

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Introduction

Jesus Christ is the single greatest figure in the history of the world. Since creation people looked forward to His coming and since His death people have looked forward to His second coming. His teachings are unparalleled in simplicity, brevity, and depth. His impact on the world is incalculable. His miracles were divine. Those who claim to be His followers have justified in His name everything from genocide to solitary monasticism. History turns on the axis of the year of His birth. Jesus' story is the greatest story every told. His claims are shocking. C. S. Lewis wrote:

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.¹

Christology is the study of Jesus Christ and the doctrines related to Him. Since Jesus Christ is one of the grand themes of the Bible, the study of Christ encompasses almost every imaginable doctrine found in the Bible to one degree or another. What this means is that a series like this could go on for ever. Our goal will be to cover the more prominent doctrines related to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Each lesson will address a specific doctrine related to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Read the texts below and look for reasons found in them for studying the Doctrine of Christ.

I. **WHY STUDY THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST?**

A. **The Scriptures tell us that it is important to know the Lord Jesus Christ**

1. **I Chron. 28:9** “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

¹C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 56.

2. **Psalm 9:10** And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

3. **Jer. 9:23-24** Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.

4. **Jer. 31:33-34** “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

5. **Hos. 6:3** “So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.”

6. **II Cor. 4:6** For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

B. **Knowing Jesus Christ is an eternal matter**

1. **Mt. 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

2. **Mt. 24:3-5** As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus

answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. 5 “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.

3. **Jn. 8:21-24** Then He said again to them, “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.” 22 So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” 23 And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. 24 “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
4. **Jn. 17:3** “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
5. **II Thess. 1:6-10** For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

C. **Knowing Jesus Christ is something of great value to the believer**

1. **Eph. 1:15-17** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
2. **Phil. 3:8** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

3. **Col. 2:1-3** For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
4. **II Pet. 1:3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

D. Knowing Jesus Christ is necessary for every unbeliever

1. **Prov. 30:4 cf. Jn. 1:3; 3:13**
 - a. **Prov. 30:4** Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know!
 - b. **Jn. 1:3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
 - c. **Jn. 3:13** "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.
2. **Mt. 21:9-10** The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" 10 When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"
3. **Mk. 4:35-41** On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. 37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 And He got up and

rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

4. **Lk. 5:20-26** Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." 21 The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" 22 But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." 25 Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. 26 They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."
5. **Lk. 9:7-9** Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was happening; and he was greatly perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, 8 and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen again. 9 Herod said, "I myself had John beheaded; but who is this man about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see Him.
6. **Jn. 8:25-30** So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning? 26 "I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." 27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." 30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.
7. **Jn. 12:34-36** The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you

have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

II. **A SURVEY OF LESSONS TO COME ON THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST**

- A. Historicity of Christ
- B. Prophecies of Christ
- C. His pre-incarnate existence as the angel of the Lord
- D. His Deity
- E. His humanity
- F. His dual nature
- G. His impeccability
- H. His offices of Prophet, Priest, and King
- I. Christ the servant
- J. Christ the Word of God
- K. Christ the Savior
- L. Redemption
- M. Atonement
- N. Substitution
- O. Propitiation
- P. Justification
- Q. Reconciliation
- R. Sanctification
- S. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection