

JESUS: Son of God

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines | April 6, 2019



Introduction



Today, we will talk about Jesus Christ.



We know that there is only one name under heaven by which we can be saved. That name is Jesus Christ.



Acts 4

11 **Jesus** is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to mankind **by which we must be saved.**”



Romans 10:9

“If you declare with your mouth, “**Jesus is Lord,**” and believe in your heart that **God** raised **him** from the dead, **you will be saved.**”



Both these declarations seem to require that we know Jesus Christ intimately – that we must know Him truly and not only superficially.



It is our joy to introduce to you the true Christ
directly from the pages of the Holy Bible so you may
be intimately acquainted with Him



Some believe that Jesus is 'just a man,' others believe Jesus is an angel, 'most others' believe Jesus is a persona of God (with three personalities), and bizarrely, still there are some who believe 'they' are the Christ.



Within Christianity, there are many kinds and types
of faith.

There are false Christs, and there is the true Christ.



Our salvation depends on knowing the
one true Christ



Last month we talked about God the Father. We learned that The Father loves us and is working out His plan for humanity. He personally sent Jesus Christ to be the savior of the world. He is working out our salvation with Jesus Christ. And, to the believers He sends His Holy Spirit.

Today, we will talk about the Son—Jesus—the Christ, who was sent by the Father.



For one to have an intimate relationship with Jesus,
one must first be acquainted with Him.

So, how well do you know Christ?



1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the **Word of Life**.

2 The **Life** appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you **the Eternal Life**, which was **with the Father** and **has appeared** to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may **have fellowship with us**. And our fellowship is with the **Father** and with **his Son**, Jesus Christ.

4 We write this to make our joy complete.



Allow us to introduce to you Jesus Christ – the Word of Life which was with the Father and has appeared to us.



Four Questions to ask:

1. Who is Christ?
2. Do you know anything about His pre-existence?
3. Who was Christ before He came as a man?
4. Why the Jews reject Jesus?



To many, Jesus Christ is a mystery. Today, we will know the real Jesus Christ. The identity of Christ is not a mystery, but is clearly revealed in the pages of the Bible. This knowledge is important to our salvation.



Who is Christ?



The English word for “Christ” is translated from the original Greek word ‘Kristos’ (or Christos).

‘Kristos’ is the equivalent in Greek for the Hebrew word ‘Messiah’ which means ‘the anointed one.’

Messiah = Kristos = Christ



John 1:41

‘He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).’



'Christ' is not the surname of Jesus, unlike how people carry surnames today. In ancient times, people were usually identified by their place of origin, profession or their parent's name.



Jesus was known as Jesus of Nazareth.

Judas - the one who betrayed Jesus - was identified by his hometown as 'Iscariot'.

James and John were known as the sons of Zebedee.



Jesus is known as Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph the carpenter and the son of Mary from the tribe of Judah.

The word 'Christ' identifies the anointed of God, showing us that Jesus of Nazareth is
THE CHRIST.



To understand the word “Christ”, we need to refer to the prophecy written about the coming of the Messiah about 700 years before ‘the birth’ of Jesus.



Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel.**”



The Messiah or Christ is the “Immanuel” which means ‘God with us.’ He is to come through a virgin birth – a miracle. The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in the account of Matthew.



Matthew 1:16

“and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of **Jesus who is called the Messiah.**”



Matthew 1

20 But after he had considered this, 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.

21 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.”



Matthew 1

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and **they will call him Immanuel**” (which means “God with us”).

(a quotation from the prophet Isaiah)



Matthew 1

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name **Jesus**.



- Jesus is the given name.
- Jesus is the English equivalent for the Hebrew name 'Yeshua' or 'Yehoshua' which means "Jehovah the Savior" or "Yahweh the Savior."
- Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Immanuel (God with us)
- Therefore, "Jesus Christ" means "Jehovah (Yahweh) the savior, the Messiah, is God with us."



Now, we have a good perspective of what the name Jesus Christ means. Jesus Christ is the God who came down from heaven, the Messiah, the Immanuel (God with us), our Savior!



Thus, the smart and logical question is:
Who exactly 'was' this God who came down from
heaven to save the world?



The Pre-Existence of Jesus



Who was Jesus before he came as a man?



John 3

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — **the Son of Man.**



John 3

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the **Son of Man** must be lifted up,

15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”



John 3

16 For **God** so loved the world that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For **God** did not **send his Son** into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



John 3

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of **God's one and only Son**.

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.



John 3

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.



Jesus categorically claims to be the **divine Son of God**. He said He was from heaven and was sent by the Father. They existed along side each other before time began. The Son is said to be at the Father's side and He learned everything from His Father.



John 1 (NIV)

14 The **Word** (Word of Life) became **flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the **glory of the one and only Son**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because **he was before me.**’”)



John 1 (NIV)

16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God, but the **one and only son, who is himself God** and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.



John 1 (NKJV)

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.



John 1 (GN Translation)

14 The **Word** became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the **Father's only Son**.

15 John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, "He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because **he existed before I was born.**" "



John 1 (GN Translation)

16 Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another.

