



# **The Benefit Of Christ**

**By Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe**

# **The Benefit of Christ - By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe**

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# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 9/11/2013  
Wednesday Messages

## LESSON ONE – THE GRACE OF CHRIST

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Galatians 1:6 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*

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### I. WE ARE CALLED INTO THE GRACE OF CHRIST

- A. You and I do not choose the grace of Christ. It is beyond our nature to do so.
- B. John 5:40 *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*
- C. Matt 23:37 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*
- D. First God calls us by the Gospel. This is the General Call of God
  - 1. Rom. 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
  - 2. Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
  - 3. Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
    - a. We are to preach the Gospel to every creature, every human being, no matter what their background or religious persuasion.
    - b. God takes this Gospel when he sees fit and brings power to be upon people, for we find in Rom. 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
    - c. This power is what makes the difference in this General Call and our next point, The Effectual Call.
  - 4. In our text, these folks had been called by the General Call of God. We know this, because they were removed from the true Gospel to another Gospel.
- E. Then God calls us out of darkness into his glorious light – This is the Effectual Call
  - 1. 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
  - 2. In the General Call, God calls everyone who hears the Gospel.
  - 3. In this call, he actually calls them effectually out of darkness into his marvelous light.
  - 4. This is the work of God, for we read in 2 Cor 4:6 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

5. God calls us out of darkness by shining in our hearts the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
6. This effectual call is also shown in 2 Thess 2:14 *Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - a. Here we are called by the Gospel to the obtaining (or receiving) the glory of Jesus Christ.
  - b. God effectually calls us into his kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12)
7. 1 Peter 5:10 *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

## II. HOW WAS CHRIST'S GRACE MANIFESTED?

### A. He Became poor

1. 2 Cor. 8:9 *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*
2. Phil. 2:6 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*
3. Phil 2:7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*
4. Phil. 2:8 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

### B. Through The Gift of Righteousness

1. Rom 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

### C. It Is God's Grace, But Given By Jesus Christ

1. 1 Cor 1:4 *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;*
2. So we know by this that we cannot receive the grace of God any other way except through Jesus Christ.
3. Eph 4:7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

## III. THE JOY OF CHRIST'S GRACE

- A. Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
- B. This grace in our hearts is from God. It is saving grace, growing grace, sustaining grace, knowing grace, loving grace, Christ's grace.

## IV. GOD'S GRACE AND CHRIST'S GRACE ARE THE SAME

- A. 2 Thess 1:12 *That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## V. THE GRACE OF CHRIST IS ABUNDANT

- A. 1 Tim. 1:14 *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*
- B. We Are To Be Strong In The Grace of Christ
  - 1. 2 Tim. 2:1 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

## VI. SOME WILL DENY THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. Jude 1:4 *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - 1. To deny means to prove to oneself that something is not true or that a thing or person does not exist.
  - 2. But to deny that something exists is self-contradictory. You cannot prove that something isn't. The only way to do that is to have complete universal knowledge of everything, and no human being has that, of course.
  - 3. The only way to logically deny Christ is to put something in his place. Therefore Galatians speaks of "another gospel," Gal. 1:7 *Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*
  - 4. Or another Jesus – 2 Cor. 11:4 *For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*
  - 5. So the only way to deny Jesus Christ is to pervert him.
    - a. That is, to make Jesus something that he is not.
    - b. Some say, as we have recently noticed, that Jesus casts out devils in the name of Beelzebub.
    - c. Others say he is no king "We have no king but Caesar" John 19:15.
    - d. They say he is simply human and not God – Matt. 13:55 *Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?*
  - 6. But Jesus is the "only Lord God."
- B. The Fate Of Those Who Deny Him -- Matt 10:33 *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*
- C. But we are to deny ourselves – Matt 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 9/18/2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON TWO – THE TRANSCENDENCE OF CHRIST

### I. CHRIST IS ABOVE ALL

- A. The word “transcendent” means, according to Marriam-Webster, “extending or lying beyond the limits of ordinary experience.”
- B. Christ exists and works beyond the limits of ordinary experience.
- C. John 3:30 *He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.*
- D. John 8:23 *And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.*
- E. Rom. 10:6 *But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)*
- F. Eph. 1:19-23 *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*
- G. Eph 4:10 *He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*
- H. We see it in his omnipresence: Psalm 139:8 *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

### II. CHRIST IS ALWAYS IN HEAVEN

- A. John 3:13 *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*
- B. Where was he in the beginning? John 1:2 *The same was in the beginning with God.*
  - 1. He was not on earth but in heaven in the beginning.
- C. Where was Christ during the Old Testament period? Rom. 16:25-26 *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: He was in heaven.*
- D. Where is Christ now?
  - 1. Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?*

- this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
2. Ac 3:21 *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*
  3. Christ is now in heaven.

