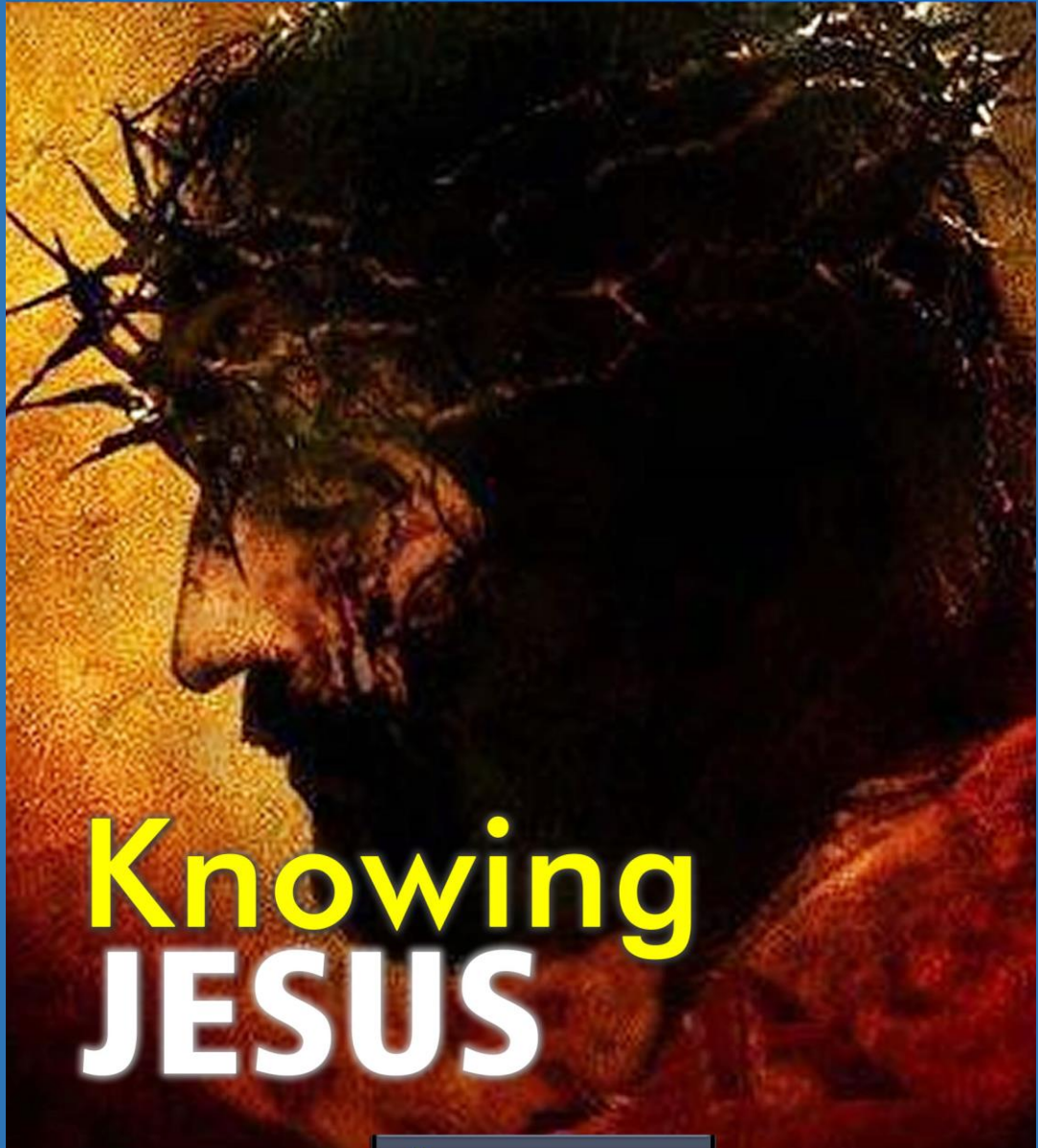




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VOLUME FOUR

KNOWING JESUS

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SALVATION – Volume 4

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INTRODUCTION

Would you like to know more about Jesus Christ and why He was persecuted and crucified? This booklet has some important teachings you should learn to help you understand the deity of Jesus Christ and why He was eventually crucified.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Matthew 16:13-14

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

The world claims Jesus Christ to be many things – but who is Jesus Christ? Was He simply a prophet? Was He a good and charismatic religious leader? Was Jesus Christ simply just a man or is Jesus more than just a historical figure?

