

# **New Life Bible Study Guide**

## **Basic Doctrine**

**Compiled by  
Dr. Sterling Lands II**

## Christology: Doctrine of Christ

### Problem

What is Christology?

### Premise

Jesus Christ is God.

### Philosophy

John 14:6 is a statement of absolute truth and is an essential Christian teaching that cannot be denied. To deny this is to deny what Jesus said.

Matt. 1:23 teaches that without the virgin birth, we cannot substantiate the doctrine of the incarnation of Jesus being God in flesh. This would put at risk what Jesus said in John 8:24.

To deny the physical resurrection of Jesus is to deny that Jesus' work was a satisfactory offering to God the Father. It would mean that Jesus was corrupt and needed to stay in the grave. He did not stay because his sacrifice was perfect (1 Cor. 15:14; 1 Cor. 15:17).

Scripture clearly states that if you say that Jesus did not rise from the dead, then your faith is useless (John 2:19-21).

### Principle

1. God the Son
  - a. Christ is the eternal Son of God.
  - b. Jesus is God in flesh. John 8:58; Exo. 3:14; John 1:1, 14; 10:30-33; 20:28; Col. 2:9; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 1:8; 1 John 4:2-3 - teaches that if you deny that Jesus is God in flesh, then you are of the spirit of Antichrist.
  - c. John 8:24 - Jesus said that if you do not believe "that I am," you will die in your sins. In Greek I am is 'ego eimi,' which means 'I am.' These are the same words used in John 8:58, where Jesus says "before Abraham was, I am." He was claiming the divine title by quoting Exo. 3:14.
  - d. The Greek Septuagint is the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek and done by Jews around 250 B.C. They translated Exo. 3:14 as 'ego eimi' "I AM").

- e. **Jesus is the proper object of faith.** It is not simply enough to have faith. Faith is only as valid as the person in whom you put it. You must put your faith in the proper person.
- f. Cults have false objects of faith (false gods); therefore, their faith is useless--no matter how sincere they are. Faith in something false has the same effect as no faith at all.
- g. Jesus is both God and Man (Hypostatic Union).
- h. The sacrifice of Christ is completely sufficient to pay for the sins of the world, and it is only through Jesus' sacrifice that anyone can be saved.
- i. Only a perfect sacrifice to God is able to cleanse us from our sins. This is why Jesus, who is God in flesh, died for us. He had to die for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). Only God could do that.
- j. Jesus is the mediator between God and Man (1 Tim. 2:5).
- k. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- l. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin.
- m. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.
- n. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion.
- o. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.
- p. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.
- q. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.
- r. Study Text: Gen. 18:1; Psa.s 2:7; 110:1; Isa. 7:14; Isa. 53:1-12; Matt. 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John

1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; 8:9; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thes. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

## 2. The Deity of Christ

- a. Christ is fully God (John 1:1-3; 14; Col 1:15-16; Heb 1:3-4). He has existed from all eternity in fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 17:5). He is one in essence and purpose with the Father (John 10:30) and he is worthy of equal reverence, obedience, and worship with the Father (John 5:23-24; Heb 1:6; Rev 5:8-14).

## 3. Jesus Christ is Explicitly Called God.

- a. There are over 100 proofs of the deity of Jesus Christ in the Bible. Several verses explicitly call Him "God". John 1:1, "The Word was God." John 20:28, "My Lord and my God." 1 Tim. 3:16, "God was manifested in the flesh." 2 Pet. 1:1, "our God and Savior Jesus Christ". Titus 2:13, "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ". Matt. 1:22, "God with us." 1 John 5:20, "He is the true God." Heb. 1:8, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever." Isa .9:6, "the mighty God." Jesus Christ is 100% God. He is not part God, a lesser god, one of many gods, etc. He is God.

## 4. Jesus Said that He Was God.

- a. Each of the four Gospels records Christ's assertions of deity, but especially the Gospel of John. Note how often Jesus used the special name of Jehovah "I Am" of Himself. Sometimes it was "I AM the Bread of Life", the Light of the World, the Way, the Truth and the Life, etc. Sometimes it was simply "I AM" (John 8:24, 58). The Jews knew that He claimed to be God (John 5:18, 10:33). In the last book of the Bible, Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, First and the Last" (Rev. 1:8, 21:6, 22:13). He was either a liar, a lunatic or Lord. The truth is that He was exactly what He said

He was.