17 God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. The only **Son**, who is the **same as God** and is at the **Father's side**, he has made him known.



Christ divested Himself of His divinity to come as a man.



Philippians 2

6 Who, being in **very nature God**,
did not consider equality with God something to
be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in **human likeness**.



Philippians 2

8 And being found in **appearance as a man**,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!



Philippians 2

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Christ's Pre-existence

He is the One and Only Son who is at the Father's side.



Who is the Son?



Now, we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was with the Father before He came to earth.

What else are we told of the 'Son of God?' The disciples identified Him as the God who created all things.



Colossians 1

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For **in him all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.



Colossians 1

17 **He is before all things**, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the **firstborn from among the dead**, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.



1 Corinthians 8:6

“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom **all things came and through whom we live.**”



1 Corinthians 8:6

“yet for us there is but one ‘God the Father,’ from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one ‘Lord Jesus Christ,’ through whom **all things came and through whom we live.**”



Now, we know more as to who is Jesus Christ. The Christ is the Son of God, the God who created all things, who came from heaven and dwelt among men in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.



John 1 (GN Translation)

1 In the beginning the **Word** already existed; the Word was **with God**, and the **Word was God**.

2 From the very beginning the **Word was with God**.

3 Through him God **made all things**; not one thing in all creation was made without him.

4 The **Word** was the **source of life**, and this life brought light to people.



Who is the SON?

He is the Word of Life.

He is the Executive Creator who created all things, visible and invisible; things in heaven and on earth.



Knowledge of Christ



There is no mystery about the nature of Christ
because God has revealed it to His church.



Colossians 1

25 And I have been made a servant of the **church** by God, who gave me this task to perform for your good. It is the task of fully proclaiming his message,

26 which is the secret he hid through all past ages from all human beings but has **now revealed to his people**.

27 God's plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. And the secret is that **Christ is in you**, which means that you will share in the **glory of God**.

28 So we preach **Christ** to everyone.



Understanding about Christ

1. How did the Apostles understand the relationship of God the Father and Jesus Christ, and the nature of God?
2. How did Jesus understand His divine relationship with God the Father?
3. The Father's Testimony.



#1
Apostles'
understanding of Jesus'
relationship to God



Matthew 16

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”



Matthew 16

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the **Messiah**, the **Son of the living God.**”

Messiah = Anointed = Kristos = Christ = God with us

=

Son of the Living God



Matthew 16

17 Jesus replied, “**Blessed** are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not **revealed** to you by flesh and blood, **but by my Father** in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this **rock** I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.



Matthew 16

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be [d]loosed in heaven.”

20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the **Messiah**.



This is an interesting account in the Bible. Have you ever wondered why Jesus asked His disciples this question: “Who do you think I am?”



The disciples had been with Christ for quite some time already. Yet Jesus wanted to find out whether the disciples really knew who He is and what His relationship with God the Father is. The question was a test; and provided an opportunity to explain who He is.



The ordinary people didn't know Jesus. They thought He was a mere man like Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah or some other prophets. Today, many denominations continue to insist that Jesus is a man or at best an angel, without realizing that they rejected the very concept of who Christ is in this account.



The disciples, represented by Peter's response, knew the answer. The disciples understood clearly that Jesus is the Son of God the Father; that they are two separate, distinct and independent beings. They understood the 'father-son' relationship of the God Head. This account destroys the views of the Unitarians and the Trinitarians. If Peter was wrong, Christ would have corrected Peter on the spot.



The Apostles knew Jesus is the Son of
the Living God!



#2

Jesus' understanding of His relationship with God



All throughout the Bible, Jesus claimed He is the Son of God. He claims equality with God. He prays to God the Father.



John 5

17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “**My Father** is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling **God his own Father**, making himself equal with God.



John 5

19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.



John 5

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

22 Moreover, **the Father judges no one**, but has **entrusted all judgment to the Son**,

23 that all may **honor the Son** just as they **honor the Father**. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.



John 5

24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes **him** who sent **me** has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.



John 5

26 For as the **Father has life in himself**, so he has **granted the Son** also to have life in himself.

27 And **he has given** him authority to judge because he is the **Son of Man**.



John 5

28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.



John 5

30 **By myself I can do nothing**; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but **him who sent me**.

31 “If I **testify** about myself, my testimony is not true.

32 There is **another who testifies** in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me **is true**.



John 5

33 “You have sent **to John** and he has testified to the truth.

34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.

35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.



John 5

36 “I have **testimony weightier** than that of John. For the **works that the Father has given** me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.



John 5

37 And the **Father** who sent me has himself **testified concerning me**. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,

38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.



#3

The Father's Testimony



The final authority on the nature of Christ – whether He is the Son of God, or a mere man, or a persona of God is in the testimony of God the Father Himself.



There are two (2) accounts of these testimonies. The first is recorded in Matthew 3:16-17. Another account was during the transfiguration where God the Father testified about the son in Matthew 17:1-9.



Matthew 3

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

17 And a voice from heaven said, “**This is my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”



Matthew 17

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.



Matthew 17

4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “**This is my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”



Matthew 17

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”

8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.