Two Views of Jesus Christ

The truth is, there are only 2 ways by which we can view Jesus. We can either view Jesus from a natural viewpoint or we can understand and receive revelation of who Jesus Christ is from a spiritual viewpoint.

The world perceives and understands Jesus from a natural or general viewpoint.

John 1:10 says *"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him".*

Therefore the world cannot recognize Christ, neither can the world understand or know who Jesus Christ is

because the natural viewpoint of Christ is limited in its understanding of the identity of Christ.

However the true understanding of who Jesus Christ is can only come by spiritual revelation through the Father. In **Matthew 16:15-17**, Peter's understanding and revelation of the true identity of Jesus Christ was revealed spiritually and not naturally.

Matthew 16:15-17 says: *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. Jesus is the Christ – Peter's revelation of the identity of Jesus Christ is in 2 aspects. The first one is that Jesus is the Christ. This means that Jesus is the "Anointed One" or the "Messiah". Jesus Christ means "Jesus the Messiah". This title is used for people who act as redeemers and Jesus Christ is our Redeemer.

John 1:41 says: *He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).*

2. Jesus is the Son of the living God – The second aspect of Peter’s revelation is that Jesus is the Son of God. Whenever we see the phrase “Son of” in the Bible it speaks of the character of a person. In Hebrew culture or Judaism they had no surnames. Instead people were identified from where they came from or according to their character. When people called Jesus “Son of God”, they were implying that He had the character & nature of God. Jesus is called the Son of God because He asserted the character of God and was equal to God.

John 10:30 – *I and My Father are one.*

3. Jesus is God Manifested in the Flesh – There are various people and religious cults who deny the deity and divinity of Jesus Christ. However there are many verses that speak of the deity of Christ and describe Jesus Christ as being fully God and fully man.

1 Timothy 3:16 says: *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

John 1:14 says: *And the Word became 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.*

4. Jesus is the Saviour of the World – The purpose of a savior is to remove us from danger and to preserve us into a place of safety. This is what Jesus does for believers as the Lord & Saviour of those who believe in Him and His finished work. Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin by removing our sins so that we may be acceptable to God. He also saves us from hell and the wrath of God which waits for those who refuse to repent and He gives us eternal life.

John 4:42 – *Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”*

Luke 2:11 – *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

5. Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life – The answer to every area of your life is Jesus Christ. Without Christ we cannot have a divine direction and purpose for our life. Access to God, direction in life, the reality of life and quality of life can only come through having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore Jesus gives us life, He gives us direction, He gives us the truth.

John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”.*

6. Jesus is the Founder & Foundation of Christianity –

Jesus is Creator of the Christian faith. Without Jesus Christ, Christianity would not exist. Therefore the purpose of all Christian believers in relation to the Christian faith is to conform more to the image of Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:29 says: *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

The Christian faith must therefore conform to the image and standard of God through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11 – *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 16:18-19 – *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

ARE YOU LIVING YOUR LIFE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST???

Are you currently living your life without Jesus Christ as your personal Lord & Saviour? The devil wants to kill, steal and to destroy but Jesus came so that you may have life and have it abundantly (**John 10:10**).

We are all sinners and the penalty of our sins is death (**Romans 3:23**). We cannot save ourselves but we

can only be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Therefore salvation is a free gift through Jesus Christ. Our response should be to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior because of the sacrifice He made to pay for our sins so that we may receive God's forgiveness and eternal life.

LIFE QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

1. What does John 10:30 mean?
2. What are some of the reasons why the world rejects Jesus as the Messiah?
3. Why was it important for Jesus Christ to come into the world as a man or in the flesh?

Was Jesus Created?

Was Jesus Christ created? Did Jesus have a beginning just like an ordinary man?

From the Bible we learn that Jesus was **not** created.

Instead we learn that He is God or part of the Godhead as the second Person in the Trinity.

John 1:1-2 says: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*

Jesus Christ was not created, but instead He is *the* Creator of all things.

For example, **John 1:3** says: *All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.*

Colossians 1:16 says: *For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.*

Therefore without Christ, there would be no creation because Christ Himself is God. He was there in the beginning when the universe was created.

Belief in the deity of Jesus Christ is an essential part of Biblical Christianity. Jesus Christ was a man whilst on earth, but He was also God and He has always been God.

In **John 1:14** it says: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

In **1 Timothy 3:16** Jesus Christ is described as “*God manifested in the flesh*”.

Therefore Jesus Christ existed before His arrival in the flesh or as a man on earth.

Christ has no beginning and no end. He is eternal in His nature and therefore He is an uncreated Being.

