

JESUS CHRIST

- In attempting to write about the Man of Nazareth, one feels keenly his inadequacy to do the subject even minimum justice.
- So far beyond the human ken lies the full measure of the greatness of the God-man, that even the most gifted pen must fall far short in accomplishing its purpose.
- Indeed, one could hardly hope to portray in human words the full majesty of His unique character, the dignity and grace of His matchless person, and the exquisite beauty and perfection of His words.
- Truly Christ stands far above and in the starkest contrast to the most noble of our race.
- For this person is none other than He “whose going forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (MICAHAH. 5:2).
- Everlasting is a word that the human mind can only vaguely grasp. “From everlasting”, means Christ has existed from the eternity that is behind us.
- But who can understand even partially the meaning of eternity?
- The thought staggers the imagination and baffles the profoundest intellect.
- As the inhabitant of eternity, Christ holds the position of Lord of the universe in His own right.
- First, because He is the Creator “All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made” (JOHN 1:3).
- He was a man of miracles.
- From a miraculous birth to a miraculous resurrection.
- His story is filled with the supernatural, proof that the Father still cared for a world darkened with slavery, poverty and disease.
- His were the hands of a healer, and His touch alone opened the eyes and hearts of thousands.
- Jesus Christ, healer and king, is the same today.
- There is no doubt in my mind and heart that this Jesus who walked the shores of Galilee 2000 years ago was the Son of the Living God, Israel’s long-awaited Messiah.
- I will encourage any one who may not share that feeling to go to the Word of God and take an openhearted look.
- Jesus Christ is the true example and living demonstration of all fivefold ministers of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.
- Jesus Christ is to be the center of all Christians, spiritual leaders, ministers and ministries.
- He must be the cornerstone. The foundation on which we build. “So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See , I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trust will never be dismayed” (ISAIAH. 28:16).
- Jesus, our Messiah, our Lord, and Master, the Anointed one, came to earth to life in a fleshly body; to die for us, so that we can become whole.

- By accepting His complete work on the cross, we can spend eternity with Him.
- But before we can spend eternity with Him, He need us to complete our part here on earth, to bring in the lost souls for Him,
- To get them to salvation.
- Make disciples.
- Teach them.
- Heal them.
- Deliver them.
- We need to help prepare the bride.
- If we look at Him as the Messiah, we can bring them to salvation.
- If we look at Him as our Lord, we can make disciples, teach them.
- If we look at Him as the Anointed One, He can anoint us so that we can heal the sick, and deliver the captive.
- If we look at Him as our Master and Bridegroom, we can get ready and help prepare the bride.
- Jesus lost all, so that we can get all.
- If we want to be effective in our own lives; in work situations; in school; in church; in ministry; we need Jesus.
- He is the answer to everything we need.
- He is the HOLY ONE.
- The righteous One.
- Matthew and Luke tell us about Jesus' birth and all four Gospels recount Jesus' baptism and the beginning of His public life.
- All of them have a lot to say about the momentous last week of Jesus' life and what followed.
- But in between those events the timing is vague.
- The Gospels are not biographies, dealing with the whole of Jesus' life in detail and in order.
- Even when we read the same incidents in several Gospels they often happen at different times.
- Each Gospel writer chose a sequence and pattern that suited his purpose in writing.
- So although we can describe the beginning and the ending of Jesus' life in time order, we cannot describe the rest of it in this way.
- Jesus often taught in brief, pithy sayings that are more like poetry than prose and He often used picture language.
- In this way what He said could easily be remembered and thought over afterwards.
- His teachings was usually surprising, turning accepted ideas on their heads.
- Matthew and Luke provide us with two parallel blocks of teaching (Matthew 5; and Luke 6).
- They are sometimes called the 'Beatitudes', which means 'Blesses' (because each statement begins with 'Blessed') or 'truly happy':
- "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for

- they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven” (MATT. 5: 3-10).
- Most people think happiness is to be found in health, wealth, popularity and self-fulfillment.
 - But Jesus said that true happiness is reserved for the humble, the merciful, those who know they have no goodness of their own and who are truly sorry for the wrong things they have done and said.
 - He also rated highly the happiness of those who would be persecuted for being His followers.
 - Jesus taught about prayer, thanksgiving and fasting, which were the three chief religious exercises of good Jews.
 - Jesus did not tell His disciples that He was the Messiah, the one chosen by God and the King whose Kingdom had arrived.
 - He left them to discover the fact for themselves.
 - Once, when they were crossing the lake, a storm blew up.
 - There was real danger that their fishing boat would sink.
 - The frightened disciples appealed to Jesus for help and with a word He quiet the wind and waves.
 - They whispered together about who such a person could be.
 - They had seen Jesus control sickness and demon possession.
 - But now He was controlling the elements.
 - They were beginning to believe that He was more than just an ordinary man.
 - One day, when they were on their own, Jesus asked the disciples point blank who they thought He was.
 - Peter answered for them all with calm conviction.
 - “You are the Christ’.
 - Christ is the Greek word for Messiah.
 - Jesus told Peter that God Himself had revealed that truth to him.
 - From that moment of recognition Jesus began the next stage of what He had to teach the disciples.
 - He told them that He must suffer and die at the hands of the religious leaders but that He would rise again after three days.
 - Peter spoke up again, telling Jesus He must not say such things.
 - But Jesus knew that His chosen path must lead to death.
 - From time to time He explained to His disciples about His coming suffering and death.
 - But they did not want to hear such things and did not take it in at that time.
 - Later they recall all that teaching.
 - And they knew then He came as the Messiah.
 - The Hebrew word Messiah means **anointed** one.
 - Christ comes from Christos, the Greek form of the word.
 - Jesus did not call Himself Messiah.

