

## The Doctrine of God the Son

- I. Introduction. It has been estimated that some forty billion individuals have lived upon this earth since Adam. What a contrast can be seen in this vast multitude of humanity. It includes black men, white men, brown, and yellow men. These men have explored and settled every corner of their earth. They speak dozens of languages, practice multitudes of religions, and have formulated numerous cultures.
- But every single human being shares one vital thing. His purpose of life down here and his eternal destiny afterward depend completely upon his personal relationship with the subject of this study, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, absolutely impossible to overemphasize the importance of his life. The key question of the universe continues to be: "What think ye of Christ?" (Mt. 22:42).
- II. The Preexistence of Jesus Christ as God.
- A. The fact of his divine existence.
1. As taught by John the Baptist (Jn. 1:15).
  2. As taught by the Apostle John (Jn. 1:1; 1 Jn. 1:2).
  3. As taught by the Apostle Paul (Phil. 2:6-8)
  4. As taught by the Apostle Peter (1 Pet. 1:20).
  5. As taught by Christ himself (Jn. 6:38, 51, 61-62; 8:58; 17:5).
- B. The activities of the divine preexistent Christ. What was the Savior doing prior to his Bethlehem appearance?
1. He was creating the universe (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2, 10).
  2. He was controlling this created universe. (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17).
  3. He was communing with the Father (Jn. 1:1).
- III. The Old Testament Ministry of Jesus Christ.
- A. He appeared to Hagar, Abraham's Egyptian wife (Gen. 16:7-14).
- B. He appeared to Abraham (Gen. 18:1; 22:11-13).
- C. He appeared to Jacob (Gen. 28:13; 32:24-32; 48:16).
- D. He appeared to Moses (Ex. 3:2; 23:20; 33:18-23).
- These three occasions were all connected with Mt. Sinai.
1. The first was near the mountain (Ex. 3:1-5).
  2. The second occasion was on the mountain (Ex. 23:20).
  3. The final occasion was in the mountain (Ex. 33:22).
- E. He appeared to Joshua (Josh. 5:13-15).
- F. He appeared to Gideon (Jdg. 6:11-24).
- G. He appeared to Samson's parents (Jdg. 13:1-3).
- H. He appeared to Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-13).
- I. He appeared to three young Hebrews in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:25).
- J. He appeared to Daniel (Dan. 6:22; 7:9-14).
- K. He appeared to Zechariah (Zech. 1:8-13; 2:8-11; 3:10; 6:12-15).
- IV. The Virgin Birth Incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- A. False views concerning the incarnation.
1. The Ebionites.
  2. The Gnostics.
  3. The Arians.
  4. The Nestorians.
  5. The Eutychians.
- B. The true view of the incarnation.
- In the Old Testament we have man made in the image of God and in the New Testament we see God made in the image of man.
- C. The miracles involved in the incarnation.
1. That God the Son could take upon himself the full nature of man and yet retain the full nature of God.
  2. That a human body could be conceived within a mother's womb without an earthly father.
- D. The perpetuity of the incarnation.
- E. The prophecies concerning the incarnation.
- Old Testament.
1. By Isaiah the prophet (Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6-7).
  2. By Micah the prophet (Micah 5:2).
- New Testament. Heavenly announcements were given to at least eight individuals or groups concerning the incarnation in the New Testament.
3. To Zacharias (Lk. 1:17, 76).
  4. To Mary (Lk. 1:31, 35).

5. To Elisabeth (Lk. 1:42).
6. To Joseph (Mt. 1:20-21).
7. To the shepherds (Lk. 2:10-12).
8. To the wise men (Mt. 2:1-2).
9. To Simeon (Lk. 2:25-32).
10. To Anna (Lk. 2:36-38).

F. The reasons for the incarnation.

1. To reveal the invisible God (Jn. 1:18; 14:9).
2. To fulfill prophecy (Gen. 3:15).
3. To guarantee the Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7:8-17; Lk. 1:31-33).
4. To make a sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 2:9; 10:4-5, 10, 12; 1 Jn. 3:5; Mk. 10:45).
5. To reconcile man to God, (2 Cor. 5:19; Heb. 2:17; 1 Tim. 2:5-6).
6. To provide an example for believers (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Jn. 2:6).
7. To provide the believer with a high priest (Heb. 2:17; 3:1).
8. To destroy the devil and his works (Heb. 2:14; 1 Jn. 3:8).
9. To escape the historical curse.
  - a. Upon Adam's seed (Rom. 5:12).
  - b. Upon King Jehoiakim and his son, Jehoiachin (Jer. 22:30; 36:30).
10. To heal the brokenhearted (Lk. 4:18).
11. To set at liberty the bruised (Lk. 4:18).
12. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Lk. 4:19).
13. To give life--abundant life (Jn. 10:10).
14. To glorify the Father (Jn. 13:31; 14:13; 17:4).