However many religions including various professing Christian groups will teach that Jesus was just a good man or a prophet, but they will either reject or attack Christ’s divinity.

For example, the Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that Jesus was created and that He used to be the archangel Michael before He became the Messiah?

The Mormons believe in many gods and that humans can become like gods. They also claim that Jesus is the brother of satan and therefore Christ is a creation.

Other beliefs about Jesus Christ relate to Jesus being just a historical religious figure whilst also rejecting His divinity and resurrection as truth or fact.

Biblically such beliefs are false and one should be cautious not to be deceived regarding anything that is contrary to the deity of Jesus Christ.

Why Did Jesus Manifest In The Flesh?

For Christ to manifest in the flesh on earth, He had to be born just as all humans are born. However it does not mean that Christ did not already exist before His human birth.

Christ's manifestation in the flesh according to **John 1:14** and **1 Timothy 3:16** was necessary for the salvation of mankind. He alone lived on the earth and yet was without sin simply because He came from Heaven and because He was God (**Hebrews 4:14-15**).

As a man Christ identified with us and because of His death on the cross for our sins, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice and only Mediator between God and man (**1 Timothy 2:5-6**).

Hebrews 2:14-15 says: *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

Christ not only identified with His creation, but He also became our Saviour and Redeemer from slavery to sin. He became the only way through whom we can have fellowship with God (**John 14:6**).

Since sin and death came into the world through one man, being Adam – then salvation for humanity came

through Christ who was fully human and fully God (**Romans 5:17**).

Without the shedding of Christ's blood for our sins, there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 2:17-18 says: *Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.*

What Did Jesus Believe About His Deity?

There is no other human who made the claims that Jesus made and followed up those claims with the unique miracles that He did. There are many claims that Christ said which pointed to His divinity and to where He had come from. His claims and the signs He performed testified to the fact that He was the Creator and **not** the creation.

For example, Christ said that all the Scriptures in the Old Testament (and now the New Testament) all testify about Him or point to Him alone (**John 5:39**).

He stated that He was the bread of life (**John 6:35, 41, 48, 51**). He said that He was the light of the world (**John 8:12; John 9:5**). He said that He was the door (**John 10:7**) and the Good Shepherd (**John 10:11**).

He said that He was the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25**). He said that He was the way, the truth and the life (**John 14:6**). He also said that He was the true vine (**John 15:1,5**) and that without Him we can do nothing.

In **John 8:58** Jesus testified about His divinity when He said the following to the Pharisees: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

By saying the words **“I AM”** and stating that He existed before Abraham, the Jews understood Jesus’ assertion to be the eternal God incarnate and this is why they picked up stones to kill Him (**verse 59**). The Jews were offended because Jesus identified Himself as being God.

Just as God had identified Himself as **“I AM WHO I AM”** before Moses (**Exodus 3:14**), so Jesus was also addressing Himself to the Jews with the same title therefore declaring to the Jews that He is God.

Conclusion

Understanding Christ’s divine nature is essential. He was never a created being but He is the Creator. He is eternal and He has always existed before the foundations of the world. Jesus was not an angel but instead He is above the angels and the angels were created through Him (**Hebrews 1:5-6; Hebrews 1:13-14**). So to believe in a Jesus who was created or a Jesus who used to be an angel would be to believe in *another* Jesus

who is different from the Bible (**2 Corinthians 11:4**). Our debt for sin could only be paid by an eternal being – in this case, Jesus Christ. No created being such as an angel or a man could pay for the debt of sin that is owed to God. Hence why Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice and perfect Mediator and the perfect High Priest.

LIFE QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

1. What does John 1:1-2 mean in relation to Jesus?
2. What are some of the things that Jesus say and do in order to prove His divinity?
3. Why is it important to believe in the deity of Jesus Christ?

Why was Jesus Persecuted?

Jesus Christ was a perfect and sinless person but yet He faced and endured persecution from the very world He had come to save.

How could a perfect and sinless person face persecution? Why was Jesus hated by the world and why was He eventually crucified?

Persecution is defined as *the act of excluding, harassing, punishing, oppressing or killing of people because of their difference from society.*

Therefore below are 4 reasons why Jesus was persecuted

1. Jesus Exposed False Teachers & A Counterfeit Religious System

The Pharisees were the people with the religious influence and power. They were also spiritually abusive and they twisted scripture in order to control and influence their followers for their own personal gain. However the teachings of Christ exposed the false religious system which had been created by the Scribes & Pharisees. Jesus openly rebuked and opposed the Pharisees. Christ Himself did not mince His words when

speaking to the Pharisees and other false teachers. He called them “brood of vipers” and hypocrites and openly exposed their counterfeit faith (**Matthew 23:1-36**).