5. Jesus Did Not Become God.
  - a. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus did not become God at a certain time, but was God from all eternity. He is eternal and divine, for God alone is truly eternal (John 1:1, 15, 8:58, 17:5, Col. 1:17, Isa. 9:6). He was not a Man who somehow became God, as the Mormons and others teach. Rather, He was God who became a person.
6. Jesus is Equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit.
  - a. John 1:1 says that Jesus was “God and with God.” This is the Trinity. He was God and with the other two members of the Trinity. All three are equally divine. His equality with them is taught in John 5:18, 10:33, and especially Phil. 2:6. Only God could be equal to God. Since there is only one God, this means the Trinity. Jesus has the same nature as the Father and the Spirit, not merely a similar nature, let alone a different nature. When He became a Man, He humbled Himself, and in that state He could say that the Father was greater than Himself. But that referred to the Incarnation and the state of humiliation, not to His eternal essence as deity.
7. Jesus is God.
  - a. Jesus possessed the unique qualities of deity. No mere Man or angel has ever or could ever possess any of them, and Jesus has all of them.
  - b. He is omnipotent and can do all things, for He is “God Almighty” (Rev. 1:8, 5:12. Cf. Isa. 9:6, “the mighty God”). His omnipotence is also taught in 2 Pet. 1:16, Phil. 3:21, and Matt. 8:27.
  - c. Jesus is omnipresent. He fills all things and is with His people everywhere (Eph. 1:23, 4:10, Matt. 18:20, 28:20).
  - d. He is omniscient. He knows everything, even the secret thoughts of men (John 2:24-25, 4:29, 6:64, 16:30, 21:17).
  - e. Jesus is immutable, or unchangeable, in His deity (Heb. 1:12, 13:8).
  - f. He did not cease to be God when He became a man, and His humanity does not possess these attributes of deity.
8. Jesus is the Perfect Revelation of God.

- a. Nobody has ever seen God, who is invisible. God became visible by becoming a human. Therefore, to see Jesus is to see God (John 14:9). Jesus has revealed God (John 1:18). He is the visible image, or means of Revelation, not merely a reflection (Col. 1:15, 2 Cor. 4:4). He is the perfect full Revelation of God in all His nature and attributes (Heb. 1:3). He veiled His glory for most of the time He was on Earth, except for the brief moment on the Mount of Transfiguration. But He revealed God in other ways by what He did and said. And He continues to do this today, primarily in salvation.
9. Jesus is Not a Created Being.
- a. Contrary to what the Jehovah's Witnesses say, Jesus was not a created being, but the Creator Himself (John 1:2-3, 10, Col. 1:16, 1 Cor. 8:6, Heb. 1:2, Rev. 3:14).
  - b. Nor was He an angel, which are created beings. Heb. 1:4-14 explicitly says that Jesus was not an angel.
  - c. Angels worship Christ. Heb. 2:7-16 denies that Jesus became an angel to save angels.
  - d. He was God who became a Man to save men. Jesus created the angels (Col. 1:16). The human nature of Christ was created, but not His divine nature.
10. Jesus Worked Miracles.
- a. While prophets and apostles worked miracles by the power of God and not their own power, Jesus worked miracles by His own divine power.
  - b. He healed sicknesses, raised people from the dead, cast out demons, stopped storms.
  - c. He gave clues in His miracles, until finally people realized by faith that this one was God. He did what only God could do. They responded like the magicians in Egypt who said, "This is the finger of God."
  - d. Jesus worked miracles in conjunction with the Father and the Spirit, but not in the way that the apostles did.
11. No Salvation for Deniers of the Deity of Christ.
- a. According to the Bible, we are saved by believing the Gospel of who Jesus is and what He did. He died and rose for us.
  - b. To be saved, one must believe that Jesus Christ is God.

Therefore, those who deny His deity are not saved, and they will never become saved until they acknowledge that He is God (John 8:24).

- c. The deity of Christ is the primary and essential doctrine of Christianity.
12. Jesus Is Worthy Our Worship.
- a. Jesus died for us and deserves our love.
  - b. Jesus is God and deserves our worship.
  - c. The angels worship Him.
  - d. All Unbelievers will bow the knee to Him at the Last Judgement and confess that He is Lord (Phil. 2).
  - e. People came in faith to Christ on Earth and worshiped Him (Matt. 2:2,8,11; 8:2, 9:18, 15:25, 20:20, 28:9, Mark 5:6; Matt. 14:33, 28:17).
  - f. His disciples and angels refused such worship (Acts 10:25-26; Acts 14:11-18; Rev. 19:10, 22:8-9).
13. Jesus Became a Man.
- a. At the appointed time, Jesus became a Man by being born of a woman (Gal. 4:4).
  - b. He “came into the world to save Unbelievers” (1 Tim. 1:15).
  - c. He “became flesh” (John 1:14). This is the Incarnation. He took on a human body and soul, and became the God-Man. He is still the God-Man. He became a male, started as a baby, and grew through the stages of life.
14. His Deity Was Not Confined to His Humanity.
- a. When He became Man, He did not cease being God.
  - b. Deity is omnipresent; humanity is not.
  - c. His divine nature was everywhere including Heaven (John 3:13 in most translations).
  - d. His human nature was limited to only certain places, such as when the angel said at the empty tomb: “He is not here.” He is now with us everywhere in His deity, but His humanity is in Heaven.
15. Jesus Was Born of a Virgin.
- a. Matt. 1 and Luke 2 teach that Jesus had a human mother and a divine Father, but no human father and no divine mother.
  - b. Mary was a virgin at the time, even up to the time Jesus was

born. Jesus was conceived in her womb by the special miracle of the Holy Spirit.

- c. This is the only virginal conception and birth in history, a unique miracle. It guaranteed that Jesus would be both God and Man, and would be sinless.
16. Jesus Had Two Natures in One Person.
- a. The Lord Jesus was unique in several ways.
  - b. He was the only time God became a Man, and He was the only Man who was also divine.
  - c. He had two natures.
  - d. We call this the Hypostatic Union.
  - e. His deity was not humanized, nor was His humanity deified.
  - f. The two natures were not mingled or confused, nor was there a third hybrid produced. The two natures are distinct but not separate. He has only one person, not two. He was thus fully God and fully Man, not half-God and half-Man.
17. Jesus Had a Human Body.
- a. Jesus became the Second Adam (Rom.5, 1 Cor.15).
  - b. He was not a spirit (Luke 24:39).
  - c. Jesus took on a body so that He could die for us. He did not take on an angelic nature to save angels, but a human body and soul to save humans (Heb. 2; John 1:14).
  - d. He who confesses from the heart that Christ has come in the flesh shows that he has the Spirit of God. One of the heresies was that Christ had come but that there had been no incarnation. If Christ is denied, it is not God's Spirit, which always speaks truth, but that of antichrist (1 John 4:2-3; 2:18, 19).
  - e. Jesus had a body the same as ours, except for the effects of sin. His body was never sick and had no scars until the crucifixion.
  - f. He had a tangible body that could be seen, touched and heard (1 John 1:1-2).
  - g. His body had blood untainted by sin, with which He made the atonement.
18. Jesus Had a Human Soul.
- a. Scripture says He had a human soul in all its various parts and

aspects. His human mind grew in knowledge and was not omniscient. He did not know the time of His Second Coming (Mark 13:32).

- b. He had human emotions. He knew joy and grief. He wept for Lazarus and for others.
  - c. He had a human will. He submitted it to the divine will: "Not My will, but thy will be done."
  - d. He was fully human.
19. Jesus Was Sinless.
- a. Jesus was divine and He was sinless. He inherited no Original Sin (Luke 1:35).
  - b. Adam and Eve were only temporarily innocent; Christ was permanently and perfectly sinless. He was impeccable. Though He was tempted in all points as we are, He did not sin.
  - c. He was not only sinless and innocent, but perfectly and uniquely holy, even in His humanity.
20. Jesus Veiled His Deity.
- a. Jesus cloaked His deity under the veil of His humanity.
  - b. Some saw a good man, others a bad man. Even His relatives, except Mary, only thought He was just another Jew.
  - c. Phil. 2 describes the stages of Christ's humbling Himself. One was the Incarnation. Another was the humiliation of not being recognized and worshiped as was His rightful due as God. God the Father and the Holy Spirit knew who He was, as did the angels and demons.
21. Jesus Was Our Example.
- a. The Lord Jesus is the perfect example for us. He did not sin. He did not fight back, lose His temper, slander others (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
  - b. The great passage in Phil. 2 begins by calling on us to imitate Christ's attitude of humility.
  - c. We cannot die as a propitiation for sin, do miracles by our own power, or be worshiped.
  - d. His perfect humanity is the example to follow in all things good and godly, such as love (John 13:34).
22. Jesus Had a Unique Family.
- a. Joseph was his step-father. Jesus was raised by him and

followed him in the family carpentry business. Joseph was a “righteous man”, but not perfect. He was justified by believing in his step-son. Jesus honored Joseph and Mary and kept the Fifth Commandment. Evidently Joseph died before Jesus began His ministry, for we never read of him after Luke 2 except in the past tense.