V. The Biblical Names and Titles of Jesus Christ.

Adam (1 Cor. 15:45).  
 Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1).  
 Almighty (Rev. 1:8).  
 Amen (Rev. 3:14).  
 Angel of the Lord (Gen. 16:9-14; Jdg. 6:11-14).  
 Anointed (Ps. 2:2).  
 Apostle (Heb. 3:1).  
 Author (Heb. 12:2).  
 Alpha (Rev. 1:8; 21:6).  
 Babe (Lk. 2:16).  
 Beginning of creation (Rev. 3:14).  
 Begotten of the Father (Jn. 3:16).  
 Beloved (Eph. 1:6).  
 Bishop (1 Pet. 2:25).  
 Blessed (1 Tim. 6:15).  
 Branch (Zech. 3:8).  
 Brazen Serpent (Jn. 3:14).  
 Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15).  
 Bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16).  
 Captain (Josh. 5:4).  
 Carpenter (Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3).  
 Child (Isa. 9:6).  
 Christ (Mt. 1:16; 2:4).  
 Commander (Isa. 55:4).  
 Consolation of Israel (Lk. 2:25).  
 Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20).  
 Dayspring from on high (Lk. 1:78).  
 Day Star (2 Pet. 1:19).  
 Deliverer (Rom. 11:26).  
 Desire of nations (Hag. 2:7).  
 Door of the sheepfold (Jn. 10:7).  
 Emmanuel (Mt. 1:23).  
 Express image of God (Heb. 1:3).  
 Eternal Father (Isa. 9:6).  
 Faithful witness (Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 19:11).  
 First Fruits (1 Cor. 15:23).  
 Foundation (Isa. 28:16).

Fountain (Zech. 13:1).  
Forerunner (Heb. 6:20).  
Friend of sinners (Mt. 11:19).  
Gift of God (2 Cor. 9:15).  
Glory of God (Isa. 60:1).  
God (Jn. 1:1; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 3:16).  
Governor (Mt. 2:6).  
Guide (Ps. 48:14).  
Head of Church (Col. 1:18).  
Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2).  
High Priest (Heb. 3:1; 7:1).  
Holy Child (Acts 4:30).  
Holy One of God (Mk. 1:24).  
Holy One of Israel (Isa. 41:14).  
Horn of salvation (Ps. 18:2).

I AM: He calls himself this name seven times in John's Gospel:

I am the Bread of Life (6:35).  
I am the Light of the World (9:5).  
I am the Good Shepherd (10:11).  
I am the Door (10:9).  
I am the Resurrection (11:25).  
I am the true Vine (15:1).  
I am the Way (14:6).

Jehovah (Isa. 26:4; 40:3).  
Jesus (Mt. 1:21).  
Judge (Micah 5:1; Acts 10:42).  
King of Israel (Mt. 27:42; Jn. 1:49).  
King of kings (Rev. 17:14; 19:16).  
Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36).  
Lawgiver (Isa. 33:22).  
Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).  
Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).  
Man (Acts 17:31; 1 Tim. 2:5).  
Master (Mt. 8:19).  
Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).  
Messiah (Dan. 9:25; Jn. 1:41).  
Mighty God (Isa. 9:6; 63:1).  
Minister (Heb. 8:2).  
Nazarene (Mt 1:24).  
Only begotten Son (Jn. 1:18).  
Passover (1 Cor. 5:7).  
Physician (Mt. 9:12).  
Potentate (1 Tim. 6:15).  
Prince (Acts 3:15; 5:31).  
Prophet (Acts 3:22).  
Propitiation (1 Jn 2:2; 4:10).  
Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24).  
Purifier (Mal. 3:3).  
Priest (Heb. 4:14).

Rabbi--On three occasions he was called by this name:

By Nicodemus (Jn. 3:2).  
By Judas (Mt. 26:25).  
By Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:16).

Ransom (1 Tim. 2:6).  
Reaper (Rev. 14:15).  
Redeemer (Isa. 59:20; 60:16).  
Refiner (Mal. 3:3).  
Refuge (Isa. 25:4).  
Righteousness (Jer. 23:6; 33:16).  
Rock (Deut. 32:15).  
Rod (Isa. 11:1).  
Root of David (Rev. 22:16).

