekenosen) means to completely empty.
  - a) It is the picture of pouring water out of a glass until it is empty or of dumping something until it is all removed
  - b) The very picture of being completely empty stirs a feeling of just how far Christ went in humbling Himself for us.
- 2) What was it that was poured or emptied out of Jesus Christ?
  - a) Jesus Christ did not lay aside His deity when He came to earth.
    - (1) He could not cease to be who He was: God. No person can ever cease to be who he is. A person may take on different traits and behave differently; a person may change his behavior and looks, but he is the same person in being, nature, and essence. Jesus Christ is God; therefore, He is always God—He always possesses the nature of God
    - (2) Christ laid aside some of His rights as God:
      - \* He laid aside His right *to experience only the glory, majesty, honor & worship of heaven.* Men would treat Him far differently than a heavenly being.

\* He laid aside His right *to appear only in heaven*  
and to appear only as the Sovereign God.

(3) This is exactly what Jesus Christ Himself said –

**“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine  
own self with the glory which I had with  
thee before the world was” (John 17:5).**

## 2. Arguments for the humanity of Jesus

- a. Jn.4:6 - Jesus experienced weariness like a man
- b. Mt.4:1,2 – Jesus experience hunger like a man
- c. Mt.8:24 – Jesus slept like men sleep
- d. Heb.2:6-9 – Jesus was made for a little while like man
  - 1) Experienced death like a man
  - 2) Taste = experience or partake of
- e. Heb.2:14 – Jesus shared in man’s humanity
  - 1) Share = share as a partner in human nature
  - 2) Jesus took hold of human nature – made it a part of Himself
- f. Heb.2:17 – He was made like His brothers in every way
  - 1) Jesus wanted to go through all the trials and temptations of man, to experience all of life as man experiences it.
  - 2) Why would He do this?
    - a) To be man’s merciful High Priest
    - b) To be faithful to God
    - c) So He could atone for the sins of man
    - d) So He could help & assist man as he faces trials & temptations
- g. Heb.2:18 – Jesus experienced temptation like a man
  - 1) Faced some of the most humiliating situations possible
  - 2) Born to an unwed mother; poor parents; life threatened as a baby; Father died when young & had to support mother & brothers & sisters; hated by religious establishment; betrayed by a close friend; died the death of a hardened criminal
  - 3) James 1:13 – to experience temptation Jesus had to be a man because God can’t be tempted.
    - a) Temptation happens as one wrestles with evil desires
    - b) Jesus had to struggle with His flesh just like all men

## 3. Benefits to man because of the humanity of Jesus

- a. Heb.2:9 – tasted death for all men
  - 1) When He died, His death would cover man and free man from ever having to die.
  - 2) When He arose, His resurrection would cover man and assure man that he, too, would arise and live eternally.
  - 3) When He was exalted into heaven, His exaltation would cover man and make it possible for man to be exalted into heaven and to rule and reign over the universe for God.

- b. Heb.2:14 – destroyed him who had the power of death – the devil
- 1) Man is a defeated being. He has lost the glory and honor and the dominion that God gave him at creation. He has lost his Garden of Eden, his perfect world and his control over it.
  - 2) Man has also fallen from his exalted position in the original creation.
  - 3) Now man is enslaved by a corruptible world, man is held in bondage...
    - a) To death and to the fear of death (Hebrews 2:15).
    - b) To the sufferings of this world - all kinds of trials and temptations such as disease, accidents, age, war, murder, abuse, adultery, greed, selfishness, neglect, insensitivity, loneliness, and emptiness.
  - 4) *Within himself* man is a defeated being. He is defeated and doomed to suffer all kinds of trials and temptations throughout his life, and then he is doomed to the ultimate fate of all men: death.
  - 5) Now that enslavement & defeat is gone – in Jesus we are free – Rom.6
- c. Heb.2:17 – we now have a merciful & faithful High Priest
- 1) He fully understands our struggle & helplessness
  - 2) He is also always faithful to God – no fear of being out of fellowship
- d. Heb.2:18 – He is able to help us when temptations come
- 1) He withstood all temptations – knows how to resist them
  - 2) Able to guide us in our development to resist temptations
- e. Heb.4:15 – able to sympathize with our weaknesses
- 1) Sympathize – to feel with a person to the point of hurt & pain
  - 2) Jesus actually suffers when we suffer (right along with us)

## Jesus Is Lord

### Introduction

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36) The Lordship of Jesus Christ was a vital part of the Apostles doctrine. The reality of this concept must express itself in every aspect of a Christian's life.

### 1. The facts of His Lordship

- a. Angels announcement – Lk.2:8-11
- b. Jesus' teachings – Jn.13:13-15
- c. Apostles declaration
  - 1) Jn.6:68 – Holy one of God
  - 2) Jn.20:28 – my Lord & my God
  - 3) Acts 2:36 – God made Him both Lord & Christ
- d. God declares – Heb.1:10
- e. **Lord** = master, owner. It was a title of respect throughout history
  - 1) During the Roman Empire it became the official title of the emperor
  - 2) Lord was also a title given to the gods
  - 3) Jesus was called Lord from the very first of His ministry & He accepted this title.
  - 4) There is no question but that Jesus is recognized as Lord, being identical with the Old Testament Jehovah and Adonai  
Matt.3:3;12:8;21:9; 22:43-45; Lk.1:43; Jn.14:8-10;20:28; Acts 9:5
  - 5) When Jesus is called Lord, it means that He is Master and Owner, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the only true God. He is Jehovah, Adonai, God Himself.

### 2. What is to be Man's response to His Lordship?

- a. Acts 16:31 – Believe it
- b. Phil.2:11 – Confess it
- c. 1 Pet.3:15 – make Him Lord in your heart
- d. Col.2:6 – Focus your life around His Lordship
- e. Mt.7:21-23 – do the will of His Father
- f. Col.3:17 – Do all for His glory

### 3. Benefits we receive from His Lordship

- a. **Peace with God** – Rom.5:1,2
  - 1) No longer have to face God's wrath – Eph.2:1-6
  - 2) Now we can please Him – Rom.8:8,9
- b. **Protection** – Jesus determines the course of things
  - 1) Dan.2:21 – God sets up kings & puts them down
  - 2) Ps.2:1-12 – He rules with a rod of iron
  - 3) Heb.13:5,6 – never leave or forsake you
  - 4) Rom.8:28 – all works together for our good

**c. Provides all that we need**

- 1) Phil.4:5 – He is always near
- 2) Heb.7:25 – able to save to the uttermost
- 3) Rom.8:35 – right hand of God & intercedes for us
- 4) Heb.10:11-14 – His sacrifice makes perfect forever
- 5) 1 Jn.2:1 – He speaks to the Father in our defense
- 6) Mt.6:33 – provides us with all the necessities of life

**d. Brings us to spiritual maturity**

- 1) Heb.12:2 - He is the author & perfecter of our faith
- 2) Phil.1:6 – Paul’s confidence God finish what He started
- 3) Rom.8:29 – predestined to be conformed to image of Jesus

**4. Consequences what we fail to submit to His Lordship**

- a. Heb.2:1-4 – no escape from judgment
- b. 2 Thess.1:5-9 – everlasting destruction
- c. Heb.10:26-31 – fearful expectation of judgment
- d. Jn.12:47-50 – Jesus’ words condemn them

**5. To accept Jesus’ lordship in all areas of life means**

- a. We share his values and his perspective.
- b. We are to have his attitude of love toward other Christians (a “spirit of unity”).
- c. As we grow in faith and come to know Jesus better, we will become more capable of maintaining this attitude of loving unity throughout each day.

## Jesus Is Savior

### Introduction

When the angel spoke to Mary, Jesus was announced as the one who would save His people from their sins. This is exactly what man needed from the time that Adam & Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden. God was now prepared to follow through with His promise to Abraham; salvation was coming to all nations through Jesus Christ.