- He knew that the popular idea of the Messiah clashed with what He had come to do.
- But He accepted Peter's declaration.
- To anoint is the Hebrew word "Mashach" that mean 'to smear'; 'consecrate'.
- To anoint someone is an act of consecration.
- The basic meaning of the word is simply to 'smear' an oily or viscous substance on an object.
- The Old Testament most commonly uses Mashach to indicate anointing, in the sense of a special setting apart for an office or function. Like Elijah was anointed to be a prophet. David to be a king.
- The Hebrew word Mashiach means anointed one.
- A word that is important both to Old Testament and New Testament understandings is the noun Mashiach, which gives us the term Messiah.
- The New Testament title of Christ is derived from the Greek Christos which is exactly equivalent to the Hebrew Mashiach, for it is also rooted in the idea of 'to smear with oil'.
- So the term Christ emphasizes the special anointing of Jesus of Nazareth for His role as God's chosen one.
- In Old Testament times people were anointed when they were appointed by God for a special task, such as the role of prophet, priest or king.
- It was usually a prophet who poured oil on the person's head to mark them out as chosen by God.
- The king in particular came to be known as 'God's anointed', and in time the title was used for the ideal king whom God would one day send.
- There were very different ideas about what kind of king He would be.
- Some imagined a warrior and national hero, like Judas Maccabaeus,
- Others expected for a supernatural Savior who would carry out God's rule as head of His people.
- The Hebrew word 'Adon' is used for Lord, where the word Adonay also come from.
- It means to be a master, basically describes the one who occupies the position of a 'master' over a slave or servant.
- It is also for a 'king' or 'ruler'.
- What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord?
- Many teach that the very fact we are saved insures us He is our Lord.
- Ponder with me for a moment, however, the family unit to which you belong.
- I'm speaking of your natural family, mom, dad, brothers, sisters and so forth.
- Is it possible to be "born in the family" and yet be so rebellious or self-centered that you do not reap the benefits of family living?
- Of course it is.
- Many of us can immediately identify individuals within our families who just don't seem to understand how to live responsibly as a family member.
- Most of these members find themselves at odds with the instructions and directions given by the father of the family.

- They are determined to do things “their way” and prove to everyone else that their way is the right way.
- Invariably these misguided individuals end up losing everything, including the privileges that should have been theirs for being in the family.
- So it is in the body of Christ.
- Many today call Him Lord but never seek Him as to His direction, purpose and destiny for their lives.
- Instead, they assume He will bless whatever they do as long as they say they are doing it “for the glory of God”.
- Lordship demands that we submit ourselves unto the only One who knows why we are here, and what we are supposed to accomplish during our time on this earth.
- So to call Him LORD, is to be willing to submit totally.
- Christianity today is influenced by the West more than what is good for us.
- Our ideas about equality, tolerance, and authority that have infiltrated the church through the democratic institutions of the West over the past two hundred years have influenced how we think about our relationships with God.
- As a result, most Christians today have no true understanding of what a kingdom is all about.
- And little knowledge and even less discernment of the Kingdom of God.
- The Kingdom of God is, and always shall be, a majestic realm, a great and powerful empire, a monarchy, and a royal dominion that demands absolute loyalty to the King.
- That’s how a monarchy works, and the Kingdom of heaven is the greatest monarchy of all time.
- Jesus is the King of the Kingdom.
- It might seem as if Jesus died as a result of the evil plots of jealous men.
- But in the Bible Jesus’ death is viewed as part of God’s deliberate purpose.
- Jesus’ own decision to die was the Son’s consent to His Fathers plan.
- So even that He is our **Master**, He was willing to die for us, so that we can life. WHAT LOVE!!
- To take Him as your Master will be the best thing that can ever happen to you.
- He is the BEST.
- He is not a Master that will control and manipulate you.
- He gave us a free will to choose with.
- He is loving, compassionate, and full of grace and mercy.
- To take Him willingly as Master is awesome!

“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be firmly established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it.
 And many people shall come and say, Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths” (ISAIAH. 2: 2,3).