Rose of Sharon (Song of Sol. 2:1).  
 Sacrifice (Eph. 5:2).  
 Samaritan (Good) (Lk. 10:33).  
 Savior--he was called Savior by:  
     His mother (Lk. 1:47).  
     The angels (Lk. 2:11).  
     The men of Samaria (Jn. 4:42).  
 Second Man (1 Cor. 15:47).  
 Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16, 19).  
 Seed of David (2 Tim. 2:8).  
 Seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15).  
 Servant (Isa. 42:1; 49:5-7).  
 Shepherd:  
     The Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).  
     The Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11, 14).  
     The Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20).  
     My Shepherd (Ps. 23:1).  
 Shiloh (Gen. 49:10).  
 Son of David--he was called this name by the following:  
     Two blind men in Capernaum (Mt. 9:27).  
     The Syro-Phoenician woman (Mt. 15:22).  
     Two blind men in Jericho (one named Bartimaeus; Mt. 20:30; Mk. 10:46-47).  
     The Palm Sunday crowd (Mt. 21:9).  
 Son of God--Christ refers to himself by this name on only two occasions: John 9:35; 10:36. But many in the Gospels call him this:  
     Satan (Mt. 4:3, 6).  
     Gabriel (Lk. 1:35).  
     A demon (Mt. 8:29; Lk. 4:41).  
     A disciple (Mt. 14:33).  
     Peter (Mt. 16:16).  
     Martha (Jn. 11:27).  
     Nathanael (Jn. 1:49).  
     A centurion (Mt. 27:54).  
 Son of man: his favorite name for himself. According to his own testimony, the Son of man:  
     Came not to be ministered to (Mt. 20:28).  
     Came to seek and save that which was lost (Mt. 18:11).  
     Can alone forgive sin (Mt. 9:6).  
     Had not where to lay his head (Mt. 8:20).  
     Is Lord of the Sabbath (Lk. 6:5).  
     Would be betrayed (Mt. 17:22).  
     Should suffer (Mt. 17:12).  
     Would be lifted up (Jn. 3:14).  
     Would be three days in the heart of the earth (Mt. 12:40).  
     Would be raised from the dead (Mt. 17:9).  
     Will come again in the glory of his Father (Mt. 16:27; 24:30).  
     Will send forth his angels (Mt. 13:41).  
     Shall sit upon the throne of his glory (Mt. 19:28).  
 Son of Mary (Mk. 6:3).  
 Son of the Most High (Lk. 1:32).  
 Stone (Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Acts 4:11; Rom.9:32-33; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:6-7).  
 Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2).  
 Teacher (Master) (Mt. 26:18; Jn. 3:2; 11:28).  
 Wonderful (Isa. 9:6).  
 Word--the Apostle John's favorite name for Christ (Jn. 1:1; Rev. 19:13).

- VI. The Humanity of Jesus Christ.
- A. He had a human parentage (Lk. 1:31; Gal. 4:4).
  - B. He had a human body, soul and spirit.
    1. Body (Mt. 26:12).
    2. Soul (Jn. 12:27; Mt. 26:38).
    3. Spirit (Lk. 23:46).
  - C. He looked like a man.

1. To a Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:9).
2. To the Jews (Jn. 8:57).
3. To Mary (Jn. 20:15).
4. He possessed flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14).
5. He grew (Lk. 2:40).
6. He asked questions (Lk. 2:46).
7. He increased in wisdom (Lk. 2:52).
8. He was limited in knowledge. Here it should be pointed out that this limitation was self-imposed. Christ voluntarily abstained from using (yet always retained) certain divine attributes while here on earth, that he might totally depend upon the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit (Mk. 5:30; 13:32; Jn. 11:34).
9. He prayed (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 11:1).
10. He was tempted (Mt. 4:1; Heb. 2:18; 4:15).
11. He learned obedience (Heb. 5:8).
12. He hungered (Mt. 4:2; 21:18).
13. He thirsted (Jn. 4:7; 19:28).
14. He was weary (Jn. 4:6).
15. He slept (Mt. 8:24).
16. He loved (Mk. 10:21).
17. He had compassion (Mt. 9:36).
18. He was angered and grieved (Mk. 3:5).
19. He wept (Jn. 11:35; Lk. 19:41).
20. He experienced joy (Heb. 12:2; Lk. 10:21).
21. He was troubled (Mk. 14:33-34; Jn. 11:33; 12:27; 13:21).
22. He sweat drops as of blood (Lk. 22:44).
23. He suffered (1 Pet. 4:1).
24. He bled (Jn. 19:34).
25. He died (Mt. 27:50; 1 Cor. 15:3).
26. He was buried (Mt. 27:59-60).

