

# The Doctrine of Christ

*"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John 1:9-11*

There are four books of the "gospel" in the bible, namely Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Both Matthew and Luke began their "gospel" with the birth of Jesus and continued through His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, a period of about 33 years. Mark began his record of the gospel when the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus, and continued through his death, resurrection, and ascension, a period of about 3 ½ years. These "gospels" give us a good and dependable history of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, along with the record of His rejection, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

It was Saul of Tarsus, the great persecutor of the church, who several years after His conversion to Jesus, received the "Revelation of Jesus Christ" during a time in which he was alone, having been ostracized by the brethren in the church at Jerusalem Acts 9:30-31. This was the revelation of "who Jesus is" which "turned the world upside down" Acts 17:6 in Paul's generation. Paul called the revelation he preached "the gospel of Christ" Romans 1:16. During this time period, we actually know very little about the Apostle John, because he wrote no gospel book or epistle until about twenty years after the deaths of Paul and the other apostles, which preceded the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. John must have been above 80 years of age when he wrote his gospel, and later his first epistle, in which he gave his "revelation," which he called "the doctrine of Christ."

**"In the beginning was the Word..."** John 1:1. In contrast to the other gospel writers, John did not begin with either the birth or baptism of Jesus, but rather with "in the beginning." Before there was a universe, there was "The Word," who was "in the beginning with God, and was God." The "Word" as used by John was translated from the Greek word "logos," which is defined as "divine expression (Christ)." Whatever God speaks is His "divine expression;" Wherever God speaks, there is "Christ," sent to do those things which please God.

**"All things were made by him..."** John 1:3. The "him" in this verse refers to "The Word," which is "the Spirit of Christ." Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..." Hebrews 11:3.

"The word" in this verse simply speaks of the "utterances" of God. The manner of creation is revealed in Genesis; "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" Genesis 1:3. It was God almighty who "said," and it was "The Word (Christ)" who performed. **"...and without him was not anything made that was made."**

**"In him was life; and the life was the light of men"** John 1:4. I have heard it said that "Christianity is not a religion; it is a lifestyle God has commanded us to live." If that is true, then Christianity is nothing more than any other religion on earth. True Christianity is not a "lifestyle," but it is "life" which is

"the light of men." Only that "lifestyle" that proceeds from "life" is pleasing to God, and "Christ is our life" Colossians 3:4. Our "life" must proceed from Him.

**"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."** John 1:14.

Between the 1st and the 14th verses of this text is a period which cannot be measured in years. The measure of time began with the disobedience of Adam and the entrance of sin. Before time began, was eternity, which has no beginning and no end, and for all eternity past there was Christ, the Word, who was "with God and was God." Christ the Word, who is from eternity past, after about four thousand years of time, was "made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

This is the incarnation, where the eternal "Word of God" became a man. Christ, "the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever," I Peter 1:23 is the "incorruptible seed" which was implanted in the womb of Mary by the Holy Ghost Luke 1:35, and she brought forth the Son of God.

The apostle Paul said, "God sent forth his Son, **made of a woman, made under the law...**" Galatians 4:4. This "son of Mary" was also "the Son of God." The apostle Paul, in his "Revelation of Jesus Christ," confirms John's revelation and adds just a little to our understanding of the part of Christ in creation. Consider the following passages.

**"For by (in) him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by (through) him, and for him:"** Colossians 1:16.

Paul actually revealed that "all things" were created "in Christ." The eternal Spirit of Christ is larger than the universe itself, which was created "through Christ" as God spoke the words of creation.

And he is before all things..." Colossians 1:17. "Christ is" before the universe was. **"...and by (in) him all things consist."** Not only were all things created "in Him," but in verse 17, "...in Him all things consist." If Christ were to cease to exist, the universe must immediately pass away, for there would be no place found for its existence. The present universe will pass away one day, to make way for the "new heavens and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" II Peter 3:12-13, which will also be "created in Christ" Ephesians 2:10, II Corinthians 5:17.

**"And he is the head of the body, the church..."** Colossians 1:18. Consider in the light of the revelation of who He is, that He is our head, and we are His body. The magnitude of this is greater than the imagination can reach. We who are "born of God" are "joint heirs" with Him Romans 8:17. **"...who is the beginning..."** In these four words we see the most overwhelming of all revelations of who Christ is. He is "the beginning." Three times in the book of Revelation, He said, "I am the beginning and the end" Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13. With this understanding, the first chapter of Genesis gains so much, and confirms the revelation of the apostles that "all things were created in Him." The first chapter of the bible begins, **"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."** With this understanding, if we can believe it, "the beginning" ceases to speak of a "time" of creation, but the "place of creation," which is in the Christ of eternity, "who is the beginning."