### 1. Man's need of a savior

a. Rom.3:9-20

- 1) **Under sin** = subject to the authority of or under the power of sin. Man outside Jesus is helpless to escape sin.
- 2) Religious or not – all men are under sin
- 3) None are righteous – not a single one\
- 4) None understands or perceives the truth about God or His righteousness
- 5) None truly search or seek after God (men want their own kind of god)
- 6) All are unprofitable & worthless spiritually

b. Rom.3:23 – all have sinned & fallen short (present tense = continually)

c. Rom.5:12 – death is passed on because all have sinned

d. Isa.53:6 – all have gone astray

e. Isa.64:6 – even man's righteousness is tainted

f. Prov.20:9 – who can say they are clean & pure, without sin?

g. 1 Jn.1:8-10 – say have no sin = deceive self; make God a liar

h. Rom.3:23 – the wages of sin is death (deserves separation from God eternally)

### 2. Scripture declares Jesus as our savior

a. Mt.1:21 – Angel declares to Joseph – Jesus is savior

- 1) Savior = deliverer, a preserver
- 2) **Idea** – a person who snatches another from some terrible disaster
- 3) Heb.2:14,15 – delivers them from power of Satan (death)
- 4) Jesus saves man from - the **power of sin**; the **bondage of sin**; the **guilt of sin** & the **consequences of sin**.

b. Jn.1:29 – lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

- 1) Lamb – idea =Passover lamb where God saved Israel (Jesus saves all)
- 2) **Major idea** = blood of the sacrificed lamb saved the people
- 3) This lamb belonged to God – He provided it not man
- 4) Takes away sin – to lift away, carry away, bear for another; a substitute

c. Acts 4:12 – no other name whereby men can be saved

- 1) All men are sinners & fall short
- 2) No man has the power to make another immortal – Jn.6:68

### 3. Blessings because Jesus is our savior

- a. We are delivered from being lost
  - 1) In scripture, man is pictured as wandering about blindly, unable to find his way. His only hope is for someone to notice that he is lost & seek to find him.
  - 2) Mt.18:11,12 – Jesus is the shepherd who looks for His sheep
- b. We are delivered from sin
  - 1) Means delivered from our mistakes, impurities & perverseness
  - 2) Sin is like a disease from which there is no cure; a master who will not let go
  - 3) Man's only hope is that someone finds a cure & the power to free him
- c. We are delivered from all evil and corruption: from aging and wasting away, deterioration and decay, death and hell.
  - 1) Complete redemption; salvation from the wrath of God
  - 2) God loves man and his world and wants to save them, so He sent His Son into the world to save them – 1 Thess.5:9,10; 1 Pet.1:3-5
- d. We are delivered from our enemies & danger
  - 1) Man is pictured as being surrounded by spiritual enemies & dangers
  - 2) Enemies & dangers that attack his body, mind & soul
  - 3) Rom.8:28; 1Cor.10:13; Phil.4:10-13
- e. Acts 13:38,39 – delivered from all things the Law could not deliver from
  - 1) Rom.8:3 – powerless because weakened by our sinful nature
  - 2) Law demanded righteousness – Jesus delivered us from the condemnation of the Law – Rom.8:1,2
- f. We are rescued from the coming wrath – 1 Thess.1:10
  - 1) This world is condemned & a day of judgment has been set
  - 2) Word delivered means to rescue
  - 3) Jn.3:36 – believe not = wrath of God remains on him (Jn.3:17,18)
- g. 1 Jn.1:7 – we have fellowship with Him
  - 1) Sin caused God to remove man from that fellowship – Gen.3
  - 2) In Jesus that fellowship is restored – Col.1:21-23
  - 3) We are continually cleansed from all sin

### 4. Our response to Jesus as our savior

- a. Heb.5:9 – source of salvation for all **who obey Him**
- b. Rom.6:15-18 – **servants of righteousness** – yield members to righteousness
- c. 1 Jn.1:7 – **walk in the light**

Who Is This Jesus?

Lesson # 6

## Jesus Is Our High Priest

### Introduction

God is perfect; man is imperfect and sinful. Therefore, if man is ever to become acceptable to God, some perfect Person has to stand between God and man. One might ask themselves, why this is necessary? The answer; the ideal perfection of that Person must be able to cover man's sin. Also, man must be able to fully believe in and trust that Person's ideal perfection for it to cover him. This is the glorious message of this great truth that Jesus is our High Priest. Jesus Christ meets all the qualifications of the perfect Person, so He can therefore be that great High Priest who is able to stand between God and man.

### 1. The Need

#### a. Man needs a mediator between him & the holiness of God

- 1) Isa.59:2 – his sin & iniquity has separated him from God
- 2) Rom.6:23 – the result is that he deserves death – eternal separation
- 3) In the OT the High Priest was appointed by God to be a mediator between God & man.
  - a) He alone had the right & privilege to enter the Holy of holies once a year on the Day of Atonement
  - b) He symbolically brought all the sins of the people before God & offered a blood sacrifice that he sprinkled upon the mercy seat.
  - c) This blood was to atone for their sins
  - d) Year after year he brought this sacrifice until the Temple was destroyed in AD70

#### b. Qualifications of this mediator – Heb.5:1-10

- 1) Taken from among men – so he would know & understand what it was to be a man; this fully able to present man's case
- 2) Able to offer gifts & sacrifices – leads the people in offering their lives & possessions to God
- 3) Sympathetic concerning man's sin – both those done in ignorance & those done deliberately.
- 4) Must be appointed by God – not to take the honor unto himself (a profession, livelihood or as a service to mankind)

### 2. Jesus fully met these needs & qualifications

- a. Jesus was fully man – Jn.1:1-3,14; Phil.2:5-7
- b. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice – Isa.53:5; 1 Pet.2:24; 1 Jn.2:1,2
- c. Jesus is fully sympathetic with man's weaknesses – Heb.4:14-16
- d. Jesus was appointed by God – Heb.5:5,6; 7:17,20-22

### 3. Some of the blessings because Jesus is our High Priest

#### a. Heb.4:14-16

- 1) Ministers for us in the very presence of God
  - a) Earthly priests only ministered in the Holy of Holies – an earthly Temple (only once a year)
  - b) Jesus is at the right hand of God – Acts 2:34,35
- 2) Able to fully sympathize with man's weaknesses
  - a) Tempted in all points as we are – understands the struggle (name the trial, temptation or struggle – He's been there)
  - b) No sin – overcame all temptations – desires of the flesh
  - c) Able to help us overcome too
- 3) Ready to dispense mercy & grace whenever & wherever needed & as much as is needed (never need worry about being turned away)

#### b. Heb.10:19,20

- 1) Confidence to enter the Most Holy Place
  - a) Confidence – ability to enter freely & openly in full assurance
  - b) Able to have a personal & intimate fellowship with God
  - c) Before only the High Priest once a year could come into His presence & then only with a sacrifice for sin
  - d) That sacrifice has been fully paid in Jesus' blood & we are free to enter into the awesome presence of God
- 2) Jesus has full authority over the house of God
  - a) Mt.28:18 – all authority given to Him
  - b) No fear of anyone overriding His authority & excluding us
  - c) He has fully pleased God & able to save to the uttermost

#### c. Heb.9:11-14

- 1) Jesus entered the heavenly Temple
  - a) Not one made by men's hands – flawed & earthly
  - b) Offered the perfect sacrifice – not the blood of an animal
  - c) His sacrifice only needed to be offered once
  - d) God's justice is fully satisfied (eternal redemption)
  - e) All sin – past, present & future are covered by His blood
- 2) His sacrifice does more than ceremonially cleanse us – conscious is cleaned from acts that lead to death
  - a) No matter how hardened one may have been – fully cleansed
  - b) God stands ready to forgive any & all sin through Jesus
  - c) Heb.10:14 – perfected forever
- 3) Before always had to worry if priest was in God's graces
  - a) Nadab & Abihu – offered strange fire – God angry & they killed
  - b) Jesus fully obeyed – sacrifice eternally accepted
  - c) No need to ever go anywhere else

**4. Our response to His High Priesthood – Heb.10:22-25**

- a. Draw near with a sincere heart
  - 1) Jesus has made us acceptable to God
  - 2) Sincere = genuine, honest, meaningful with no hypocrisy
  - 3) An attitude of gratefulness, appreciation & joy
  - 4) Enthusiastically & excitedly enter His presence
- b. Draw near in full assurance of faith
  - 1) No hesitation – absolutely convinced Jesus' blood fully covers your sin
  - 2) Convinced that full & complete access has been given to you by Jesus
- c. Draw near with our hearts & bodies washed & cleansed
  - 1) Picture - that High Priest would cleanse himself before entering Temple
  - 2) He made sure that he was ready to enter God's presence – all that might defile him was gone
  - 3) We must deal with any & all sin – repent & confess; forsake it
  - 4) James 4:8
- d. Hold unwavering to our profession of Jesus
  - 1) Allow nothing to shake your faith
  - 2) Deal with any & all doubts
  - 3) Always remember that God is faithful – Heb.13:5,6; 1 Cor.15:58
- e. Spur one another on to love & good works
  - 1) Focus your attention on exhorting others in Jesus
  - 2) Continually do whatever you can to help them grow in the faith
  - 3) Mt.5:16; Jn.13:34,35; Titus 2:7; 1 Pet.1:22; 2:12
- f. Never forsake the assembling of yourselves together
  - 1) Always see it as of supreme importance – to you & others
  - 2) We always need each other's presence, fellowship, encouragement, strength, care & love
  - 3) Jesus' custom was to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath – Lk.4:16

Who is this Jesus?