## VII. The Deity of Jesus Christ.

- A. Shown by the Old Testament.
  1. The witness of David (Ps. 45:6-7; 110:1).
  2. The witness of Isaiah (Isa. 9:6).
  3. The witness of Daniel (Dan. 7:13-14).
- B. Shown by the gospels.
  1. He is omnipotent (Mt. 28:18).
    - a. Over disease (Mt. 8:1-4; Lk. 4:39).
    - b. Over demons (Mt. 8:16-17, 28-32; Lk. 4:35).
    - c. Over men (Mt. 9:9; Jn. 17:2).
    - d. Over nature (Mt. 8:26).
    - e. Over sin (Mt. 9:1-8).
    - f. Over traditions (Mt. 9:10-17).
    - g. Over death (Lk. 7:14-15; 8:54, 56; Jn. 11:4).
  2. He is omniscient (Jn. 2:24; 16:30).
    - a. He knew the whereabouts of Nathanael (Jn. 1:48).
    - b. He knew the plot of Judas (Jn. 6:70; 13:11).
    - c. He knew the hearts of the Pharisees (Mt. 12:25; Lk. 5:22; 6:8; 7:39-40).
    - d. He knew the thoughts of the scribes (Mt. 9:3-4).
    - e. He knew the sincerity of one scribe (Mk. 12:34).
    - f. He knew the history of the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:29).
    - g. He knew the problems of his disciples (Lk. 9:46-47).
  3. He is omnipresent (Mt. 18:20; 28:20; Jn. 3:13; 14:20).
  4. He is worshiped as God (Mt. 4:9-10).
    - a. By the angels (Heb. 1:6).
    - b. By the shepherds (Lk. 2:15).
    - c. By the wise men (Mt. 2:2, 11).
    - d. By a leper (Mt. 8:2).
    - e. By a ruler (Mt. 9:18).
    - f. By a Syro-Phoenician woman (Mt. 15:25).
    - g. By a mother (Mt. 20:20).
    - h. By a maniac (Mk. 5:6).
    - i. By a man born blind (Jn. 9:38).

- j. By Thomas (Jn. 20:28).
- k. By some Greeks (Jn. 12:20-21).
- l. By his apostles (Mt. 14:33; 28:9).
- 5. He forgives sins (Lk. 5:20).
- 6. He judges (Jn. 5:22).
- 7. He saves (Mt. 18:11; Jn. 10:28).
- C. Shown by the Acts.
  - 1. The testimony of Stephen (Acts 7:59).
  - 2. The testimony of a eunuch (Acts 8:37).
- D. Shown by the epistles.
  - 1. In the writings of Paul (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:15-17; 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:13).
  - 2. In the writings of Peter (1 Pet. 3:22; 2 Pet. 1:17).
  - 3. In the writings of Jude (Jude 24-25).
  - 4. In the writings of James (Jas. 2:1).
  - 5. In the writings of John (1 Jn. 5:20; Rev. 1:18; 19:16).

### VIII. The Impeccability of Jesus Christ.

- A. Christ did not sin.
  - 1. He knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21).
  - 2. He did no sin (1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15).
  - 3. He had no sin (1 Jn. 3:5).

These facts concerning the sinlessness of Christ while upon the earth are attested by many individuals, some of which were his enemies:

  - 1. Pilate (Jn. 19:4).
  - 2. Pilate's wife (Mt. 27:19).
  - 3. Judas (Mt. 27:4).
  - 4. The dying thief (Lk. 23:41).
  - 5. The Roman centurion (Lk. 23:47).
- B. Christ could not sin.

### IX. The Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ.

It has been rightly said that the first three Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark and Luke) offer the presentation of Christ's earthly ministry, while the fourth account (John) gives us the interpretation of that life.

The Character of Jesus Christ. What kind of man was our Lord? What were some of his characteristics? Consider:

- A. His zeal (Jn. 2:17).
  - 1. His zeal forced him to remain behind in Jerusalem as a boy (Lk. 2:49).
  - 2. His zeal led him to become a circuit preacher (Lk. 4:42-44; 8:1).
  - 3. His zeal caused his friends to think him mad (Mk. 3:21).
  - 4. His zeal prompted him to risk his life in purifying the Temple (Jn. 2:15-17).
  - 5. His zeal gave him no rest until he accomplished his mission (Lk. 12:49-50).
- B. His compassion (Heb. 5:2).
  - 1. Upon the shepherdless multitudes (Mt. 9:36).
  - 2. Upon the sick multitudes (Mt. 14:14).
  - 3. Upon the hungry multitudes (Mt. 15:32).
  - 4. Upon a widow (Lk. 7:13).
  - 5. Upon a leper (Mk. 1:41).
  - 6. Upon a father (Mk. 9:22-23).
  - 7. Upon a demoniac (Mk. 5:19).
- C. His meekness and gentleness (2 Cor. 10:1; 1 Pet. 2:21-22).
  - 1. In dealing with our infirmities (Mt. 12:18-21).
  - 2. In washing the feet of the disciples (Jn. 13:4-5).
  - 3. In his own words (Mt. 11:28-30).
  - 4. In his sufferings and death (Isa. 53:7).
- D. His courage.
  - 1. As seen in his hometown proclamation (Lk. 4:16-30).
  - 2. As seen in his two cleansings of the Temple (Jn. 2:13-17; Mt. 21:12-16).
  - 3. As seen in his fearless ministry to a madman (Mk. 5:1-9).
  - 4. As seen in risking his life to raise Lazarus (Jn. 11:7-8, 16, 53).
  - 5. As seen in denouncing the wicked Pharisees (Mt. 23).
  - 6. As seen in his approach to Calvary (Mk. 10:32-34; Lk. 9:51).
- E. His love (Jn. 15:13). As a member of the Trinity, Christ naturally loves that which his Father loves. However, while he was on earth, he especially loved:

1. His Father (Jn. 14:31; 15:10).
2. His disciples (Jn. 13:34; 17:2, 9, 12; 19:25-27).
3. Little children (Mk. 10:13-16).
4. Certain close friends (Jn. 11:1-3; 13:23).
5. The city of Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37; Lk. 19:41).

- X. The Biographers of Jesus Christ. There were, of course, four human authors used by the Holy Spirit to describe Jesus' ministry. Each pictures him in a different light. Note:
- A. Matthew: the prophesied King; lionlike; prophetic; written to the Jew; the Davidic King; David's righteous Branch.
  - B. Mark: the obedient Servant; oxlike, practical; written to the Roman; the Servant of the Lord; my Servant, the Branch.
  - C. Luke: the perfect Man; manlike, historical; written to the Greek; the Son of man; the Man, the Branch.
  - D. John: the mighty God; eaglelike; spiritual; written to all the world; the Word of God; the Branch of the Lord.
- XI. The Kenosis (divine emptying) of Jesus Christ. Perhaps the most profound theological passage in the entire Bible is found in Philippians 2:5-11. These verses impart the following information:
- A. He left heaven's glory (Jn. 17:5; 2 Cor. 8:9).
  - B. He made himself of no reputation. The Greek word here in Philippians 2:7 is kenoo and means "to empty." Just what did Christ empty himself of?
    1. Negative--he did not lay aside, in any sense of the word, his deity.
    2. Positive--he did, for awhile, hide his heavenly fame in an earthly frame.
      - a. He abstained from his omnipresence for a period (Jn. 11:14-15).
      - b. He abstained from his omniscience for a period (Mk. 13:32; Lk. 8:45-46).
      - c. He abstained from his omnipotence for a period (Jn. 5:19-20).
  - C. He was made in the likeness of men (Jn. 1:14; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14, 17).
  - D. He humbled himself. That is, he submitted to authority (1 Pet. 2:21-24).
  - E. He became obedient unto death (Mt. 26:39; Jn. 10:18; Heb. 5:8; 12:2; Phil. 2:8).
  - F. He died on a cross (Ps. 22; Isa. 53; Gal. 3:13; Jn. 10:15-17).
  - G. He has been highly exalted by the Father himself (Isa. 52:13; Jn. 17:1; Acts 2:33; Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:9-11).
  - H. He has been given a name (position and place of authority) above all other names (Eph. 1:20-21; Heb. 1:4; Phil 2:9-11).
  - I. He will be universally acknowledged as Lord of all (Phil 2:9-11).
    1. The methods of this acknowledgment.
    2. The creatures of this acknowledgment.
      - a. Those in heaven.
      - b. Those on earth.
      - c. Those under the earth.
- XII. The Office of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament three great offices were created by God to meet the spiritual and material needs of his chosen people. These offices are:
- A. The prophet. This is his past ministry.
    1. This office was predicted for him by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (Jn. 6:14).
    2. It began at the River Jordan and ended at Calvary.
    2. He was recognized as being a prophet (Jn. 4:19; 7:40; Lk. 7:16; 22:64; 24:19; Mt. 21:11).
  - B. The priest. This is his present ministry.
    1. This began at the cross and will end at the Second Coming.
    2. He met the qualifications for the priest's office.
      - a. He was taken from among men (Heb. 2:16; 4:15).
      - b. He was chosen by God (Mt. 3:16-17; 17:5; Heb. 5:4-6).
      - c. He was consecrated to God (Mt. 3:16-17; Heb. 7:26).
    3. He performed the responsibilities of the priest's office.
      - a. He offered himself upon Calvary (Heb. 2:9).
      - b. He prayed (and prays) for his people (Jn. 17; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).
      - c. He blesses his people (Eph. 1:3; 2:11-22).
  - C. The king. This is his future ministry.
    1. He comes from the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).
    2. He comes from the seed of David (Rev. 5:5).
- XIII. The Death of Jesus Christ.
- A. The awesomeness of it. The murder of Israel's Messiah, the killing of the Creator.
    1. As pondered by the Old Testament prophets (1 Pet. 1:10-11; Lk. 24:25-27; Isa. 50:6; 53:4-7; Ps. 22:1, 6-8, 16-18; 69:21; Dan. 9:26; Zech. 13:7).