- b. Mary was a virgin in the incarnation and birth, but was not a permanent virgin. Nor was she sinless; she too needed a Savior. She did not ascend into Heaven physically. Jesus had 4 half-brothers and at least two half-sisters, born to Joseph and Mary (Matt. 13:55-56), who did not believe in Him until after the Resurrection.
  - c. Jesus never married nor had children. But all true believers are His brethren (Matt. 12:50), His children (Heb.2:13), and His Bride (Eph.5).
23. Jesus Was a Real Historical Person.
- a. Throughout Christ’s ministry, people kept wondering who He was. Jesus asked His own disciples and received various replies (Luke 9:18-20).
  - b. Our eternal destiny hinges on what we believe about Jesus Christ. Jesus was a real person who lived at a certain time and place. History is measured B.C. and A.D. around Him.
  - c. He was not a myth and the Gospel accounts of Him are true. We do not need to “demythologize” the Biblical Jesus. We need to believe in Him as a real person exactly as recorded in God’s infallible Word.
24. Jesus is the Center of God’s Dealings with Man.
- a. Col. 1:18 says that Jesus has the “pre-eminence in all things.”
  - b. He is the conduit through which God has all His dealings with
  - c. God is revealed personally only through Jesus (John 1:18).
  - d. God created the entire universe through Jesus (John 1:2-3).
  - e. He is the means by which He reveals and receives glory (Heb. 1:1-3).
  - f. This is a Christocentric universe. Christ is the apex, the hub, the center, the ultimate reference point in everything between God and us.
25. The Name Jesus Means Jehovah Saves.

- a. When He was about to be born, the angel told Joseph that He was to be named “Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:13). In Greek, it is Iesous. In Hebrew, it is Yeshua, or Joshua.
  - b. Joshua took the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses; so Jesus saves from sins which the Law cannot save. Jesus is the Savior.
  - c. He is God Himself coming in human flesh to save His people. God did not merely send a Savior, He came as the Savior.
26. Jesus is the Messiah.
- a. The angel gave Jesus a second name (Emmanuel), which is more like what we would consider a middle name.
  - b. “Christ” is not His last name, but the title of one of His offices.
  - c. Christ in Greek is CHRISTOS. In Hebrew, it is MASIACH, or messiah. Both words mean “anointed one”.
  - d. Just as O.T. prophets, priests and kings were anointed with oil when they were ordained to their offices, so Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit in His ordination at His baptism.
  - e. This had to do with His office regarding His work, not His person.
  - f. He was the Son of Abraham (the one who inherited the promises to Abraham, Gal.3) and the Son of David (heir of Davidic throne, Psa. 89).
  - g. He is Messiah for Jews and Gentiles.
27. Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies of the Messiah.
- a. Long before He was born, Jesus’ coming had been promised and predicted by God through His prophets.
  - b. Gen. 3:15 was the first such prophecy. The O.T. is filled with dozens of others, some clear (Psa. 22; Isa. 53).
  - c. The whole O.T. spoke about the coming Messiah (Luke 24:25-26, 44-46, Acts 10:43, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
  - d. The Four Gospels point out how Jesus fulfilled them.
  - e. Some are to be fulfilled at His Second Coming. These were tangible proofs that Jesus was who He claimed.
28. Jesus is the Great Prophet.
- a. Moses predicted a prophet greater than himself would come one day. It was Jesus (Deut. 18:15-19, Acts 3:22).