So in the eyes of the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus Christ was a threat to their religious system and to the power and influence which they had gained over the people for many years.

The Scribes & Pharisees also hated Christ because they noticed that they were losing their man-made spiritual influence among the people because of the teachings and presence of Christ on earth.

John 11:45-49 says: *Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what He did, believed in Him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”*

Therefore by spying, harassing and mocking Christ during His ministry, the Pharisees sought to preserve their authority and religious influence because they feared that Christ’s teachings were exposing their counterfeit religious practices. They sought to discredit Christ and eventually kill Him because Jesus threatened to expose their hypocrisy.

2. Jesus Would Heal on the Sabbath

One of the reasons why Jesus healed on the Sabbath was in order to expose the legalism and the false religious system created by the Pharisees. Jesus also healed on the Sabbath so that He could expose their false interpretation of the law regarding the Sabbath. The Pharisees were so blinded by their own legalism that they failed to understand the true purpose of the Sabbath day. Therefore by performing an act of compassion, such a healing a person on the Sabbath, Jesus would inevitably face confrontation and persecution every time He healed on a Sabbath day.

John 5:16 says: *And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.*

In **John 7:23** Jesus says: *If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?*

3. Jesus Exposed Sin in the World & Promoted Godly Values

While on earth, Jesus was the embodiment of light and truth (**John 8:12; John 14:6**). He was the light of the world amongst people who loved darkness. The Person and work of Christ exposed the sin of the world and the

depravity of man.

Therefore everything Christ said and did was a representation of godliness and truth in a world that loved sin, hypocrisy and deception.

John 3:19-20 says: *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

Furthermore, when the sin of the world is exposed through speaking truth, the world tends to retaliate with persecution.

In **John 7:7** Jesus states: *“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it that its works are evil.”*

In **John 15:18-20** Jesus says: *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours.”*

4. Jesus Said He Was Equal to God

Jesus was persecuted because He identified Himself as being the Son of God.

John 5:18 says: *This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

Therefore besides accusing Christ of breaking the Sabbath, the Jews did not believe that Jesus was God. They falsely believed that Jesus was a heretic. They did not believe that He was the prophesied Messiah.

Conclusion

Ultimately Jesus faced persecution in the form of crucifixion on a cross. Though innocent, blameless and sinless – Jesus became the perfect sacrifice that the world needed for the redemption of mankind to be made possible.

Isaiah 53:5 says: *But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.*

1 Peter 3:18 says: *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,*

Jesus took the punishment we deserve on the cross, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

As mankind we cannot pay God for our own sins and so Jesus came to pay the debt for sin that we could not pay by becoming the sacrificial Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus suffered on the cross and resurrected on the third day so that if we believe and receive Him through faith as Lord and Saviour, then we would experience eternal life.

LIFE QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

1. In John 7:7 and John 15:18-20 Jesus stated that the world hates Him. What are some of the reasons why the world hates Jesus?
2. What does Isaiah 53:5 mean in relation to Jesus?
3. What does John 3:19-20 mean?

Who Killed Jesus Christ?

Who killed Jesus? Who is really responsible for the death of Jesus Christ on the cross?

When we investigate the issues related to Christ's mission on earth and the events that eventually led to His crucifixion, there are several answers to the question of: who killed Jesus Christ?

1. The Religious Leaders Killed Jesus Christ

Throughout the 4 gospels in the New Testament, it is easy to realize that religious leaders such as the Pharisees had a big problem with Jesus. For example, the Pharisees hated Jesus, and they believed Christ to be both a heretic and a threat to their religious influence and authority among the people. The Pharisees were also envious of Christ.

Jesus also rebuked and exposed the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders as false teachers and this clearly did not sit well with the religious leaders (**Matthew 23:1-39**).

So when Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, the Pharisees plotted with the Herodians concerning how to kill Jesus (**Mark 3:5-6**).

In **Mark 11:15-18** after Jesus chased the money changers from the temple, the chief priests and scribes "*were*

seeking a way to destroy Jesus, for they feared Him, because all the crowd was astonished at His teaching."

Again when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Pharisees again plotted on how they could kill Jesus (**John 11:45-53**).