2. As pondered by the New Testament apostles (Mt. 17:22-23; Jn. 16:16-17).
3. As pondered by the heavenly angels (1 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:10).
- B. The scope of it. For whom did Christ die?
  1. His death for the world (Jn. 3:16; 1:29; 1 Jn. 2:2; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet. 2:1; 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:6; 4:10).
  2. His death for the elect (Jn. 10:26-28; 17:9; Mt. 1:21; Acts 20:28; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; Eph. 1:4; 5:25; Rev. 13:8).
  3. His death for each man (Heb. 2:9).
- C. Old Testament examples of it.
  1. The coats of skin (Gen. 3:21).
  2. The Passover lamb (Ex. 12; 1 Cor. 5:7).
  3. The Levitical offerings (Lev. 1-5).
  4. The ordinance of the red heifer (Num. 19:1-10).
  5. The sacrifice on the day of atonement (Lev 16:1-22).
  6. The ark (1 Pet. 3:18-22).
  7. The passage through the Red Sea (1 Cor.10:1-2).
  8. The two memorials (Josh. 4:8-9).
  9. The branch cast into the waters of Marah (Ex. 15:23-25).
  10. The smitten rock (1 Cor. 10:4).
  11. The brazen serpent (Jn. 3:14).
- D. The importance of it. Henry Thiessen writes: "The death of Christ has a prominent place in the New Testament. The last three days of our Lord's earthly life occupy about one-fifth of the narratives in the four Gospels. If all the three and a half years of His public ministry had been written out as fully as the last three days, we would have a 'Life of Christ' of some 8400 pages! Torrey claims that the death of Christ is mentioned directly in the New Testament more than 175 times. Since there are 7,959 verses in the New Testament, this would mean that one out of every 53 verses refers to this theme." (Lectures in Systematic Theology, p. 313).  
In fact, our Lord himself spoke of his death often. See the following: (Jn. 2:19; 3:14; 10:17; 12:32; Lk. 9:22; Mt. 17:22-23; 26:31; Mk. 10:33-34; 14:8).
- E. The false theories concerning it.
  1. The payment-to-Satan theory.
  2. The moral influence theory.
  3. The example theory.
  4. The satisfaction theory.
- F. The substitutional (and orthodox) theory.
- G. The need for it.
  1. It was necessary because of God's holiness (Lev. 11:44; Prov. 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:16).
  2. It was necessary because of man's sinfulness (Rom. 3:10-20).
- H. The results from it.
  1. In relation to sinners--redemption (Eph. 1:7; Gal. 3:13; Rev. 5:8-12).
  2. In relation to saints--sanctification (Gal. 1:4; Heb. 2:14; 10:10; Col. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:8; Rev. 12:9-11).

#### XiV. The Heart of the Earth Descent of Jesus Christ (Mt. 12:40; 1 Pet. 3:18-19; Eph. 4:9).

On the strength of these verses, the following events are suggested. Between his death and resurrection, our Lord descended into the lower parts of this earth to perform a twofold ministry:

- A. To depopulate the "saved" compartment of Hades (Lk. 16:19-31; Eph. 4:8-10; Isa. 5:14).
- B. To preach judgment upon the fallen angels who had attempted to corrupt human flesh and thus prevent the promised incarnation of Christ (Gen. 3:15; 6:1-4).

#### XV. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- A. The resurrection--denied by some.
  1. The fraud theory.
  2. The swoon theory.
  3. The vision theory.
  4. The spirit theory.
  5. The heart theory.
- B. The resurrection--declared by many.
  1. David predicted it (Ps. 16:10).
  2. Isaiah predicted it (Isa. 53:9-12).
  3. Jesus himself predicted it many times (Mt. 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:19, 22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32; Lk. 9:22; Jn. 2:18-22).
- C. The resurrection--doubted by most.
  1. The women did not remember (Mk. 16:1-3).
  2. Mary Magdalene did not remember (Jn. 20:13).
  3. Peter and John did not remember (Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:9).