Matthew 17

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



Anyone who does not believe the testimony of God the Father is in danger of calling God a liar! John said that God is true; the liar is the one who denies Jesus as the Christ.



1 John 2:22

“Who is the liar? It is whoever **denies** that **Jesus** is the **Christ**. Such a person is the **antichrist**—
denying the Father and the Son.”



Jews Reject Christ



The Jews understood perfectly the claim of Jesus as the Christ. They knew Jesus claimed to be the very Son of God who came from heaven.

The Jews rejected this claim. They considered Jesus a blasphemer, a mere man claiming to be God, thus deserving death.



John 10

24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the **Messiah**, tell us plainly.”



John 10

25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The **works** I do in my **Father’s name testify about me,**

26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.



John 10

28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. (claim of divinity!)

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and the Father are one.” (again, claim of divinity!)



John 10

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him,

32 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

33 “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God.**”



Jesus before the Sanhedrin



Mark 14

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the **Messiah**, the **Son of the Blessed One**?”



Mark 14

62 “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked.

64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

(They all condemned him as worthy of death.)



In this account Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the chief priest. Jesus was asked a point blank question:

“Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?”



There are several possible answers to this question. Remember He prayed with blood and sweat at the garden of Gethsemane imploring the Father if it were possible for the cup of suffering pass from Him. The request was not granted.

There are three possible answers Jesus could have given to the High Priest.



1. I am a man

I am a mere man, a prophet just like Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist. With this answer, the Sanhedrin would not have had Him killed. This would have been the perfect answer for those who believe Jesus was a mere man.



2. I am Michael

I am the Archangel Michael. With this answer, the Sanhedrin would not have sought Him killed either. This would have been the perfect answer for the Unitarians.



3. I am the Blessed One, I have come in the flesh.

I used to deal with your forefathers as God. Today, I deal with you as Jesus Christ. But I am the same person you call “God.”



With this answer, the Pharisees and the Sadducees definitely would have killed Jesus, but it would have been the perfect answer for the Trinitarians. But, it was not so.



4. Yes, I am Christ.

This was Jesus' affirmative response. It was for this claim of Sonship that Jesus was killed. But Jesus told the truth. He is indeed the Son of the Blessed One. He has a Father and the Father is greater than him. He came to do the Father's will. Anything short of this explicit answer would have been false.



The Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Instead, they accused Him of blasphemy – a mere man claiming to be God..



Now, who do you believe Jesus is?

Do you believe Jesus Christ is just a mere man just like the Jews of Jesus' days? You probably should not, right? There are some churches that claim Jesus is just a mere man, right? Then you ought to know whether they are right or wrong.



If Jesus were a mere man, then he really deserved to die. If He were a mere man, the Jews are right and we still have no savior.



The Jews clearly understood the claim of Jesus about His Sonship in relation to God the Father. They simply refused to accept the truth. Today, this truth continues to be rejected by the Unitarians and the Trinitarians.



Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Any belief other than this belief is false according to Apostle John. And to believe that Jesus is the Christ, one also has to believe that He was sent by God the Father.



Now you know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who created all things. He was sent by the Father to save the world. He who believes in the Son has to believe the Father also. If you believe in the name of the Son, you also have to believe the Father sent Him. This truth is saving knowledge.



This brings us to 1 John chapter 5. A most wonderful exposition of true faith – saving faith...



1 John 5

1 Everyone who believes that **Jesus is the Christ is born of God**, and everyone who **loves the father loves his child as well**.

What a strong statement! Jesus is the Christ = the anointed = the son of the living God! Everyone who believes in that is born of God – born or begotten, meaning having the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. Further, everyone who loves God the Father ought to love His son – Jesus Christ- as well.



1 John 5

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.



1 John 5

5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only **the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

(The one who overcomes the world – the one who is saved – is the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God! Hard to believe but true!)



1 John 5

6 This is the one who **came by water and blood**—
Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by
water and blood. And it is the **Spirit who testifies**,
because the Spirit is the truth.



1 John 5

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are **in agreement**.



1 John 5

9 We accept human testimony, but **God's testimony** is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

(What is this great testimony of God about Jesus?
“This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased...”)



1 John 5

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God **has made him out to be a liar**, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

(Whoever does not believe the testimony of God calls God a liar. Scary stuff. Who wants to call God a liar?!)



1 John 5

11 And this is the **testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**

12 Whoever **has the Son has life**; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.



1 John 5

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.



1 John 5

15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that.



1 John 5

17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.



1 John 5

19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that **we may know him who is true**. And we are in him who is true by **being in his Son Jesus Christ**. He is the **true God and eternal life**.

(All the glory go to the Father who loves us and sent His Son to save us!)



Yes, Jesus is the Christ – the Son of the Living God – He is the one who created all things. He was sent by the Father. He came and He died for us. Now He sits at the right hand of The Majesty in heaven. He will come again.



The saving faith is to believe that God the Father sent His Son to come in the flesh to save us. All the glory goes through Christ to the eternal Father. That is the true saving faith!



As the Passover comes upon us, it is crucial to have a good understanding of who came to die for us!



Jesus the Christ, the Son of God who created all things divested of His divinity, came in human form, to save you and me!



END