Lesson # 7

## Jesus Is Our Example Of Loving Service

### Introduction

A character trait that is common to most people is selfishness. We desire to be served more than we desire to serve. Jesus came to bring a different perspective to man – the concept of serving more than being served. Man had it all wrong; his focus was on his own personal greatness, not making others great. He wants to be first, not put others first. Jesus sought to change that attitude & demonstrated it in a big way as He washed His disciples feet. Jesus came to serve, not be served & wants His followers to do the same.

### Jn.13:1-38

#### 1. Notice what John says that Jesus knew

##### a. The time had come for Him to leave this world & go to His Father

- 1) Jesus had a set time to accomplish His mission (Jn.12:27)
- 2) It was time to begin the sufferings for the sin of mankind
- 3) The disciples were still struggling for position in the coming kingdom (Lk.22:24-30)
- 4) Jesus had so little time to get His message through – an example needed

##### b. Knew that the enemy was about to strike

- 1) Time was short – He had to act very quickly
- 2) Disciples had to be taught & strengthened immediately
- 3) Knew Satan had prompted Judas to betray Him (still in their number)

##### c. Knew that the Father had put all things under His power

- 1) Jesus knew He was truly master & Lord of all
- 2) Knew He held the supreme position – no competition

##### d. Knew that He had come from God & was returning to God

- 1) Knew the splendor & glory that was His
- 2) Knew His place was at the right hand of His Father

#### 2. Jesus' example of loving service – Jn.13:1-11

##### a. The need for an example – disciples attitude toward one another

- 1) Mt.20:20-28 – Disciples anticipated an earthly material kingdom
  - a) Were looking to have a prominent position (personal greatness)
  - b) Wanted the honor, the position, the recognition & the power
  - c) Jesus had already rebuked them for seeking greatness Mt.18:1
  - d) James & John felt more favored by Jesus
    - 1) Had experienced more intimate things with Jesus
    - 2) Mother was probably the sister of Mary – 1<sup>st</sup> cousins
- 2) The price for greatness in God's kingdom
  - a) Drinking the cup Jesus was to drink from – suffering & death
  - b) A willingness to die to self – bear whatever comes to serve God
  - c) Willingness to pay any price to glorify God
  - d) Greatness means sacrifice not recognition
  - e) Focus in life is God not self

3) Achieving greatness in God's kingdom – vs.24-28

- a) **Great** = commit self to minister to others (occasional service)
- b) **1<sup>st</sup>** = commit self to be a bond slave (bound to Lord continually)
- c) **Example** = Jesus came to give His life as a ransom  
(an absolute, complete sacrifice of self to God's will)

4) Lk.22:24-27

- a) Dispute arose over who was considered the greatest
    - 1) Means – contention, eagerness & readiness to argue
    - 2) No one was giving any ground – stubbornness
  - b) Saw greatness as lording it over others – I have the say!
  - c) In Lord's kingdom, greatness is not seeking recognition or power, it's looking for ways to help & serve others
  - d) Phil.2:3,4 – esteem others better than selves
- b) **Jesus' example** - In the hot, dusty country of Palestine, most people wore sandals and their feet became extremely dirty.
- 1) A water basin sat at the entrance of most Jewish homes.
  - 2) Upon entering people's home, the poor would wash their own feet, & the rich would have a servant ready to wash their feet.
  - 3) Jesus, in the midst of the disciples struggle over greatness, demonstrates real greatness in God's kingdom – willingly serving others needs
- c) **Peter's reaction** – appalled
- 1) Saw what Jesus was doing as too humiliating for the Lord
  - 2) Not allow the Lord of heaven & earth to do such a thing to him
  - 3) **Point** – Peter had to allow Jesus to cleanse him or he had no part in God's scheme of things

3. **The extent of Jesus' service to His disciples** - vs.12-38a. **Jesus' question** – Do you understand what I have done for you?1) **You recognize Me as Master & Lord**

- a) The servant of the Lord Jesus is not just a follower of Jesus. He is a servant, a slave with no rights of his own whatsoever.
- b) He is at the beck and call of Jesus. He does not act on his own, nor do his own thing.
- c) He does not seek the things of the world: its positions, wealth, power, recognition, honor.
- d) He is not existing to *secure* these things; he is existing to serve Jesus and to serve Him alone.

2) **Your role** – serve one another as I have served you = real happinessb. **Jesus even washed Judas' feet**

- 1) Knew Judas' intentions before he acted
  - a) Lifted up his heel - pictures a horse lifting up his hoof to kick.
  - b) Judas kicked Jesus – struck a fatal blow
- 2) Jesus was greatly distressed about Judas' coming actions
  - a) Seated Judas close to Him – close enough to hand him the sop
  - b) Giving the sop was a sign of special attention and affection.

3) Judas hardened himself & Satan was allowed to control him

4. **A new commandment** – vs.34,35

- a. With Jesus departing something was needed to hold the disciples together
  - 1) They had been struggling against each other and were highly critical and judgmental of each other. They had been deeply divided.
  - 2) Love one another as I have loved you
- b. This demonstration of love is the mark of a true disciple

Who Is This Jesus?

Lesson # 8

## Jesus – An Example In Obedience

### Introduction

What is it to obey God? Is it just doing with no regard for the motive? Is God just pleased with action & direction? Jesus modeled perfect obedience in His life & is therefore a perfect example to us of how to obey God. Real obedience is gratitude in action – compliance to God's will that is tied to a thankful heart. Obedience says I love God & my actions prove it.

### 1. Consequences when we are not careful to follow God's instructions

- a. **Adam & Eve** – not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good & evil
  - 1) Banished from garden & fellowship with God
  - 2) Death inflicted upon mankind
- b. **Nadab & Abihu** – strange fire
  - 1) Fire to come from proper source – Lev.6:12,13
  - 2) Fire from different source – struck dead – Lev.10:1,2
- c. **Moses & the rock**
  - 1) Told to speak to the rock
  - 2) Struck the rock & denied entry into Promised Land – Num.20:11,12
- d. **King Saul**
  - 1) Told completely destroy Amalekites
  - 2) Saved best of the plunder as well as the king
  - 3) Rejected as king & kingdom taken from his ancestors
- e. **King Uzziah**
  - 1) Tried to offer incense in the Holy Place (only Priests enter) 2 Chron.26
  - 2) Stricken with leprosy - 2 Chron.26:16-19

### 2. Obedience in Jesus' life

- a. Lk.2:51 – willingly obeyed – offered no resistance
  - 1) Joseph was not His real father – God was
  - 2) He was filled with wisdom & stronger in His spirit than His parents
  - 3) Patiently waited for God to call Him into action
- b. Mt.3:15 – goal to fulfill all righteousness
  - 1) Allowed nothing to deter His obedience
  - 2) Focus was God's righteousness not what seemed right to man
- c. Lk.4:16 – always faithful in His worship of God
  - 1) Had a deep reverence for God – faithfully worshiped
  - 2) Had a deep reverence for God's word – knew where to read
  - 3) Not allow fear of what others thought deter His obedience
- d. Jn.4:34 – food to do His will
  - 1) Focus was God's will – finishing His work
  - 2) Not allow physical desires to deter His obedience
- e. Jn.5:30 – not seek my own will
  - 1) Interests were God's not His
  - 2) Sought to do nothing on His own initiative

- f. Jn.8:29 – always did what Father said
  - 1) Goal was to always please God
  - 2) No hesitation, no excuses
- g. Jn.15:10 – abide in God’s love
  - 1) Abide – at home, peacefully located
  - 2) His motivation was His deep love for His Father
- h. Mt.26:39-42 – your will be done
  - 1) Allowed no physical or emotional struggle deter Him
  - 2) Absolutely submissive to His Father’s will
  - 3) Willing to stand-alone & obey God
- i. Phil.2:8 – willingly humbled Himself
  - 1) Both to God & to man’s needs
  - 2) Placed His own needs last to obey God

