



DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

Lesson Number: Ten

Theme: Jesus The Son of God (Pt. 4)

Date: March 2022

Introduction

We begin our fourth part of our series on Jesus the Son of God. We already established the importance of this study and the fact that it encapsulates quite a number of things we need to know about Jesus. For this part of the series we take a look again at Jesus and examine **His sacrificial and substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, and His Ascension.**

A. His sacrificial and substitutionary death

On the cross Jesus Christ bore our sins in His body, paid our penalty, and became sin in our place that we might be redeemed, forgiven and brought back into relationship to God.

His death was

1. voluntary
2. sacrificial
3. substitutionary
4. atoning
5. sufficient for all

and rendered all men savable although not all will place their faith in Him and be saved. *1 Peter 1:17-21, 1 Pet 2:24-25, 2 Cor 5:21, Ro 5:6-11, Heb. 7:27, 1 Jn 2:2*

An Christ's death by crucifixion was real as Scripture testifies. Luke 23:26-56.

The significance of the death of Jesus on the cross can be stated briefly as follows

1. Christ accomplished the Father's pplan of Redemption. Jn 6:38-40, Jn 10:18, Jn 17:4
2. Christ satisfied Holy, Just God's required payment for sin. Heb 9:13-14, Col 2:13-15, 1 Jn 2:@, Eph 1:7-10
3. Christ demontrated God's unfailing, undeserved love. Jn 3:16, 1 Jn 4:9-10, Rom 5:8

4. Christ secured the means of salvation for all. Jn 12:12, Jn 3:14-16, Jn 3:36, Jn 6:40, Rom 4:22-25

Question for Discussion

1. Why did Christ pay the penalty for all men when all will not be saved?

B. His bodily resurrection

Jesus' earthly mission started with His incarnation by the miracle of the virgin birth. Jesus' earthly mission was essentially concluded by another miracle - His bodily resurrection. To deny the bodily resurrection of Christ is to nullify the incarnation.

After being crucified, Christ was buried and on the third day bodily rose from the grave never to die again. In doing so, He conquered death and sin so that those who believe in Him might also live. Christ represents the first-fruits of those to be resurrected.

B.1 Key Gospel passages

Each of the Gospel accounts affirms the bodily resurrection of Christ. *Matt 27:57-28:20, Mk 16:1-20, Lk 24:1-52, Jn 20:1-21:25*

In addition there are at least two other major texts on the resurrection. Acts 1:1-11, 1 Cor 15:1-58

B.2 Facts of the resurrection

The reality of Christ's bodily resurrection is one of the best attested historical events of all time. The following facts offer substantial unrefuted evidence.

1. the empty tomb
2. the absent body
3. the angel's announcement
4. the linen wrappings
5. the testimony of the women
6. the testing of the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus
7. the appearance to Peter
8. the changes in and reality of Christ's glorified body (flesh and bones yet spiritual)
9. the dramatic change in the boldness and witness of the lives of the apostles.
10. the change in Christian worship from Sabbath to Sunday, the day of the resurrection.
11. the evidence of the Church today.

Admittedly all of the evidence is biblical, so we rest once again on the reliability of Scripture. Since Scripture is true, so is the resurrection.

B.3 False views of the resurrection

There are many false humanistic views of the resurrection but they all have to ignore or deny the truth of the Bible. Some of these false views are as follows;

1. that Christ did not really die but only lost consciousness on the cross
2. that the disciples stole and hid Christ's body and lied about His appearances.
3. that only Christ's spirit was made alive not his body.

All of these and other similar false views directly contradict the teaching of Scripture and therefore must be rejected.

The reality of the bodily resurrection of Christ can only be spiritually discerned as a person chooses to believe by faith in the truth of the Word.

B.4 Significance of the bodily resurrection of Christ

The significance of the bodily resurrection cannot be overstated for the essence of Christianity rests on this foundational truth.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus

1. validates Old Testament and New Testament prophecy. Lk 24:19-27, Lk 24:44-45, Ps 16:10, Acts 2:24-35
2. demonstrates the deity of Christ and God's approval of His redemptive work. Rom 1:4, Eph 1:18-21
3. comprises the central message of the Gospel. 1 Cor 15:2-4, Rom 10:9-10 Acts 2:24, Ac 4:8-11, Ac 17:31-32
4. assured us that
 - Christ is alive
 - preaching the Gospel is not wasted effort
 - our faith is not in vain or worthless
 - we are not given false testimony.
 - we are not still dead in our sins.
 - sin and death have been defeated.
 - we have hope of eternal life.
 - we will also be bodily resurrected and have a glorified body like Christ's.
 - we will not be disembodied spirits for eternity 1 Cor 15
5. enables believers to live in the resurrection power of Jesus and not sin. Rom 6:4-12, Rom 8:9-12, Phil 3:10-11

B.5 The resurrection body of Jesus Christ

The glorified resurrected body of Jesus had the following characteristics;

1. was physical (real) and yet spiritual.
2. was able to talk and be heard.
3. was recognizable.
4. was able to eat.
5. was non-material in some ways.
6. was not limited by time, space or material objects. Lk 24:3-43, Jn 20:10-21:25

Based on 1 Cor 15:35-55, the glorified resurrection body of believers will be like unto Christ's. Phil 3:20-21.

Without the bodily resurrection of Christ, there is

1. no forgiveness of sins
2. no freedom from the curse of death.
3. no life after death.

By the resurrection Christ's humanity was glorified and His deity reinstated to His former exalted position.

Question for Discussion

1. Was the focus of Jesus' earthly ministry the meeting of physical needs? Why or why not?

C. His Ascension

Having finished His earthly mission, Jesus ascended into heaven after 40 days of post-resurrection appearances and ministry. Christ returned to heaven in His glorified body and is now seated at the right hand of God. From every indication of Scripture Christ will retain His glorified humanity forever. Rev 5:6. Christ ascended into heaven as a glorified God-man. Christ will return in the same way. *The incarnation was Jesus' descent from heaven. The ascension is His return to heaven.*

Key texts on the ascension includes Mk. 16:19; Lk 24:45-53; Jn 6:62; Jn 20:17; Ac1:1-11; Eph 4:7-13; 1 Pet 3:21-22

Based on these and other passages the Ascension of Jesus Christ is significant because it;

1. completes resurrection. Ac 2:32-33.
2. commences His re-exaltation and enthronement. Phil 2:5-11, Jn 7:5

3. confirms God's approval of His redemptive work. Heb 1:3, Heb 12:2
4. activates the intercessory ministry of Christ. Rom 8:34
5. fulfills the earthly mission of Christ and ends His self-limitation (Kenosis) Phil 2:9-11
6. allows the Holy Spirit to come in the world to indwell believers and convict sinners. Jn 16:7-11
7. permits access by believers to God. Heb 4:14-16, Rom 5:1-2
8. inaugurates the Church Age and looks forward to Christ's second coming. Acts 1:7-11

Question for Discussion

1. Why did Christ retain His glorified humanity after His ascension