- b. The prophets who were merely human said, "Thus saith the Lord". Jesus said, "I say to you."
  - c. They said, "The Word of the Lord came to me". Jesus is the Word of God come to us in Person.
  - d. He is called the LOGOS (Word) in John 1:1, 14 and Rev 19:13. (1 John 1:1). This refers not so much to the words which Jesus spoke, as to His very person and office as God's personal and highest Revelation of Himself (Heb. 1:1-3).
29. Jesus is the Great High Priest.
- a. Scripture speaks of three main offices of Christ: prophet, priest and king. No one person in the O.T. was ever all three, and Jesus is all three.
  - b. In each, He is greater than those which came before Him (Matt. 12:6; 12:41; 12:42).
  - c. The Book of Heb. explains the High Priestly work of Christ. He is greater than Melchizedek and Levi.
  - d. He brought a greater sacrifice, typified by all the animal sacrifices. He Himself is the Lamb of God, the great and final sacrifice.
  - e. The great Shepherd-Priest became a lamb in order to sacrifice Himself.
30. Jesus is Lord.
- a. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is Lord of Lords, King of Kings (Rev. 17:14, 19:16; 1 Tim. 6:15).
  - b. He is the King of the Jews (Matt. 2:2) and the "ruler of the kings of the Earth" (Rev. 1:5).
  - c. He is Lord of all (Acts 10:36, Rom. 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:3).
  - d. He is Lord by virtue of His eternal deity. He is Lord by virtue of His becoming the God-Man who humbled Himself to the lowest depths and was exalted to the highest heights (Phil. 2:5-11).
  - e. He already is Lord now, and will be recognized as such at the Second Coming and the Last Judgment, and forever by all.
31. Jesus is the Second Adam.
- a. Jesus is the "Second Adam" and the "Last Man" (Rom. 5; 1 Cor. 15).
  - b. Just as Adam was the father and federal head of a race of humanity, so the Lord Jesus is the father and federal head of a

- new race of humanity.
- c. Jesus succeeded where Adam failed.
32. Jesus is the Only Way to God.
- a. He is what He is and the conduit between God and Man.
  - b. Jesus is the only way to God. "I am the way, the truth and the life. No Man comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).
  - c. He is the only door (John 10:9).
  - d. There is salvation in nobody else (Acts 4:12).
  - e. He is the only mediator between God and Man, for He alone is both God and Man (1 Tim. 2:4).
  - f. We will die in our sins unless we believe in the person of Jesus (John 8:24).
  - g. We will live in Him if we believe the truth about Him.
  - h. Through Jesus alone we can know God (John 17:3), for Jesus alone knows God perfectly and personally, and it is He who determines who will be granted a personal introduction to His Father (Matt. 11:27).
33. Jesus Obeyed the Law for Us.
- a. Jesus was perfectly innocent, pure and sinless.
  - b. By obeying the Law of God and never sinning, He was thus uniquely able to provide the only sinless sacrifice to His Father.
  - c. The O.T. sacrifices could not have any blemishes or faults.
  - d. Christ obeyed the Law in our stead. Rom. 5 says that the disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world; the obedience of Christ brought righteousness and life.
34. Jesus Was Crucified.
- a. He came to die. After 33 years on earth, Christ was betrayed by Judas and was falsely condemned by two unjust trials.
  - b. God ordained that He die by crucifixion. It was a Roman method, not a Jewish one, and extremely cruel and painful.
  - c. Jesus was "hung on a tree" (Deut. 21:23, Gal. 3:13), not by ropes but by nails in His hands and feet. It was a public and shameful execution, recorded in all 4 Gospels.
  - d. Hung up between Heaven and Earth, the Lord Jesus was fastened to the Cross like the animals were tied to the altar in the Temple, for the Cross was His altar.
  - e. 1 Pet. 2:24 calls the cross a tree, referring to Deut. 21:23.