### 3. Obedience is expected

- a. Mt.7:21-23
  - 1) Person must do more than call Jesus Lord to enter the Kingdom
  - 2) Person must do more than labor diligently in Jesus’ name
  - 3) Person cannot honor themselves & be in God’s will (did we not)  
(trust was in what they had been able to accomplish)
  - 4) His will – 1 Jn.3:23 – believe on name of Jesus & love one another
- b. Jn.14:15-21 – love = keep commandments
  - 1) Obedience is not optional
  - 2) If really love Jesus obedience becomes the norm
  - 3) Manifest self to him = used in the sense of an unveiling or revelation
    - a) It suggests that a new thing has come to light; that something never known by man before is made known. Some mystery has now been revealed.
    - b) It is something that cannot be discovered by man’s reason or wisdom. It is a mystery that is hidden from man and beyond his grasp.
    - c) Means that Jesus’ presence is revealed (brought to light), illuminated, manifested, quickened in the life of the believer.
    - d) He illuminates Himself *within* their hearts and lives. He gives a very special consciousness within their souls.
- c. Jn.15:14 – My friends if you obey Me
  - 1) Being a friend of Jesus is conditional
  - 2) Mt.12:50 – do will of Father is my brother
  - 3) 1 Jn.2:3 – how know you know Him = obey

### 4. Jesus obeyed even when it was not easy

- a. Jn.10:18 – no one took His life – laid down voluntarily
- b. Gal.3:13 – became a curse for us
- c. Heb.5:9 – learned obedience through things suffered

Who is this Jesus  
Lesson # 9

## Jesus Our Example In Overcoming Temptation

### Introduction

Many times in scripture it points to Jesus as our example; the one showing us the way – to the Father, how to live in the world, how we ought to treat one another etc. In this lesson our focus will be upon Jesus as our example in meeting the challenge of temptation, a common problem for all of us.

### 1. Jesus fully faced all types of temptation

#### a. Heb.4:14-16

1. Was fully man – Phil.2:5-7  
Existed in the form of God  
Emptied Himself & became fully man
2. Heb.2:14-18 – shared in our humanity
  - a) As God He could not face temptation – James 1:13
  - b) Nothing there to tempt (Not flesh, desires)
  - c) In every facet - was a human being – feelings, desires, emotions
3. As a man Satan be a formidable enemy
  - a) Able to exert control – manipulate
  - b) Vs.18 – suffered in His temptations (extremely difficult)

#### b. Lk.4:1-13

1. Satan threw everything he could at Him – 1 Jn.2:15-17
  - a) Attacked Him at His weakest point
  - b) Waited until the desire be strongest – matter of survival
2. Tried to get Him to doubt God's word
  - a) God not have the best intentions for you – must save self
  - b) You taking God's word too literally
3. Appealed to the flesh in every manner
  - a) Success the easy way
  - b) Short cut to reach your goals
4. Satan used many methods to break down Jesus
  - a) Religious leaders & their tricks & deceptions
  - b) Disciples weaknesses & doubts – frustrations
  - c) The cross – death & all that entailed  
Separation from His Father  
Physical suffering & pain

### 2. Blessings for us because Jesus overcame temptation

#### a. Able to be a faithful & merciful High Priest – Heb.2:17,18

1. Able to fully atone for sin – 1 Jn.2:1,2  
Human Priest had to atone for own sin 1<sup>st</sup>  
If not atone = not accepted & couldn't faithfully intercede  
Not a fit mediator – unacceptable to God
2. Fully understands what we are going through  
Already been there

- b. Able to administer grace as well as mercy – Heb.4:14-16
    - 1. Grace
      - a. Sufficient to help us – strengthen us – 2 Cor.12:7-10
      - b. 1 Cor.15:9,10 – driving force, energy to accomplish God’s will
    - 2. Jesus knows how to overcome temptation
      - a. Knows what to avoid – what to focus upon
      - b. 2 Tim.3:16,17 – power of scriptures
      - c. 2 Tim.2:15 – our responsibility – study to show self approved
- 3. See Jesus overcome temptation**
- a. Lk.4:1-13
    - 1. Used God’s word to disarm Satan
      - a. Satan using logic – reality of situation
      - b. He is the Son of God but had emptied Himself
      - c. Now totally man & limited & had to fully trust God
      - d. God had led Him into wilderness & would provide for Him too
    - 2. Able to see through Satan’s deceptive handling of God’s word
      - a. Eve – tricked her into questioning God’s word
      - b. Quotes Ps.91
      - c. As if written for man to challenge God – make Him prove self
    - 3. Openly resisted Satan – refused to give an inch
      - a. Mt.16 – when Peter challenged Him (get behind me)
      - b. Eph.6:10-12 – knew the source of evil
  - b. Mt.26:36-46
    - 1. Soul deeply troubled – overwhelmed with sorrow
    - 2. Finds strength in prayer – fellowship with His Father
    - 3. Knew the value of suffering – Heb.5:7
    - 4. Lk.22:43 – God sent an angel to strengthen Him (encourage)
      - Disciples to involved in self to encourage Jesus
      - Unmoved by His distress – unsympathetic
    - 5. Prayer helps us deal with temptations
- 4. Apply – overcoming temptations**
- a. **Deal with them early**
    - 1. Rom.13:14 – make no provision to fulfill flesh’s desires
    - 2. 2 Tim.2:22 – flee youthful lusts
    - 3. Eph.4:26 – deal quickly with anger – so Satan not get a foot hold
  - b. **Look for God’s help** - 1 Cor.10:13
    - 1. Trust Him to help – Prov.3:5,6
    - 2. Look for the way of escape – Do as Jesus = pray
  - c. **Meditate on God’s word**
    - 1. Ps.119:11 – laid up word in heart so not sin
    - 2. 2 Tim.3:16,17 – sufficient – profitable over temptations, struggles
  - d. **Openly resist Satan**
    - 1. James 4:7 – resist & he will flee (Eph.6:10-18)

Who is this Jesus?

Lesson # 10

## Jesus Our Example In Suffering

### Introduction

We have seen Jesus as our example in loving service, obedience & in overcoming temptation. In this lesson we will focus upon His example for us in enduring the hardships & sufferings of life. Suffering is a part of our physical existence to develop properly in Christian maturity we must follow the example of Jesus.

### 1. God intended for Jesus to have to endure suffering

#### a. 1 Peter 1:10-12

- 1) Predicted a suffering Messiah – opposite of man’s logic
- 2) Isa.52:13-15 – Jesus’ disfigurement
- 3) Isa.53:4-6 – seen as smitten of God
- 4) Ps.22:1-21 – many references when Jesus crucified
- 5) Acts 3:18 – all the prophets who spoke of Christ predicted this

#### b. Lk.2:34,35

- 1) Destined to be spoken against
- 2) Cause men to come to a crisis point – must change or else
- 3) His suffering would be catastrophic to Mary – sword pierce soul

#### c. Lk.4:28,29

- 1) His own people violently opposed Him – drove Him out of town
- 2) Intentions – throw Him off a cliff – kill Him
- 3) Vs.24 – Jesus predicted that they would reject Him

#### d. Lk.22:39-46

- 1) Jesus knew that a struggle was immanent (pray so endure temptation)
- 2) Vs.44 – being in anguish (severe mental & emotional anguish)
- 3) The suffering grew more intense as time went on
- 4) He was facing the hardness & unbelief of mankind
  - a) Own people rejected Him
  - b) Religious leaders hated & despised Him
  - c) Be betrayed by one of His own disciples – Judas
  - d) All His disciples would desert Him
  - e) Have to endure extreme ridicule & pain – emotional & physical
  - f) Have to face God’s wrath – price for sin
  - g) Die alone – forsaken by both men & God

#### e. Heb.2:9

- 1) Made lower than angels to suffer death
- 2) Jesus experienced or participated in death on our behalf

#### f. See also His trial before the religious leaders & Pilate

- 1) Mocked & beaten by the guards
- 2) False accusations before Pilate & Herod
- 3) Religious leaders cry out for His death
- 4) Punished (severely flogged)
- 5) Made to carry own cross
- 6) Crucified as they hurled insults & mocked Him

## 2. God intends for Christians to suffer too

### a. Four views of suffering

<i>Satan's view</i>	People believe in God only when they are prospering and not suffering. This is wrong.
<i>The view of Job's three friends</i>	Suffering is God's judgment for sin. This is not always true.
<i>Elihu's view</i>	Suffering is God's way to teach, discipline, and refine. This is true, but an incomplete explanation.
<i>God's view</i>	Suffering causes us to trust God for who he is, not what he does.