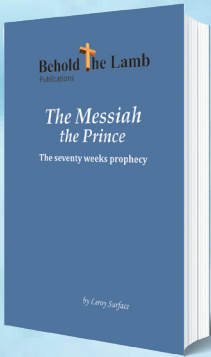
## Jesus is the Christ!

The Apostle John wrote, ***“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”*** I John 5:1. This revelation of John takes on true meaning for those who understand who Christ is. No longer can we believe everyone who “believes in Jesus” has the guarantee of heaven when they die. The weak and sickly church that must begin every service with a “sinners prayer,” because they believe “we are all sinners who must sin every day;” if they do not wake up to “who Christ is,” and “what He came into the world to do,” will be rejected at the judgement bar, and lost for all eternity. If Jesus is “the Christ” and Christ is everything the apostles tell us He is, it is obvious He did not come into the world to be our “whipping boy,” to “take our punishment” and “pay our debt.” Instead, Christ, “in whom” and “through whom” and “for whom” all things were created, came into this world to destroy the devil Hebrews 2:14, and undo all the works of the devil I John 3:8. He came as “the meek and lowly Jesus,” but that does not take away from who He is. He is the “seed of the woman” who “bruised the head of the serpent” Genesis 3:15. He is *“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. His blood *“cleanseth us from all sin”* I John 1:7. He *“loved us, and gave Himself for us”* Galatians 2:20, not to “take our punishment;” but to *“wash us from our sins in His own blood, and make us to be a kingdom of priests unto God...”* Revelation 1:5-6.

Peter’s revelation was, ***“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”*** Matthew 16:16. When Peter spoke these words to Jesus, He did not have the understanding which the apostles Paul and John gave us years later. He did, however, receive a revelation from the Father that *“Jesus is the Christ.”* With this revelation, there was only one text in the entire bible he could make this statement from, which is Daniel 9:24-27. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel of the coming of one called “The Messiah, the Prince.” This is the one Peter spoke of as *“The Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Certainly the *“Son of God”* is the *“Prince of God,”* and “The Christ” is the Greek counterpart of the Hebrew “The Messiah.” Daniel foretold the very year “The Christ” would appear in ministry, and Luke recorded the mood in Israel as that year began; *“And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not”* Luke 3:15. The entire nation was expecting “The Christ” to come. They knew the prophecy by heart, for it had been preached in the synagogues throughout their entire lifetime. The people knew what “The Christ” would do. It was the main focus of the message Gabriel brought to Daniel; *“to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy”* Daniel 9:24. The children of Israel had been punished for centuries because of their “transgressions,” but “The Christ” would *“finish the transgression.”* Sin had cursed the entire world since its entrance with Adam’s disobedience, but “The Christ” would “make an end of sins.” He would “reconcile” them to favor with God, and “bring in everlasting righteousness.” To *“seal up the vision and prophecy,”* He would

fulfill every vision and prophecy of the prophets of God, who spoke of redemption and restoration. Finally, the *“Most Holy”* would be anointed. This was the first to be fulfilled, when the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus of Nazareth at John’s baptism, and the Father spoke from heaven, *“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”* Matthew 3:16-17.

Oh how those who knew Him rejoiced; *“You are the one who will finish the transgression,”* you will *“make an end of sins”* and *“bring in everlasting righteousness.”* What a wonderful and glorious day for those who believed, and so it is today for those who also “know who He is,” and “what He came into the world to do.” The unbelieving Jews still believe *“when Christ comes, He will make an end of sins,”* but they do not believe *“Jesus is the Christ.”* It is a weak and sinful church that has blinded the eyes of the modern Jew to the truth Romans 11:25. *“If Jesus were the Christ”* they reason, *“those who trust in him would not be sinners,”* and they are correct in their reasoning. Jesus Christ died to *“take away the sin of the world”* John 1:29, thus He *“makes an end of sins”* in everyone who *“knows the truth”* which Jesus said *“will make you free”* John 8:36 *“...from sin”* John 8:34-36. The apostle John gives the conclusion repeatedly; *“...whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not”* I John 3:6, *“...whosoever is born of God doeth not commit sin”* I John 3:9, and *“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not”* I John 5:18. Dare we contradict that beloved Apostle who gave us this *“Doctrine of Christ?”* He said, *“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”* II John 1:10-11



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