35. Jesus Took our Sins upon Himself.
- a. 1 Pet. 2:24 says that Jesus took our sins upon Himself.
  - b. Isa. 53 says He carried them on Himself like a heavy burden. God laid our sins upon Him, treated Him as if He were the sinner.
  - c. 2 Cor. 5:21 says that God “made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him.”
  - d. This was the first part of what is called the “divine exchange”. Our sins were imputed to Christ; His righteousness is imputed to us.
  - e. This does not mean that Jesus was literally made sin or a sinner, but treated “as if” He were sin.
  - f. The second part of this process was that, being made sin, He was then “made a curse for us” (Gal. 3:13). God looked at Him as sin, and God cursed Him and unleashed the floodgates of divine wrath against Him.
36. Jesus Suffered for Us.
- a. “Christ also suffered for us” (1 Pet. 2:21).
  - b. He suffered the ignominy of not being recognized and worshiped for 33 years.
  - c. He agonized in Gethsemane, even sweating drops of blood. He was laughed at, mocked, beaten with sticks, whipped.
  - d. The crucifixion itself was excruciating. But the internal pains were even greater. He suffered the very wrath of God in His soul. He drank the cup of wrath and internalized it. By so doing, His sacrifice was the propitiation that appeased the Father’s wrath. It was the only thing that could satisfy all the requirements of the Law. God accepted the sacrifice.
37. Jesus Shed His Blood for Us.
- a. The animal sacrifices in the Temple were types of Christ in several ways: alive and suffering, and shedding blood.
  - b. Jesus was a human sacrifice. He shed His blood as a special part of the sacrifice. Without this blood, there could be no atonement or forgiveness (Heb. 9:22).
  - c. It was sinless, “precious” blood (1 Pet. 1:19), infinite in value. One drop alone was worth more than a thousand universes.

God gave blood to us to be life in the flesh, and for Christ for sacrifice (Lev. 17:10)

38. Jesus Paid the Price for Our Redemption.
  - a. Jesus bought us (1 Cor. 6:20). He paid the ransom price to free us from sin and the wrath of God.
  - b. The price was not paid to Satan, to whom it was not due, but to the Father, whose wrath was over us. Christ “gave His life as a ransom” (Mark 10:45). The price was His life and His death.
  - c. Our sins incurred an infinite debt, not because they are infinite in number or quality, but because they are committed against an infinitely holy God.
  - d. We owed an infinite debt, which only the infinite God could pay. But Man must pay it.
  - e. So God became Man to pay it to Himself.
39. Jesus Died as a Substitute.
  - a. Jesus had no sins of His own, and therefore did not have to die. He died in our place.
  - b. This is called the “vicarious atonement”. He stood in our place, He took what we had coming. And He did this voluntarily.
  - c. Nobody took His life from Him. He laid it down of His own accord (John 10:18).
  - d. He could have called down thousands of angels to stop the crucifixion (Matt. 26:53), but He didn’t. “Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).
40. Jesus Died for All Human Beings.
  - a. Jesus died for everyone. Those who respond in faith will reap the benefits of His sacrifice.
  - b. Jesus' death was sufficient for all, but only effectual for those who have faith (1 John 2:2). We are called to be students of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15).
  - c. The enemy attempts to attack God's character or Christ's work, either God's love is limited or Jesus' power is limited. We know that God's love is infinite (Psa. 107:1) and that Christ's power is infinite (Col. 1:16–17).
  - d. The offer of salvation is universal, to all who will believe (Rom. 10:11, 13).
  - e. Christ's atonement is effective only for those who believe (John

- 3:18).
- f. John 10 provides more insight into the issue of whom Jesus died for. Christ died for His sheep.
  - g. All His sheep are secure in Him (John 10:11, 15, 28–30).
  - h. Jesus died for our sin, and He rose again from the dead. His death is sufficient to pay for our sins if we put your faith in Him (Eph. 5:25, John 10:15-18, Isa. 53:8).
41. Jesus Defeated Satan.
- a. There are several aspects of the atonement.
  - b. Godward, it was propitiation. It satisfied God's wrath.
  - c. Manward, it was expiation. It took away sins.
  - d. Satanward, it defeated the Devil.
  - e. Jesus came to die, and His death secured the defeat and overthrow of Satan and his demons (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Col. 2:14-15).
  - f. Gen. 3:15 predicted when Christ would crush Satan's head by incurring injury to Himself. He slew the great Dragon and freed the Church. He overthrew the Prince of Darkness (John 12:31).
42. Jesus Displayed the Love of God.
- a. No Man can show greater love to a friend than by dying for Him (John 15:13).
  - b. Christ died for His friends while they were still His enemies (Rom. 5:8, 10).
  - c. Christ showed us just how much He loved us, by dying for us (1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16).
  - d. Surely if God loved us enough to give us the greatest gift of all (Christ), then He will give us everything else (Rom. 8:32).
43. Jesus Was Buried.
- a. After He was crucified and died, Jesus was taken down from the Cross and buried in a borrowed tomb.
  - b. He was buried because He really was dead.
  - c. He was put there hastily because the Sabbath was approaching, so there was no time for the women to use the burial spices.
  - d. 1 Cor. 15:3 places great importance on the burial of Christ, as a sort of bridge between crucifixion and resurrection.
  - e. Once in the tomb, a seal was placed on the stone covering it,

not to be disturbed upon penalty of death. Armed guards watched it.