### b. 2 Tim.3:12,13

- 1) World hates us – Jn.15:18,19
- 2) Phil.1:29 – our destiny in Christ

## 3. Jesus' response to suffering

### a. 1 Peter 2:21-25

- 1) **Example** = pattern or picture that a teacher would give to a student to be duplicated or reproduced
- 2) Jesus' suffering was totally undeserved – possessed no guile or deceit
- 3) Willingly & voluntarily endured suffering
  - a) Though cursed, He never cursed (heaped abuse on anyone)
  - b) Not threaten His abusers
  - c) Trusted Himself to God – God would avenge Him
  - d) Handed over His life & all circumstances to God
- 4) See 1 Peter 4:19 – our attitude to be the same
  - a) **Commit** = to deposit or entrust into the hands of another
  - b) **Idea** – trust God to deliver us & focus on doing what is right

### b. Heb.12:2,3

- 1) Jesus joyously endured (saw the situation as an occasion of joy)
- 2) Despised the shame = thought little or nothing of it (insignificant)

### c. Lk.23:32-34

- 1) Placed between two criminals (as if worse) Isa.53:12
- 2) Maintained a forgiving spirit through it all
  - a) Isa.53:12 – prophesied that He would
  - b) Refused to hold a grudge against any man regardless how evil

## 4. How Christians ought to respond to suffering

### a. 1 Peter 4:12

- 1) Should not be surprising or seem strange to us
- 2) Is a vital part of the maturing process
  - a) James 2:1-4 – proves faith & produces patience
  - b) 1 Peter 1:7 – faith proved genuine

b. Matt.5:43-45

- 1) Love enemies = respect & honor all men (1 Pet.2:17)
- 2) Bless those who curse you (use kind friendly words, be courteous)
- 3) Do good to those who hate you (search for ways to do good)
- 4) Pray for those who persecute you (for God to forgive & bring peace)
- 5) Never allow yourself to become bitter or hostile toward them

**5. The purpose for Jesus' suffering**

- a. 1 Peter 2:21 – to become our example
- b. Heb.12:3 – so we would not grow weary & lose heart
- c. 1 Peter 3:18 – to bring all men to God

## Jesus – Our Example In Prayer

### Introduction

As we study about Jesus we would be remiss if we ignored a very vital part of Jesus' life – His prayer life. Jesus was a man of prayer both in His teaching & in His practice. Jesus prayed publicly, privately, & even sometimes all night. Jesus saw the value of prayer & felt the need to share that understanding with His disciples.

### 1. Prayer was a vital part of Jesus' life.

- a. Lk.3:21 - At the time of His baptism
  - 1) As Jesus was being baptized, His mind & thoughts were focused upon God
  - 2) He realized the commitment He was making & the seriousness of His mission
- b. Lk.5:16 – often withdrew to privately pray
  - 1) His impact upon society was enormous – many came for healing
  - 2) He also knew the source of His message & power – being close to His Father
- c. Lk.6:12 – spent the night praying
  - 1) A tremendous decision was being made – choosing His disciples
  - 2) The destiny of His mission was at stake – shared & discussed with His Father. Jesus needed to know exactly who to choose
  - 3) He got alone on a mountain so that He would not be disturbed
- d. Lk.9:18 – prayed with His disciples
  - 1) Turning point was coming – He was turning His face toward Jerusalem
  - 2) The days ahead would be extremely difficult
  - 3) His disciples needed to be ready too – know who He was & direction
- e. Lk.9:28 – took special disciples alone to pray
  - 1) The disciples had much to learn spiritually
  - 2) Jesus needed to get them alone with God for them to experience truth
- f. Mk.1:35 – prayed early while still dark
  - 1) Before others would be stirring Jesus is finding strength & direction
  - 2) Jesus had to be tired – see day before activities – yet this important
  - 3) His ministry was just starting & needed direction
- g. Mk.6:46 – went up on mountainside to pray
  - 1) God, not the crowds were the source of His strength - exhausted
  - 2) Jesus was totally dependent upon His Father
- h. Jn.17:1- looked toward heaven & prayed
  - 1) Prays for Himself, His disciples & future believers
  - 2) This stage of His ministry was about to finish – guidance & strength

### 2. Jesus' confidence in prayer

- a. Jn.11:41,42 – that His Father always heard Him
  - 1) No questioning, doubt or hesitancy
  - 2) Wanted God to be honored & praised for what was about to happen

b. Mt.7:7 – confident His disciples would find what needed as they prayed

### 3. Characteristics Jesus taught about prayer

a. Mt.6:5-8

#### 1) Negative factors that must be guarded against

- a) Hypocritical prayer – wrong motives & reasons (be seen)
- b) Connecting prayer with certain places (limiting God's presence)
- c) Empty repetitions – memorized & mind elsewhere
- d) Thinking the longer the better
- e) That one can convince God with his speaking

#### 2) Some love to pray publicly

- a) Love representing the group & vocalizing the needs
- b) Some pray only in public – no love for private communication

#### c) Consequences

- (1) He will experience good feelings and satisfying thoughts about his spiritual state and religious piety. *But* in this case it is a false self-image.
- (2) He has cheated himself, really missed out on the most intimate presence of God
- (3) He gets just what he deserves: public recognition. If he places so little value upon sharing with God Himself, he deserves no more than what man can give him—human recognition.

#### 3) Prayer is to be personal communion with God

- a) Get alone, close the door – unobserved, undisturbed, unheard
- b) A person only meets God in secret – He is interested in substance, not show
- c) Why personal prayer is so difficult
  - (1) Unwilling to rearrange our schedule to allow the time
  - (2) Not sense it's importance & benefit
  - (3) Unwilling to discipline ourselves to be consistent

#### 4) Secret means three things.

- a) Concentration: meditation, contemplation, thinking deeply upon God and sharing accordingly.
- b) Apart from all: secluded, alone, private, out of view from all.
- c) Unseen: invisible, yet there; believing and having faith that God is there; spiritual, but still hearing and responding.

b. Lk.11:1-13

#### 1) We are to be persistent in prayer

- a) Refuse to leave the throne of God until answered
- b) Will not leave God alone until need is met
- c) The whole point - must be sincere, fervent, constant, persistent, persevering, and enduring in seeking the face of God
- d) Verbs ask, seek, and knock are all *continuous action*. We are to keep on asking, seeking, knocking

**2) We are to be confident & assured God will answer our needs**

- a) God is most willing to answer our prayers
- b) Why is there hesitation?
  - (1) God longs for our fellowship & trust – not want us to hurry off & get further involved in the world
  - (2) We need to develop patience & endurance
  - (3) Waiting makes the gift more endearing
  - (4) Demonstrates how much we really love & trust Him
- c. Mt.21:22
  - 1) God's promises are all inclusive – even beyond our imagination  
Eph.3:20
  - 2) His promises are conditional – must believe – James 1:5-8
- d. Mt.26:39
  - 1) Jesus struggled with the coming struggle, but yielded to God's will
  - 2) He completely surrendered Himself to God's care- 1 Jn.5:14
- e. Lk.18:1
  - 1) Our duty is to persevere in prayer (ought = necessity)
  - 2) Always = at all times – 1 Thess.5:17
  - 3) Not faint = not lose heart or give up

**4. Scriptures that show that God does answer prayer.**

- a. Mt.21:22 - “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive”
- b. Mk.11:24 - “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”
- c. Jn.14:13,14 - And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it”
- d. Jn.15:7 - “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”
- e. Jn.16:24 - “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full”
- f. James 1:5,6 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally without finding fault; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting. For he that doubts is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed”
- g. 1 Jn.3:22 - “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”
- h. 1 John 5:14-15 - “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: and if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired

## Jesus Our Example In Evangelism

### Introduction

In the last few weeks we have been considering Jesus as our example in living to the glory of God. This lesson's focus will be His example in evangelism. Jesus had a tremendous zeal for the lost & His desire is that we too have that same zeal. Jesus made saving mankind from sin the most important aspect of His ministry & He wants His church to have that same dedication for reaching the lost.