John 11:53 says: *So from that day on they made plans to put Him to death.*

2. The Romans Killed Jesus Christ

Although initially reluctant, it was Pontius Pilate who sentenced Jesus Christ to death. The Bible says that Pilate *"knew that it was out of envy that they (religious leaders) had delivered Jesus to him"* for sentencing (**Matthew 27:18**).

Matthew 27:24-26 says: *So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.*

So the Romans under Roman law were also responsible for the execution of Jesus Christ.

3. The People of Israel Killed Jesus Christ

The Jewish crowd and rioters chose a notorious criminal and prisoner called Barabbas over Jesus Christ who was completely innocent of all accusations laid against Him.

Matthew 27:20-23 says: *Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let Him be crucified!" 23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified!"*

So the Jewish crowd and rioters were persuaded and manipulated by the religious leaders to call for the execution of Jesus Christ.

4. All of Mankind Is Responsible For Killing Jesus Christ

The reality is that every single human being is responsible for killing Jesus Christ. Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, every person is born a sinner or with the natural inclination to sin.

Romans 3:10 says that no one is righteous and **Romans 3:23** says that we have all sinned and fall short of God's glory.

Therefore our sins as mankind nailed Jesus Christ to the cross. The purpose of Christ's crucifixion was so that He may pay for our sins through His blood which He shed. He paid the penalty for sin that mankind could not pay through it's own works.

He bore all our sins on the cross so that we may freely receive Him and His righteousness in exchange.

1 Peter 2:24-25 says: *He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.*

Ephesians 1:7 says: *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

2 Corinthians 5:21 says: *For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Therefore our sins led to the reason and purpose of why Jesus Christ came to earth. He came as the sacrificial *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)*.

God Planned the Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a horrific thing, a terrible burden and high price to the extent Jesus

prayed: *“Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”* (**Luke 22:42**)

God’s plan and will was that Jesus pay the ultimate penalty for our sins. It is also His desire that whoever believes and receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will be saved or born again.

John 1:12-13 says: *But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John 3:16-17 says: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”*

Romans 5:8-9 says: *But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.*

Therefore Christ’s death and resurrection was orchestrated by God in order to save humanity from His wrath or from eternal punishment.

So God offers salvation to every person as a **free gift**

through Jesus Christ. Our response should be to believe and receive by faith Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

LIFE QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

1. Why did God allow Jesus Christ to be crucified?
2. What does 1 Peter 2:24-25 mean?
3. What does Romans 5:8 mean?

How is Jesus the Mediator between God and man?

The Bible describes Jesus Christ as being the only Mediator between God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5 says: *For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*

A **mediator** is a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between.

So a mediator helps to settle a dispute or create agreement when there is conflict between two conflicting parties.

So why is Jesus Christ described as the only Mediator and why was it necessary for mankind to need only one mediator?

1. Man Is In Rebellion Against God

The Bible tells us that God has a dispute with us because of sin. As humans we inherited our sin from Adam when he first sinned in the garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:1-24**).

Romans 5:12 says: *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*

Romans 3:10 says that *“There is no one righteous, not even one”*.

Romans 3:23 says that we have *all sinned and fall short of the glory of God*.

Therefore before a just and holy God, mankind has failed to meet God’s perfect standard of righteousness because of the sin in us and because of our propensity to sin.

Therefore sin causes enmity between God and man. All sin is a sign that man is in rebellion against God because God views the practice of sinning as an act of lawlessness (**1 John 3:4**).

The power and effect of sin is that sin is also capable of separating man from God.

Isaiah 59:2 says: *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear*.

From the time Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin also brought both physical and spiritual death to mankind. **Romans 6:23** tells us that the wages or penalty for sin is death.

Therefore God is justified in punishing anyone who has sinned because we have failed to meet His perfect standard of righteousness.

2. Our Personal Works of Righteousness Cannot Settle Our Dispute with God

Because we are sinners, nothing we can do on our own would be sufficient to mediate between ourselves and God. No amount of good works or law-keeping makes us righteous enough to stand innocent before a holy God (**Isaiah 64:6**).

We cannot be saved by attempting to keep the ten commandments and neither can the entire law save us (**Galatians 2:16**).

Therefore our own personal efforts to please God are fruitless. Our own effort to enter heaven through our personal works will always fail because of our propensity to sin against God (**Galatians 2:21**).

So mankind needs a perfect and sinless mediator to help us settle our dispute with God because without a mediator whom God can approve of – then all of mankind would be destined to spend eternity in hell.