44. Jesus Descended to the Underworld.
  - a. Where was Jesus before He arose? His body was in the tomb, but His spirit was in the spirit world.
  - b. The Apostles Creed says, "He descended into Hell" (1 Pet. 3:19). He did not go and suffer in Hell. Rather, He went and made a proclamation of His victory over the forces of evil.
  - c. He proclaimed the defeat and doom of the demons and Unbelievers already in Hell.
  - d. He did not preach the Gospel to them, for there is no second chance after death.
  - e. He then went to Paradise and comforted the spirits of saints there, and proclaimed His victory for them (Luke 23:43).
45. Jesus Rose Physically from the Dead.
  - a. Jesus did not stay dead. Being the source of life, it was impossible for Him to stay dead (Acts 2:24). He is the Prince of Life.
  - b. The whole Trinity was involved in raising Jesus: the Father (Heb. 13:20; Rom. 8:11; John 10:18).
  - c. It was a real physical body, not a ghost (Luke 24:39). It was tangible (John 20:27). It still had the scars of the nails and the spear.
  - d. It was a real resurrection, not a resuscitation, metaphor, or mistake. Throughout the book of Acts, the early Christians boldly proclaimed that Jesus rose from the dead. The Resurrection is an essential doctrine of the Christian faith.
  - e. To deny the physical resurrection is to deny that Jesus' work was a satisfactory offering to God the Father. It would mean that Jesus was corrupt and needed to stay in the grave. But, he did not stay in the grave because his sacrifice was perfect (1 Cor. 15:14; 1 Cor. 15:17).
  - f. Scripture clearly states that if you say that Jesus did not rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), then your faith is useless.
46. The Body of Jesus Was Glorified.
  - a. In one sense, the body of Jesus was the same. It was not less than physical.

- b. But in another sense, it was different. It was more than physical. It had new properties.
  - c. It could go through doors, de-materialize, disappear, travel great distances. In a moment, change appearance, etc.
  - d. Each of the Four Gospels records instances of these phenomenal and miraculous events.
  - e. It was not only perfect and free from sin, as it had been before, but now was the door to a new kind of human existence.
47. God Vindicated Jesus.
- a. Rom. 1:4 says that God declared Jesus to be the Son of God by the Resurrection. God proved that Jesus was who He said He was and vindicated Him.
  - b. Everything Jesus said and did up to then hung on whether He would rise from the dead. It was a sort of gamble, as it were, so far as others were concerned.
  - c. If He stayed dead, then He wasn't the Messiah; but if He rose, then He was.
  - d. God accepted the atonement, and showed it by raising Jesus again.
  - e. Jesus triumphed over death and Satan (1 Cor. 15).
48. Jesus Appeared to Many Witnesses.
- a. Each of the Gospels record how Christ appeared to witnesses, the Apostles, the women who brought spices, Mary Magdalene, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Apostle Paul and many others.
  - b. We are not told if He appeared to His mother Mary, but this is probably true. Judas had already committed suicide, so He witnessed neither the death nor resurrection of Christ.
  - c. Christ appeared only to His followers and it strengthened their faith. He did not appear to the Pharisees.
  - d. He did, though, appear to James and His brethren, which converted them. He appeared to 500 people at one time.
  - e. Paul was the last one to witness the resurrected Christ.
  - f. Stephen, John and others had special visions of Jesus in glory.
49. Jesus Was the First Fruits of Resurrection.
- a. God had raised others from the dead before Christ (Lazarus, Jairus' servant, the little girl, a few in the O.T.), but they later