### 1. How Jesus viewed the lost

#### a. Mk.6:30-34

- 1) Disciples were just returning from their mission for Jesus. They were tired & needed to rest. Jesus sought to make that needed rest a reality for them.
- 2) However, the people desperately needed help & would not allow them to get away from them.
- 3) When Jesus saw the crowds He was **moved with compassion**. He was not annoyed or irritated, He saw them as sheep without a shepherd
  - a) **Compassion** – inwardly moved with mercy, affection & pity
  - b) Being moved with empathy at the very core of one's being
- 4) **Sheep without a shepherd**
  - a) Bewildered, wandering, not knowing where they are going – easily lost & can't find their way back to the flock
  - b) Hungering, lacking proper nutrition; insufficient food
  - c) Unable to find shelter & safety – exposed to all kinds of danger  
They are doomed to perish

#### b. Mt.9:36

- 1) Moved by the physical & spiritual needs of the people - **compassion**
- 2) **Harassed** (fainting KJV) – weighed down & ready to collapse
  - a) Word means to grow weary & lose heart or courage
  - b) The people had struggled & struggled with their sin & could bear no more – they are overcome & ready to collapse
  - c) Their life, religion & sin has weighed them down
- 3) **Helpless** (scattered abroad KJV) – cast out dejected & hopeless
  - a) Life was without purpose meaning & significance
  - b) Nothing satisfied their needs spiritually
- 4) **He saw the harvest as plentiful**
  - a) Everywhere He looked He saw souls ready to receive God
  - b) In.4:35,36 – no need to wait – already ready
  - c) There was a world of opportunity – ready to be harvested
- 5) **He saw that the laborers were few**
  - a) An unlimited amount of opportunity, but only a few to accomplish the work

b) **Why are the laborers so few**

- (1) Some reject or deny the call of God
- (2) Some procrastinate – put off reaching out
- (3) Some lack commitment – content to let people be lost

6) **He realized that God needed to be called into action – prayer**

- a) Not just any workers would do - needed be spiritual – of God
- b) James 4:3 – have not because we ask not

c. Lk.9:10,11

- 1) He welcomed them – allowed them to interrupt Him
- 2) The disciples are irritated – vs.12

2. **The limits to which Jesus was willing to go for the lost**

a. Phil.2:5-7

- 1) He deserved to be treated as God, but He **humbled Himself**
- 2) He **emptied Himself** = to completely empty
- 3) He **laid aside His rights** as God
- 4) **Took the nature of a servant**
- 5) **Humbled Himself unto death** – even death on a cross

b. Mt.20:28

- 1) **Willing to be a ransom** = exchange Himself for others freedom
- 2) He agreed to be the redemptive price – give His life for mankind

c. Rom.5:8

- 1) **While we were sinners** = willingly gave Himself
  - a) Not wait until we changed – were totally undeserving
  - b) We deserved God’s wrath, but He saved us from that
  - c) His love knows no limits
- 2) **Reconciled us**
  - a) Thoroughly changed us from an enemy to a friend
  - b) Our focus was upon the world & ourselves – selfishness

d. Lk.23:46

- 1) Totally submitted Himself to God’s will – regardless the cost
- 2) Lk.22:4-44 – see the intensity of His struggle
- 3) It didn’t matter what He had to endure – He willingly gave Himself

3. **His vision for His church**

a. **The great commission**

1) Mt.28:18-20

- a) Disciples in every nation (His rule & authority everywhere)
- b) Make disciples – How?
  - (1) Sought those willing to commit their lives to Him
  - (2) Brought them close so they could observe Him closely
  - (3) Goal – absorb His character & behavior (His image)
- c) Teach them all that I have taught you

2) Mk.16:16,16

- a) Preach the good news to all creation – no one left out
- b) Give everyone an opportunity to become a baptized believer

**b. The zeal of the early church for reaching the lost**

- 1) Acts 4:1-4,18-31 – not allow threats of punishment stop them
- 2) Acts 5:17-20,27-30,33,41,42 – not allow beatings to stop them
- 3) Acts 8:1-4 – though persecuted they spread the gospel everywhere
- 4) 2 Cor.11:23-29 – Things Paul suffered to proclaim Jesus  
(see also Acts 18:4; 28:3)
- 5) Col.1:6,21-23 – all over the world - was proclaimed to every creature

**4. How we ought to view the world**a. 2 Cor.5:11-15

- 1) fear = reverence, standing in awe, to hold in highest regard & respect  
(not the terror that trembles & shrinks back)
- 2) 2 Cor.5:10 – all will appear before judgment seat & give an answer
- 3) Love of Christ controls us – died so no longer live for self

b. 2 Cor.5:16-21 – no longer see men as world sees them

- 1) Know they are precious & that God loves them
- 2) Desires to see them reconciled to God

Who is this Jesus?  
Lesson # 13

## How Should We Respond To Him – Faith

### Introduction

We have seen Jesus in these lessons as much more than a man. He is the Son of God, the promised seed of the OT. God presented Him to us as divine, holy, the supreme sacrifice for our sins. He is our High Priest, our supreme example in life. Now, in the next few lessons we will consider what should our response to this Jesus.

### Romans 4:1-25

#### 1. Abraham

- a. **Abraham held a unique position in the Jewish nation** - it's founder.
- b. He was the man whom God had challenged to be a witness to the other nations of the world—a witness to the only living and true God.
- c. God had appeared to Abraham and called him to leave his home, his friends, his employment, and his country.
- d. **God made two great promises to Abraham** if he would follow God unquestionably:
  - 1) Abraham would become the father of a new nation
  - 2) All nations of the earth would be blessed by his seed
- d. **Paul's point** - it was not Abraham's keeping of the law that pleased God.
  - 1) In fact, the law had not yet been given (Galatians 3:17).
  - 2) What pleased God and what caused God to justify Abraham was Abraham doing as God had said. Abraham simply *believed* the promise of God that God would give him a new life—in a new nation—with a new people.

#### 2. Justification is by faith

- a. **What Abraham discovered** – righteousness credited to him by believing God
  - 1) Nothing he did that he could glory in
  - 2) Abraham stumbled along trying to be obedient to God (not perfect)
- b. **The logic of works** – vs.4,5
  - 1) **Workers deserve their wages** – earned them; are a debt owed to him
  - 2) **One who trusts God not his own works** – righteousness is a gift (sees it as something totally undeserved – imputed to him)
  - 3) **The example of David** – vs.6-8
    - a) Quotes Ps.32:1,2
    - b) Sees God crediting righteousness to one totally undeserving (have transgressed, but forgiven – not held against them)
    - c) If God is doing this; considering people righteous without works then righteousness is not something that is earned – is a gift

### 3. Is this blessing only for the circumcised? Vs.9-12

- a. **Abraham was credited with righteousness before he was circumcised**
  - 1) Gen.15:6 – at least 14 years before he was circumcised
  - 2) He was circumcised in chapter 17
  - 3) The ritual of circumcision did not make him acceptable to God, his faith made him acceptable
  - 4) Circumcision was a sign of his covenant relationship with God
- b. **Received circumcision as a seal that God accepted him**
  - 1) In a covenant relationship
  - 2) Something that reminded him he was in that covenant relationship
- c. **Makes him an example for all believers** – circumcised or not

### 4. Justification is not through keeping the law – vs.13-15

- a. **Law insists that it be obeyed** – break it & condemned
  - 1) All men fall short – Rom.3:23
  - 2) Law given to expose sin, not forgive – Rom.3:19,20
  - 3) Nature of law is that it must be obeyed – no room for forgiveness
  - 4) Seeking God through law keeping voids faith & makes it useless
- b. **The purpose of law**
  - 1) To expose sin & transgression – Rom.3:20 (no law exists = no sin)
    - a) Pulls man to go to the limit
    - b) Urged to go no further, yet man resists & breaks the law
  - 2) To bring wrath upon the law breaker – Gal.3:10
    - a) Becomes our accuser & threatens punishment
    - b) Shows us our failures, but no power to keep us from failing
  - 3) Those under law have no assurance or peace – always under constant threat of failing to keep the law
  - 4) Gal.3:19-24 – given to drive us to Jesus – only hope

### 5. The promise comes through faith – vs.16-25

- a. **So that it may be by grace**
  - 1) **Means** = a gift; a favor that is freely done; something given with nothing expected in return
  - 2) God extended His grace when we were totally undeserving  
Rom.5:6-10; Eph.2:8,9
  - 3) There is nothing we can boast in except His graciousness
- b. **So it can be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring**
  - 1) Those under that law as well as those not under the law
  - 2) Abraham is the father of many nations, not just one  
(promises not exclusively for the Jews)
  - 3) In God's sight all who possess Abraham's faith are Abraham's sons
- c. **Abraham's faith**
  - 1) God gives life to the dead (accepted son be raised – keep His word)
  - 2) Calls things that are not as though they were – see Mk.11:20-25  
(believe God will always keep His word – nothing impossible)

- 3) **Against all hope** – beyond hope; beyond human possibilities
- a) His reproductive organs had stopped functioning
  - b) Sarah had been barren all her life (married 50 years)
  - c) He was 99 & she was 89
  - d) Abraham was fully convinced God could fulfill His promises regardless of what was a reality with him & Sarah physically
  - e) Not know what God could do, but knew God was able to keep His promises

**d. Why Abraham was credited with righteousness**

- 1) He refused to allow anything to make him doubt God's word
- 2) Fully persuaded that God had the power to keep His promises
- 3) Took God totally at His word – God said it – I believe it

**e. Why God had Abraham's faith recorded?**

- 1) So man might understand how to be acceptable to God
- 2) So others might be counted as righteous by living his same faith

**f. God calls upon us to believe in Jesus**

- 1) Delivered over to death for our sins
- 2) Raised to life for our justification (so we are counted as righteous)

**g. Such faith calls upon us to be obedient** = next lesson

## Who Is This Jesus

### Lesson # 14

## How Should we Respond – In True Obedience

### Introduction

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said that all authority had been given to Him. Since He has all authority, how should we be responding to Him? Have we made the choice to obey Jesus, to truly obey Him? Obedience is something far more than just saying the words “yes I will do that”. The obedience Jesus is looking for in His disciples is the type of obedience that motivates one to go all the way, to hold nothing back in their pursuit of Jesus. In this lesson we will focus on several reasons why we should choose to truly obey Jesus.

### 1. True obedience is a prerequisite for true fellowship

- a. **Problem** – man thinks he can have fellowship with God on his own
  - 1) Even though man walks in sin - if he believes in God and does halfway right, then his belief and good deeds will put God in debt to him.
  - 2) Through his worship & seeking of God – God pleased
- b. 1 Jn.1:5-7
  - 1) If walk in darkness & claim to have fellowship with God we lie & are not living according to truth
  - 2) True fellowship with God only happens as we walk in the light
  - 3) To walk in the light means - to believe in the Son of God who came to earth and to follow Him. (Obedience)
- c. Jn.15:10
  - 1) If obey commands will remain in His love
  - 2) Thus have true harmony & fellowship with God & Jesus

### 2. True obedience is the only way our prayer life will ever be effective

- a. God is interested in our hearts, not just what we say – Mt.15:8
  - 1) What comes out of our mouths must agree with what is in our hearts
  - 2) If not all worship & approaching God becomes meaningless
- b. 1 Jn.3:21,22
  - 1) When words disagree with what in heart – heart condemns us
  - 2) When heart & words agree – heart not condemn us & we receive answers to our requests because our focus is being obedient to Him

### 3. True obedience is a must for us to be an effective witness

- a. To be an effective witness one must be believable – life must back up their message
  - 1) 1 Thess.1:5 – Paul tried to live in a way that gospel be believable
  - 2) Col.3:9,10 – old self gone – new self in image of creator
- b. Ezek.36:22,23
  - 1) Israel had tarnished God’s name before the nations – unholy living
  - 2) When our lives match our message God’s name will be honored – world will become believers

#### 4. True obedience is the only way to show our love for Jesus

- a. Obedience is gratitude in action
  - 1) Genuine gratitude is always seen in our lives
  - 2) When we are truly grateful it is not a drudgery to obey, instead we will willingly look for ways to follow closely
- b. Jn.14:15,21
  - 1) Obedience is not optional – Jesus did not say, “If you love Me *then* keep My commands”
  - 2) To those who truly love Jesus there is no other option than obedience
  - 3) 1 Jn.2:3 – know we know Him if we keep His commandments
- c. Lk.6:46 – why call Me Lord if you won’t do as I say

#### 5. True obedience is absolutely necessary to be a good example

- a. In some circles you are the best Christian some people will ever know
  - 1) Question – what do they see about the Christian life?
  - 2) Are they getting a good picture of what being a Christian is all about?
- b. Phil.4:8,9
  - 1) Paul’s focus – best example so people get benefits from God
  - 2) Know words alone would not be enough
- c. Mt.4:19 – Follow Me & I will make you fishers of men
  - 1) Not say listen to Me or just watch Me
  - 2) Jesus put His words into actions – words alone never change people

#### 6. True obedience is the only way to affect the lost

- a. 1 Pet.2:11-19
  - 1) Sinful desires & ways war against the soul (destroy us spiritually)
  - 2) When we live right it’s difficult for the world to blaspheme God
  - 3) World has some silly ideas about Christians & living for God
    - a) **World then**
      - (1) Lord’s supper = cannibalism
      - (2) Christians were atheists because they did not worship the gods of the land
    - b) **World now**
      - (1) Christians want to force others to obey God - legislate their morality
      - (2) Impossible for Christians to ever be united – reason for denominations
      - (3) Christians have thrown their minds out the window to be believers – blind faith
      - (4) Christian life is miserable & dreary rule keeping – no joy
- b. Deut.4:5-8 – shows the nations our wisdom & understanding
  - 1) Able to see that God is near us when we pray
  - 2) Able see God’s way is superior

## 7. True obedience is an evidence of our salvation

### a. 1 Jn.3:7-10

- 1) If we really accepted Jesus then we will want to please Him. We wouldn't want to do anything that would cause Him pain
- 2) We cannot go on sinning & be walking with Jesus – came to destroy work of the devil. The devil's work is sinning.
- 3) Sin is not of God – it is a work of the devil

### b. James 2:14-26

- 1) True faith is more than words
- 2) Only way for one to know they have faith is to have good deeds
- 3) We must follow through – words are not enough

## 8. True obedience is the only path to real joy in Christ

### a. To really enjoy a possession one must use it properly

- 1) New car – has an owners manual
- 2) Must follow the instructions to get the best performance = enjoyment

### b. James 1:22-25

- 1) Merely looking & listening does not bring the blessings
- 2) Blessings come to the one who continually learns & obeys

### c. Jn.15:10,11 – obey so that joy be in you & become complete

## 9. True obedience brings glory to God

### a. Mt.5:14-16

- 1) We are light to the world
- 2) Light shines when we are doing good works – God glorified

### b. Jer.35:1-19

- 1) Rechabites honored father by obeying his command – not drink
- 2) Israel refused to obey God = dishonored Him

### c. Mt.8:7-9

- 1) Obedience is a sign that one is in submission to authority
- 2) Jesus deserves obedience

## 10. True obedience brings us great assurance

### a. Jn.14:21

- 1) Obey Me will manifest Myself to him
- 2) Means reveal, make self known

### b. Jn.15:4 – if you remain in Me, I will remain in you

## How Should we Respond – In Holiness

### Introduction

As Christians we are called to be holy as God is holy 1 Peter 1:16. God wants us to walk in holiness every day so that we might bring glory to Him. We have an obligation to live in holiness because Jesus accomplished for us what we could never do for ourselves. He lived a perfect life before God in the flesh, which has resulted in God accrediting righteousness to everyone who walks in fellowship with Jesus. In this lesson we will examine the life God has called us to live as Christians.

### Rom.8:1-39

#### 1. The possibility of holiness – vs.1-4

##### a. We are free from condemnation in Christ

- 1) Believers are not doomed to have to face the wrath of God
- 2) Are delivered from condemnation & counted as righteous in Jesus
- 3) **In Christ** = one who places their faith in Jesus; accepts His as their substitute & mediator; one who accepts Jesus as their spiritual Lord & Master; one who trusts Jesus to provide for them all they need spiritually.

##### b. We are free from the law of sin & death

- 1) Death & sin are no longer our masters – no longer rule
- 2) In Jesus, we are free to choose not to sin & when we do sin, we can seek the blood of Jesus & be forgiven, thus the condemnation of death is removed. 1 Jn.1:7

##### c. In Jesus we find what the Law was unable to provide

- 1) Law weakened by our flesh – we unable to keep the Law perfectly
  - a) Law was good & right – contained the truth
  - b) We were the problem – couldn't keep it perfectly = weak
- 2) Rules & regulations can never deter the flesh
  - a) Flesh is driven by emotions & lusts
  - b) Flesh has an insatiable desire for more – never satisfied

##### d. God condemned sin not man

- 1) Loved us & wants us with Him eternally
- 2) Sin faces the wrath of God – not those in Jesus

##### e. Now the righteous requirement of the Law can be fully met

- 1) Must be walking according to God's Spirit not the flesh
- 2) Jesus made it possible for righteousness to be credited to us in Him

#### 2. Freedom from the sinful nature – vs.5-9

##### a. Difference between those in Christ & those not in Christ

- 1) Where their mind is focused
  - Prov.23:7 – as man thinks in heart so is he
  - Mt.12:34 – out of overflow of heart man speaks
- 2) To live according to sinful nature = mind that is given over to the flesh

- 3) Christians have their minds focused upon what God's Spirit desires
  - a) Our goal is to please God not our flesh
  - b) We are called to deny ourselves & take up His cause & kingdom