3. Jesus Christ is the Perfect Mediator Between God and Man

Even though we have a dispute with God because of our sin, God still loves us and He has a desire to save us from eternal punishment (**2 Peter 3:9**). So God hates our sins, but He still loves His creation; He loves mankind. Therefore even though we have a dispute with God, the

Lord is still gracious and forgiving, and He desires to reconcile with us.

God's remedy to settle our dispute with Him is found through His Son Jesus Christ who qualifies as our perfect and only Mediator.

Jesus Christ qualifies to be our Mediator because He is fully God and fully man. He is the only Person to live and keep the entire law without ever sinning (**Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:15**).

Furthermore, His mission on earth was to become our Substitute and take our punishment which we deserve by dying on the cross to pay for our sins.

Therefore Christ fully paid the debt for sin which we cannot pay God with our own personal effort or works (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Salvation and redemption is offered by grace through Jesus Christ as a **free gift** because of the love and mercy of God.

John 3:16-17 says: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."*

Romans 5:8 says: *But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 says: *For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

4. Reconciliation with God is only Possible Through Jesus Christ the Mediator

Jesus Christ is uniquely the only Person who can connect us to God. Jesus Christ is the only Person through whom salvation is possible. Jesus Christ is the only Person through whom reconciliation with God is possible. Jesus Christ is only Person through whom our sins are forgiven.

So Christ's finished work on the Cross by paying for our sins, makes it possible for Him to be our only Mediator because He became God's perfect sacrifice to pay the debt for sin. On the cross Jesus exchanged our sin for His righteousness.

So our response should be to believe and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord, Saviour and Mediator (**John 1:12**).

John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Romans 5:10-11 says: *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Hebrews 9:15 says: *Therefore He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*

Conclusion

There is no other person, whether living or dead who can become our mediator except Jesus Christ. There is no other person whether living or dead in whom we can put our total trust except Jesus Christ. There is no other person whether living or dead who can give us complete access to God except Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ did what no other person could do. He lived a sinless life and paid for the sins of the whole world through His death on the Cross. He then resurrected from the dead to prove that He was indeed God in the flesh and that all He did and taught was true.

Therefore salvation and reconciliation with God is not possible without a relationship with Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**).

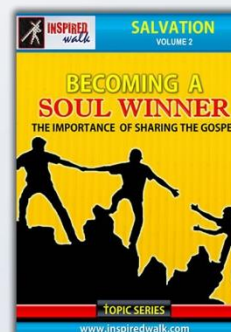
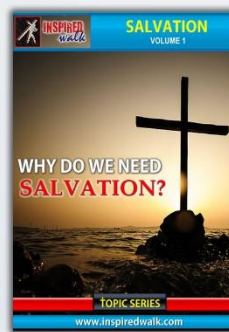
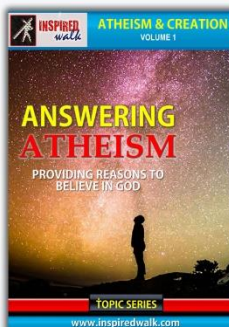
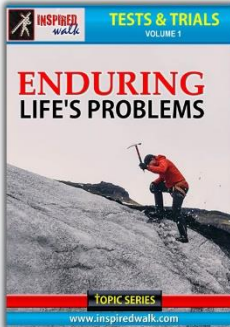
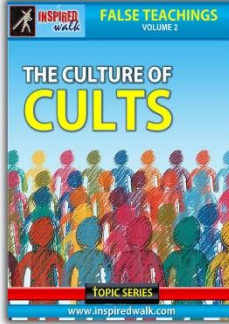
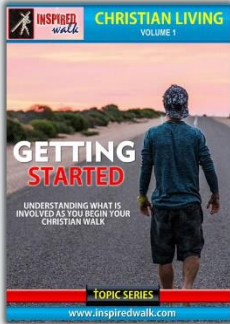
Jesus says that without Him, we can do nothing (**John 15:5**).

Therefore Jesus Christ is ultimately central to our life which qualifies Him alone as being our one and only Mediator.

LIFE QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

1. What does 1 Timothy 2:5 mean?
2. Why should we reject any other person, religion or entity besides Jesus Christ as our spiritual mediator?
3. What qualifies Jesus Christ to be our only Mediator between us and God?

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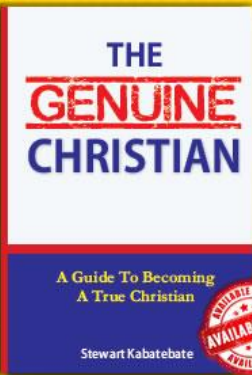
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