4. The apostles did not remember (Lk. 24:9-11).
  5. The two disciples on the Emmaus Road did not remember (Lk. 24:13-31).
  6. Thomas did not remember (Jn. 20:24-29).
- D. The resurrection--described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
1. The proofs of the resurrection.
    - a. The empty tomb.
    - b. The tremendous change in the lives of the disciples.
    - c. The silence from both the Romans and Pharisees (Mt. 28:11-15).
    - d. The change from Saturday to Sunday as the main day of worship.
    - e. The existence of the church.
  2. The appearances after the resurrection.
    - a. The first appearance of Christ was to Mary Magdalene as she remained at the site of the tomb (Jn. 20:11-17).
    - b. The second appearance of Christ was to the other women who were also returning to the tomb (Mt. 28:9-10).
    - c. The third appearance was to Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).
    - d. The fourth appearance of Christ was to the disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12-13; Lk. 24:13-35).
    - e. The fifth appearance of the resurrected Christ was to the ten disciples (Mk. 16:14; Lk.24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-23).
    - f. The sixth appearance was to the eleven disciples a week after his resurrection (Jn. 20:26-29).
    - g. The seventh appearance was to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 21:1-23).
    - h. The eighth appearance was to five hundred people (1 Cor. 15:6).
    - i. The ninth appearance was to James, the Lord's brother (1 Cor. 15:7).
    - j. The tenth appearance was to eleven disciples on the mountain in Galilee (Mt. 28:16-20).
    - k. The eleventh appearance occurred at the time of his ascension from the Mount of Olives (Lk. 24:44-53; Acts 1:3-9).
    - l. The twelfth appearance of the resurrected Christ was to Stephen just prior to his martyrdom (Acts 7:55-56).
    - m. The thirteenth appearance of Christ was to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-11; 26:13-18).
    - n. The fourteenth appearance seems to have been to Paul in Arabia (Gal. 1:12-17).
    - o. The fifteenth appearance of Christ was to Paul in the Temple (Acts 22:17-21).
    - p. The sixteenth appearance of Christ was to Paul while he was in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:11).
    - q. The seventeenth appearance of Christ was to the Apostle John (Rev. 1:12-20).
  3. The importance of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19).
  4. The order of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-24). There are three resurrections:
    - a. The resurrection of Christ (Mt. 28:5-8; Mk. 16:2-8; Lk. 24:1-8).
    - b. The rapture resurrection (1 Cor. 15:53; 1 Thess. 4:16).
    - c. The premillennial resurrection of Old Testament and tribulation saints (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:4-6).
  5. The nature of the resurrection. What kind of body did Jesus have after his resurrection?  
This is of great importance to the believer, for we someday will have a similar body (1 Jn. 3:1-3).
    - a. His new body had flesh and bone (Lk. 24:39-40).
    - b. He ate food in this new body (Lk. 24:41-43; Jn. 21:12-13).
    - c. His new body still bore the marks of his crucifixion (Jn. 20:25-27; Lk. 24:40; Rev. 5:6).
    - d. His new body was not subjected to material laws (Jn. 20:19; Lk. 24:31, 36).
  6. The example of the resurrection: a grain of wheat (Jn. 12:24; 1 Cor. 15:35-38).
  7. The superiority of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:39-41).
  8. The results of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:42-58).
    - a. In relation to the believer:
      - Immediate blessings.
        - (1) A guarantee of our justification (Rom. 4:25).
        - (2) A guarantee of present-day power and strength (Eph. 1:18--2:10).
        - (3) A guarantee of fruitful labor (1 Cor. 15:58).
        - (4) A guarantee of our own resurrection (2 Cor. 4:14).
      - Future blessings.
        - (5) Exchanging corruption for incorruption (1 Cor. 15:42).
        - (6) Exchanging dishonor for glory (1 Cor. 15:43).
        - (7) Exchanging weakness for power (1 Cor. 15:43).
        - (8) Exchanging a material body for a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44).
    - b. In relation to the Savior:
      - (1) It is the mark of his deity (Rom. 1:4; Acts 10:40).