- died.
  - b. Christ was the first to be raised in a perfect body suitable for Heaven.
  - c. 1 Cor. 15:20 says He is the “firstfruits” of our future resurrection. Believers will be raised in the same kind of body He had.
50. Jesus Returned to Heaven.
- a. After 40 days with His people, Jesus returned to Heaven from where He came. This is what we call the Ascension.
  - b. He ascended from where He had descended 33 years earlier (John 3:13, Eph. 4:9-10). This was to complete the Heavenward direction of the Resurrection.
  - c. Acts 1 tells us that the Ascension was witnessed by the 11 Apostles, and that it was physical and visible, and occurred through a cloud.
  - d. The Second Coming will be like the Ascension in reverse.
  - e. 1 Tim. 3:16 says He was “received up in glory”. His humanity went up and is not with us, but His deity is everywhere.
  - f. He gave the Great Commission of Matt 28, telling us to go every where because He will be with us everywhere, though He is also in Heaven. Enoch and Elijah ascended, but not in this same manner.
51. Jesus Was Crowned Lord of Lords.
- a. Jesus had always been eternally God. But His humanity began at the Incarnation, and had always lived in humility.
  - b. Now, the God-Man was glorified in His fullness. He was rewarded for His great work of coming down, dying, and rising.
  - c. He was crowned as Lord in a special way. He now sits on the throne with God the Father. The Father has given all judgement to the Son, the God-Man. This is part of the reward and honor bestowed upon Him at the Ascension.
52. Jesus Now Intercedes for Us in Heaven.
- a. Between the Ascension and Second Coming, there is the Heavenly Session of Christ. He reigns, answers prayer, and mediates in all things between God and us.
  - b. He did not cease to be God at the Incarnation, and did not cease to be Man at the Ascension. He is our Mediator (1 Tim.

- 2:4-5). He always lives in Heaven to intercede for us at the bar of God (Heb. 7:25).
- c. We daily sin, so we need His daily intercession. He died once, lives forever. We have access to God now through Him (Eph. 2:18).
  - d. Since there is but one such Mediator, we may not pray to anyone else. And we ought to regularly worship Him and pray to Him.
53. Salvation Through Christ Only!
- a. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
    - i. Jesus makes it abundantly clear that there is no other possible way to the Father than through Him. He is the one and only way.
    - ii. He alone is the truth. He is the one and only way to be saved.
    - iii. If there is more than one path to God, it is to the Great White Throne judgment seat where Christ will judge all who have rejected Him (Rev 20:12-15), but that's a path no one should take, and they need not take it.
    - iv. Put your trust in Him.
  - b. John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
    - i. There is no room for a human interpretation or rationalization.
    - ii. No man and no woman can come to the Father unless it is through Jesus Christ our Lord, and that person must be being drawn to Him.
    - iii. Only then will the Lord "raise him up on the last day."
    - iv. If you choose to reject the one and only way to the Father (through Jesus Christ), then you will be forever separated from God by your sins, and instead of having Christ atone for your sins, you will have to pay for them yourselves (Rev 21:8).
  - c. Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- i. No other name is given to us whereby we can be or must be saved.
  - ii. Choose any religious leader you can think of. They're not the way. Their name can't save you.
  - iii. It is only in Christ that we can be saved, for truly, "there is salvation in no one else."
  - iv. This conflicts with most of the world's religions because most are works-based.
  - v. This view of salvation looks like; our works plus Jesus equals salvation, when nothing could be further from the truth (Eph 2:8-9).
  - vi. God alone saves and it is only through Jesus Christ. There is absolutely no other way.
  - vii. The jailer asked the right question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:30)? The answer of course is, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).
- d. First Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
- i. There are no humans on earth that can mediate between us and God.
  - ii. Jesus Christ is our High Priest and Mediator because only He can enter into heavenly sanctuary and into the presence of God the Father.
  - iii. Only He and the Spirit have access to the Father, so that's why we pray through Jesus' name, so "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:16).
  - iv. Jesus Christ has open access to the Father and that gives us access to the Father.
- e. John 10:7-9 Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
- i. Jesus is the one and only way into the kingdom. He is not only our access to the Father; He is the door by which we



- 11:18; 2 Tim 2:24-26).
- ii. None but God can save, and that means whoever believes in Jesus Christ will be saved.
  - iii. Be thankful that God has provided a way for us to be saved.

### Practice

1. What is the evidence that Christ came to mankind from heaven?
2. What is the evidence that Christ was born in Bethlehem?
3. What is the evidence that Christ was God in the Flesh?
4. What is the evidence that Christ lived among people?
5. What is the evidence that Christ healed the sick and raised the dead?
6. What is the evidence that Christ died on the cross?
7. What is the evidence that Christ got up from the dead?
8. What is the evidence that Christ is alive now?
9. What is the evidence that Christ intercedes on behalf of the believer?
10. What is the evidence that Christ is coming back?
11. What are the promises of Christ?
12. What is the end time strategy of Christ?