- Did you ever stand next to a mountain and look up, and have that desire to be on top?
- Did you ever climb up, and discover the feeling of arriving at the top?
- You can see a lot more from there as from the ground.
- That is exactly where God wants us to be, “at the top” of our mountains.
- At the top of circumstances. At the top of problems. At the top of worries etc.
- The Lord likes mountains.
- He calls them ‘the holy hills’ and of course, the city of Jerusalem, the city of God, is nestled in the midst of several mountains.
- The Lord ascended from the Mount of Olives, and He is coming back to that same mountain when He returns for His Body of believers.
- So we need to be plugged in to what the Lord has done, what He is doing, and what He wants to do on the mountain, his place of quiet for communing and fellowshiping with us.
- We can learn from this, and move up in our walk with God.
- We can learn spiritual lessons when we plug into how to reach the summit of the destiny God has ordained for each of us.
- My prayer for every one of us is that we will leave the low life of mediocrity and climb our ‘destiny mountain’ to the high life, the superabundant life, the over-and-above-all-we-dare-ask-or-think kind of life that God has prepared for us.
- We read in Matthew 17:1-9, where Jesus was transfigured on a high mountain in the midst of three of His disciples.
- He was standing there in a cloud of Gods glory.
- Moses was in Gods presence on the mountain.
- The spiritual significance is that if we want to live in the low life, there are things from God that we will never have, and never see.
- If we want to dwell where everyone else dwells, there are things from God we will never hear.
- If we are not willing to put forth the effort to get out of our normal circumstances, break out of our routine and get up above the low level of ‘average’, what the world calls ‘normal’ there are things that God will never be able to accomplish in our lives.
- Climbing takes effort.
- It’s not always fun. Sometimes it’s hard work.
- But when you begin to climb, suddenly you begin to see things you’ve never seen before.
- Your vision gets better. The air gets cleaner and clearer.
- And you can see all kinds of new paths opened up to you.
- You see roads that you never see before.
- You see exactly what it was that you were struggling to see clear from ground level.
- It is on the mountain that we will meet with God.
- Are we willing to do what it takes to get to the top?
- Jesus is our bridegroom.
- He wants to meet with us, to fellowship with us.

- He likes to meet us on the mountain. He is calling us up, higher and higher.
- Jesus took three of His disciples and led them up on that high mountain.
- Are we willing to do what Jesus did and go to that higher place by ourselves to hear what God wants to say to us?
- To see what God want to do with us? To see what is really in us?
- It's so easy to settle into a mundane lifestyle, the regular routines and a just-get-by, hang-in-there mentality.
- Too many of us settle for this type of lifestyle.
- There is a greater experience for us, a greater adventure, for us with Jesus.
- He wants to take us up the mountain.
- Because of Him, we can also now experience, if we are willing to climb up the mountain with Him, a transfiguration, a transformation.
- He wants to do it in us and with us, if we are willing to climb to that place.
- He is waiting to meet us there!
- "And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them" (MATT. 5: 1-2).
- It is on our mountain He can teach us.
- It is there were we will receive revelation from Him.
- The multitudes were at a lower level.
- Jesus wanted to see who really wanted to be a disciple, who really wanted to come up after Him, hear the truths and receive the deeper things of God.
- So He walked a little bit higher on the mountain, sat down and began to teach what become known as the Sermon on the Mount (MATT. 5: 5-7).
- "Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them" (MATT. 15: 29-30)
- How do we get the power to heal the lame and the blind,
- You get on that mountain and spend time with Jesus. Come into His presence.
- He is the **anointed** One, our **Messiah**, our **Lord**, and **Master**.
- Only He can anoint us for our tasks. Don't let any mountain stop us.
- Don't let any mountain look too big for reaching the top.
- When we will not have the strength to climb, He will be the one that carries us.
- To life a lifestyle of Godly obedience, is not talking about some compartment of faith that affects only our concepts and perspectives.
- If we are trying to obey Jesus, it affects every part of our lifestyle.
- When we come to Jesus, He asks for entrance into every room.
- We sometimes want to give Him just one room.
- If He is Lord of our lives, we cannot think He must be satisfied that we want to keep Him in the sterile hospitality of the living room of our house; He wants free reign of the house.
- We need in this generation the Apostles that will stand up, stand up and start building. An Apostle is a builder.

- Apostles have the grace upon their life to be general contractors for the building of God.
- Paul called himself a master builder: “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone laid that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ...Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 COR. 3:9-11,16)
- The term master builder is actually “architekton” in the Greek language and is the root of our word architect, or in other words, a chief constructor or general contractor.
- A general contractor has the big picture. He knows what is to be built.
- Apostles have the grace upon their life to exercise governmental authority and dominion.
- The essential meaning of the word apostle is “sent one”
- One very solid consequence of being sent by God is the authorization He gives.
- If we are sent by God, we have the very authority of God Himself backing us up.
- **Jesus is our Master, he equips us as master builders, and He give us the dominion and authority.**