- (2) It is the springboard of his exaltation (Acts 5:30-31; Phil. 2:9-11).
      - (3) It marks the beginning of his headship over the church (Eph. 1:19-23).
    - c. In relation to the sinner: It warns him of a coming judgment day (Acts 17:31).
    - d. In relation to the devil: It seals his doom forever (Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:10).
    - e. In relationship to the Sabbath: It transfers the worship day from Saturday to Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Heb. 7:12).
  - 9. The symbol of the resurrection: Baptism (Rom. 6:3-11; Col. 2:11-13).
- XVI. The Ascension and Present Ministry of Jesus Christ.
  - A. The fact of this ascension and ministry.
    - 1. Scripture regarding his ascension (Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9).
    - 2. Scripture regarding his present ministry (Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22).
  - B. The purpose of this ascension and ministry.
    - 1. To be our Forerunner (Heb. 6:19-20).
    - 2. To prepare a place for us (Jn. 14:2).
    - 3. To give spiritual gifts to his followers (Eph. 4:10-14).
    - 4. To offer encouragement to his followers (Heb. 4:14-16; 12:1-3).
    - 5. To make high priestly prayers for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25-27; 8:1; 9:24).
      - a. Acting as our Intercessor (due to the weakness and frailties of the believer) (Lk. 22:31-32; Heb. 7:25).
      - b. Acting as our Advocate (due to the sins of the believer) (1 Jn. 1:9; 2:1; Heb. 9:24; Rev. 12:10).
    - 6. To send the promise of the Father (Holy Spirit) (Acts 1:4; 2:33).
    - 7. To care for his churches (Rev. 1:10--3:22).
    - 8. To work through his people (Jn. 14:12).
    - 9. To wait until his enemies become his footstool (Heb. 10:12-13).
- XVII. The Twofold Future Coming of Jesus Christ.
  - A. At the rapture--for his people (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-57).
  - B. After the tribulation--with his people (Mt. 24:29-31; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-21).
- XVIII. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Lk. 1:32-33; Jn. 18:37; Rev. 20:4).
- XIX. The Old Testament Witnesses of Jesus Christ.
  - A. Adam: his headship over a new creation (Gen. 1:28; Rom. 5:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:22, 45, 47; Heb. 2:7-9).
  - B. Moses: his prophetic ministry (Deut. 18:15-18; Heb. 3:5-6).
  - C. Melchizedek: his priestly ministry (Gen. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5-8).
  - D. David: his kingly ministry (2 Sam. 7:1-17; Mk. 11:10; Rev. 5:5; 22:16).
  - E. Jeremiah: his sorrows (Jer. 3:20; 5:1-5; 8:20-22; 9:1; 10:19; 11:19).
  - F. Joseph: his sufferings (the most perfect type of Christ in the Old Testament).
    - 1. Hated without a cause (Gen. 37:4, 8; Jn. 15:25).
    - 2. Ridiculed (Gen. 37:19; Lk. 22:63).
    - 3. Plotted against (Gen. 37:20; Jn. 11:53).
    - 4. Stripped of his robe (Gen. 37:23; Jn. 19:23-24).
    - 5. Sold for silver (Gen. 37:28; Mt. 26:14-16).
    - 6. Lied about (Gen. 39:14; Mt. 26:61).
    - 7. Placed in captivity with two guilty men (Gen. 40:1-3; Lk. 23:32-33).
    - 8. Unrecognized by his own (Gen. 42:8; Jn. 1:11).
  - G. Isaac: his death (Gen. 22:2, 8, 10; Mt. 26:36, 42-43).
  - H. Jonah: his resurrection (Jonah 1:17; Mt. 12:40; 16:4; Lk. 11:29).
  - I. Joshua: his victorious life (Josh. 1:3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn. 10:17-18; 19:30).
  - J. Noah: his saving life (Gen. 6:13-14, 17-18; 1 Pet. 3:18-22).
  - K. Abraham: his father (Gen. 22:7-8; Mt. 26:36, 42-43).
  - L. Daniel: his acceptance by the Father (Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19; Mt. 3:17; 17:5).
  - M. Elijah: his forerunner (Isa. 40:3-4; Mt. 17:11-12).
  - N. Elisha: his miracles. Elisha performs fourteen miracles, nearly double those of any other Old Testament man, except Moses (2 Ki. 2:9; Jn. 3:2).
  - O. Ezekiel: his parables. There are sixty-nine parables in the Old Testament; twenty-three are to be found in Ezekiel's book alone (Eze. 17:2; 20:49; Mt. 13:3).
  - P. Ruth: his church (Ruth 2-4; 2 Cor. 11:2).
  - Q. Boaz: his love for the church (Ruth 2-4; Eph. 5:25-27).
  - R. Ezra: his zeal for the Scriptures (Neh. 8; Mt. 21:42; 22:29; Mk. 12:10, 24; Lk. 4:21; 24:27; Jn. 10:35).
  - S. Nehemiah: his zeal for the Holy City (Neh. 1-2; Mt. 23:37-39; Lk. 19:41).

- T. Absalom: his opposition:
1. From Judas, Absalom was a betrayer and member of David's inner circle, as was Judas of Jesus' inner circle (2 Sam. 15; Mt. 26:14).
  2. From the coming antichrist. Absalom plotted against the Davidic throne, as will the antichrist (2 Sam. 15; Rev. 13).
- U. Solomon: his wisdom (1 Ki. 3:11-13; Lk. 4:22; Jn. 7:46).
- V. Lot: his backslidden followers (Gen. 19; 2 Pet.2:7).