**b. Results from where the mind is focused**

- 1) Focus on the flesh = death
  - a) We are hostile to God – Col.1:21-23
  - b) We refuse to fully submit to God's law
  - c) Is impossible to fully submit – too weak outside Christ
  - d) Can never please God – always falling short
- 2) Focus upon God's Spirit = life
  - a) We find life & peace; purpose & fulfillment
  - b) In Christ we are able to fully please God

**c. How we know which nature controls us?**

- 1) Is the Spirit of God living in you?
  - a) Lives = be at home; take up residence – Jn.14:20,23
  - b) Who controls - determined by whom we allow to reside within
- 2) Not have Spirit of Christ = not His; no life; flesh rules

**d. Results when Jesus is in control – vs.10,11**

- 1) Body is dead, but spirit is alive
  - a) Physical body is doomed to death
  - b) Spirit is alive & free from death
- 2) Mortal body will be given life too
  - a) 1 Cor.15:42-44 – sown in corruption & raised in incorruption
  - b) 1 Cor.15:50-53 – all be changed

**3. The privileges of holiness – vs.12-17**

**a. A new obligation – to the Spirit not the flesh**

- 1) We owe God everything – He did it all
- 2) We are undeserving but He was gracious to us in Jesus
- 3) We owe our flesh nothing – it has only led us into sin & death

**b. What we choose determines our fate**

- 1) If we choose to follow the flesh - death awaits us
- 2) If we choose to deny our flesh & submit our bodies to Jesus we will live
- 3) We must choose to live in accordance with the Spirit
- 4) Those who choose to live by the Spirit are sons of God

**c. When we do God offers us sonship in Christ**

- 1) We must allow God's spirit to lead us
- 2) When we accept Him, we will be free from fear
- 3) We are then able to cry *abba* Father (term of endearment – daddy)
- 4) Then the Spirit testifies with our spirit (joint witness) are sons of God

**d. A marvelous inheritance waits**

- 1) God's children are His heirs
  - a) Through Jesus we inherit eternal life – Titus 3:7
  - b) Through Jesus we inherit salvation
  - c) In Jesus we inherit all the promises made to Abraham – Gal.3:29

- 2) We are joint heirs with Jesus
  - a) Not mean we will receive an equal amount or quantity
  - b) Means we will share in all the things with Jesus – fellow heirs
  - c) We will share in His nature & position – 1 Cor.2:9
    - (1) Nature – 1 Jn.3:1,2 – be like Him  
Phil.3:21 – like His glorious body  
1 Cor.9:25 – crown that lasts forever
    - (2) Position - Rev.7:9-11 – before the throne of God  
Heb.12:28 – His kingdom  
Eph.3:8 – unsearchable riches  
Rev.1:5 – are kings & priests  
1 Pet.5:4 – receive a crown of glory
- 3) We must be willing to suffer with Him
  - a) All men suffer – life is full of hardships & difficulties
  - b) Paul speaks about a special type of suffering – Godly suffering
    - 1) Suffering because of your stand with Jesus
    - 2) Willing to endure hardship & difficulty because you refuse to renounce Jesus as Lord – Heb.10:32-39
    - 3) Mt.5:11; Rom.8:36; Phil.1:29; 1 Pet.5:10

#### 4. Encouragements to live holy – vs.18-39

##### a. The awesome glory that awaits us – vs.18-25

- 1) Present struggle nothing compared that glory
  - a) Struggle with persecution for our faith
  - b) Struggle overcoming the flesh – sin, disease, pain, weaknesses
  - c) So many things keep us from living the abundant life
    - (1) Struggle trying to bring it all under the control of God
    - (2) Our goal is to be conformed into the image of Jesus
- 2) Present suffering prepares us to participate in glory of Jesus
  - a) Rom.8:17 – “in order that”
  - b) Suffering is necessary – 1 Pet.1:6,7 (refines us)
  - c) Forces us to trust in God more & more
- 3) Future glory will be revealed in us
  - a) Col.3:4 – we shall appear with Him in glory
  - b) Eph.1:18 – eyes enlightened so able to see
- 4) Creation eagerly awaits our exaltation in Jesus
  - a) Subjected to corruption because of man’s sin – Gen.3:17
  - b) Creation looks forward to liberation from corruption & decay  
2 Pet.3:10-13 – look for new heavens & a new earth
- 5) Present groanings
  - a) Creation groans as if in birth pains
  - b) Those who are first fruits groan inwardly
  - c) Eagerly awaiting our adoption – redemption of our bodies
- 6) Hope – assured expectation
  - a) If received perfection now – nothing to look forward too

- b) God wants us to persevere in hope – in faith not sight  
(calls for us to trust Him fully)

**b. God's present workings in us – vs.26-30**

- 1) God's Spirit intercedes for us
  - a) We don't know how to pray
    - (1) Easily distracted & lack concentration skills
    - (2) Thoughts & emotions wander
    - (3) No knowledge of the future
    - (4) Not realize what is really best for us – growth & health
  - b) God's Spirit understands our weaknesses & helps
    - (1) Knows where we struggle – why we struggle
    - (2) His goal – help us overcome all obstacles to spirituality
  - c) God's Spirit intercedes
    - (1) When we are not able to utter necessary words
    - (2) Some things can't be expressed by words
  - d) His focus = God's will
    - (1) Searches our hearts – truly knows needs
    - (2) Wants God's will done in our lives completely
- 2) God continually works all things for our good
  - a) All around us are pressures & struggles – separate us from God
  - b) God takes all those situations & providently works for our good
    - (1) All things – all the events & happenings in our lives
    - (2) Together – intermingles, eliminates rearranges & shapes  
Present tense = continually working
    - (3) Good – ultimate good
    - (4) Love Him – looks after only those that love Him
    - (5) Called according to His purpose
  - c) Calls us to trust Him fully even though we don't understand
  - d) Our focus – Love Him & focus upon His purposes
- 3) God's ultimate purpose – conform us into the image of Jesus
  - a) Knows what going through – always has
  - b) Predetermined we to be in the image of Jesus – Eph.1:4,5
- 4) Jesus is the firstborn of many brothers
  - a) As He has glorified Jesus He desires to glorify us
  - b) In God's mind – are called, justified & glorified – Rom.4:17

**c. Assurances we are more than conquerors – vs.31-39**

- 1) God is actively on our side
  - a) Saved us – gave up His own Son on our behalf
    - (1) Spare not = hold back or hesitate
    - (2) No sacrifice was too great – deliberately chose
  - b) Continually provides for us
    - (1) Gave very best in His Son
    - (2) “Along with Him” = if we are **with** Jesus
  - c) He is our justifier
    - (1) Not charged with sin - justified

- (2) Are forgiven & counted as righteous in Jesus
- (3) None able to lay a charge against us
- (4) Man is not our judge – God is & He not judge His elect
- (5) No matter how far we have fallen, how discouraged we are, He is willing to pick us up & justify us in Jesus
- (6) There is no reason for us to be defeated spiritually
- d) Jesus is at God's right hand & interceding for us
  - (1) He died for us that we might be forgiven
  - (2) Was raised – God perfectly satisfied with His sacrifice
  - (3) Exalted – sits face to face with God
- 2) Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus
  - a) No need to feel unworthy or undeserving – not based on actions
  - b) Nothing will make Him despise us – turn away from us
  - c) Always there to accept us & help us – our decision to ignore
  - d) Regardless the circumstances
    - (1) Trouble – trials, temptations, afflictions
    - (2) Hardship – strain, agony, not knowing where to turn
    - (3) Persecution – abuse, ridicule, harassed & mistreated
    - (4) Famine – starvation & no way to secure food
    - (5) Nakedness – stripped of all possessions & comforts
    - (6) Danger – exposure to severe risks & harm
    - (7) Sword – death or martyrdom
  - e) No matter how dark or depressing it gets Jesus still loves you
- 3) We are more than conquerors
  - a) Jesus is always there encouraging & helping
  - b) We cannot lose no matter how severe the situation
  - c) Heb.13:5,6; 1 Pet.5:7; 2 Chron.16:9; 2 Tim.4:18
  - d) Nothing in the universe can separate us from God's love
    - (1) Not death
    - (2) Not life – trials or pressures
    - (3) Not angels – spiritual creatures or beings
    - (4) Not demons – evil spiritual beings
    - (5) Not anything present or in the future – nothing that exists or ever will exist
    - (6) No height or depth – outer space or the depths of the sea
    - (7) Not anything else in all creation – anything not named

# A People of the Book

*Where Truth and Love Abound*



## Our Service Schedule

Sunday:	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (classes for all ages)
	11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.	Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (classes for all ages)

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