### III. CHRIST IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

- A. Christ himself is not of this world –
  1. John 8:23 *And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.*
  2. John 17:14 *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (See also verse 16)*
- B. Christ's kingdom is not of this world –
  1. John 18:36 *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*
  2. 2 Tim. 4:18 *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

### IV. BECAUSE CHRIST IS NOT OF THIS WORLD, NEITHER ARE WE

- A. John 15:19 *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*
- B. John 17:6 *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*
- C. Rev. 14:14-16 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*
- D. Wherever Christ is, that is where we will be.
  1. To the Pharisees Jesus said, John 7:34 *Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*
  2. John 12:26 *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*
  3. John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
  4. John 17:24 *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

### V. CONCLUSION

- A. So, Christ is above all; he is always in Heaven; he is not of this world; neither are we; and where Christ is, there we will be, also.
- B. This is because Christ is TRANSCENDENT. He is above all ordinary experience, that is, worldly experience.
- C. We can have a transcendent experience with Christ, though, by his grace and through faith in him.

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-2-2013

Wednesday Messages – Matthew 1:23 (Read under first point)

## LESSON THREE – THE IMMANENCE OF CHRIST

### I. THREE WORDS TO KNOW

- A. Eminence – “a condition of being well-known and successful. : a person of high rank or achievements.” Merriam-Webster Online
- B. Imminence – “ready to take place; especially : hanging threateningly over one's head.”
- C. Immanence – “indwelling, inherent.”
- D. Immanence is the word we are considering today.
  - 1. This word is used sometimes to teach pantheism, that God is in everything, and that everything, therefore, is God.
  - 2. But this word to us means that God is “with us.”
  - 3. Matt 1:23 *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

### II. TWO MORE WORDS WE NEED TO KNOW

- A. Monergism – This word literally means “to work alone.”
  - 1. This word is used in theology to indicate that salvation comes from God alone, not with the help of anyone or anything else.
  - 2. Jonah 2:9 *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.*
  - 3. When we speak of salvation’s being by grace, we are implying that God works alone; because we do not have grace and cannot produce grace.
  - 4. When we speak of the new birth, we imply that God works alone in our salvation; because we cannot birth ourselves.
- B. Synergism – This word literally means “to work with”
  - 1. “Synergism is the doctrine that there are two efficient agents in regeneration, namely the human will and the divine .”
  - 2. “In theology, synergism is the position of those who hold that salvation involves some form of cooperation between divine grace and human freedom.”
  - 3. Notice what **Ellen White** (a woman who has influenced almost every cult in America) says on this subject: “As the will of men co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”<sup>1</sup>
- C. Why do we need to know these two words?
  - 1. Because, even though we believe that God saves us by himself without our help or the help of others, we do believe that God IS with us and DOES work in our lives to

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<sup>1</sup>White, Ellen G., *Christ’s Object Lessons*, (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn, 1941), 333.

lead us and comfort us.

2. So, salvation is *monergistic*, but in our salvation, our lives are *synergistic* in a sense, since God works in us, through us, and for us.

### III. THE IMMANENCE OF CHRIST

#### A. Immanence Found In God

1. Usually when we teach using this word, immanence, we are speaking of God's work among the inhabitants of the earth, that God is exotic, but he is not aloof.
2. Notice Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*
3. This is God's working among the inhabitants of the earth.

#### B. Immanence And Transcendence Of Christ In Creation

1. Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*
2. In Colossians Chapter One we see both Christ's *transcendence* and his *immanence*.
3. Col. 1:15-17 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
4. Heb. 1:2-3 *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (immanence), whom he hath appointed heir of all things (both), by whom also he made the worlds (transcendence); 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, (transcendence) and upholding all things by the word of his power, (immanence) when he had by himself purged our sins, (immanence) sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (transcendence).*

#### C. Immanence of Christ In Incarnation

1. John 1:14 *And the Word was made 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.*
2. Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

#### D. Immanence of Christ In Indwelling

1. Joh 14:17-18 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*
2. John 14:20 *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*
3. John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
4. Christ and the Spirit are the same: Rom. 8:10 *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

5. Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
  6. Col. 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*
- E. Immanence of Christ In Leading
1. When we follow Christ, we know that he is leading us: Matt 4:19 *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*
  2. Matt 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
  3. John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*
  4. Matt 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- F. Immanence of Christ In Wisdom
1. Christ's wisdom works out in his miracles: Mark 6:2 *And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?*
  2. 1 Cor 1:30 *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*
  3. Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
- G. Immanence of Christ In Eternity
1. At institution of Lord's Supper – Matt 26:29 *But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*
  2. Rev 22:21 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*
  3. John 17:24 *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*
  4. John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- H. Immanence In Salvation
1. Although we do not believe that God saves with the help of others, we do believe that salvation does include people, so in that sense there is immanence, the presence of Jesus Christ with us in salvation.
  2. Christ died among sinners in the earth—immanence
    - a. Rom. 8:3 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*
    - b. Eph. 4:9 *(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)*
    - c. 1 Tim. 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was*

*manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-9-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON FOUR – THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

### I. CHRIST'S INCARNATION IS AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S WISDOM

#### A. The Personification of Wisdom

Prov. 8:22-31 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; 31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

#### B. Christ Is Wisdom

1. 1 Cor 1:24 *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

#### C. The Fullness of Christ

1. John 1:14 *And the Word was made 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.*
2. Col. 1:19 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*
3. Col. 2:3 *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
4. Col. 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

### II. CHRIST'S INCARNATION EXPRESSES THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW

#### A. Matt. 4:1-11

Matt. 4:1-11 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11

Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

- B. Not once did Jesus say, "I'm under grace, not under law."
- C. Jesus was completely under law.
- D. Gal. 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
- E. Rom. 8:3-4 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
  - 1. God's law was fulfilled in Christ, and that faithfulness to the law and complete obedience to the law was granted to us through Jesus Christ, by grace through faith.
  - 2. Jesus said in Matt 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

### III. CHRIST'S INCARNATION EXPRESSED THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD THE FATHER

- A. Heb 10:7 *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*
- B. John 8:26 *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*
- C. Matt 26:42 *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*
- D. Luke 22:42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*
- E. 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

### IV. CHRIST'S INCARNATION IMPLIES THEOLOGY

- A. To deal with all of the theology that is included in Christ's incarnation would take a complete course in both Christology (study of Christ) and Soteriology (study of salvation).
- B. Here I will mention only a very few things with which we are all at least a little familiar.
  - 1. The theology of life righteousness – 1 John 2:29 *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*
  - 2. The theology of substitution
    - a. 2 Cor 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
    - b. Rom 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
  - 3. The theology of reconciliation
    - a. Rom 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the*

- death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*
- b. 2 Cor 5:19 *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*
  - c. Col 1:21 *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*
  - d. Heb 2:17 *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*
4. The theology of propitiation
- a. Christ is not the Propitiator; he is the Propitiation.
  - b. He satisfies God in all that he is and all that he does.
  - c. The word propitiation used three times in N.T.
    - (1) Rom. 3:25 *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*
    - (2) 1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
    - (3) 1 John 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
  - d. God was always satisfied in his Son.
    - (1) Matt 3:17 *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
    - (2) Luke 9:35 *And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.*
    - (3) Luke 20:13 *Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.*
    - (4) 2 Peter 1:17 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. Christ's Incarnation Manifests The Wisdom of God
- B. Christ's Incarnation Manifests The Righteousness of God
- C. Christ's Incarnation Manifests The Will of God
- D. Christ's Incarnation Implies The Theology of God

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-16-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON FIVE - THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

### I. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

- A. Heb 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
- B. Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

### II. THE BLOOD OF GOD

- A. Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

### III. THE BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Heb 13:20 *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant (testament).*
- B. Matt 26:28 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

### IV. THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED

- A. Matt 26:28 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

### V. THE BLOOD FOR REMISSION

- A. Matt 26:28 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*
- B. Rev 7:14 *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

### VI. INNOCENT BLOOD

- A. Matt 27:4 *Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.*
- B. Matt 27:24 *When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.*

## VII. DRINKING HIS BLOOD

- A. John 6:54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- B. This is how we drink his blood. Rom. 3:25 *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

## VIII. HIS BLOOD FOR REDEMPTION

- A. We have considered his blood for remission; now we learn that it is for redemption.
- B. Remission means “forgiveness.” Redemption means “payment”
- C. Eph. 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*
- D. Col 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*
- E. Also, we have peace: Col. 1:20 *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

## IX. HIS BLOOD IS PRECIOUS

- A. The word “precious” is Greek TIMIOS, and it means “that which is very valuable, that which is honored, esteemed, or dear.”
- B. 1 Peter 1:19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*
- C. Christ is the only one who could wear this blood-dipped clothing: Rev 19:13 *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

# **The Benefit of Christ**

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-16-2013

Wednesday Messages

## **LESSON FIVE #2 - THE BLOOD OF CHRIST #2**

An Alternative Outline

### **I. PROPHETIC BLOOD**

A. Exodus 12:21-28

### **II. PERSONAL BLOOD**

A. Rev. 7:14; 12:11; 1 Cor. 10:16

### **III. POWERFUL BLOOD**

A. For Remission

B. For Redemption

C. For Inheritance

D. Eph. 1:7; Heb. 13:20

### **IV. PRECIOUS BLOOD**

A. 1 Peter 1:19

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-23-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON SIX - THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

### I. THE LORD'S PERSONAL COMPASSION

- A. The first mention in New Testament: Matt 9:36 *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*
- B. Two Blind Men: Matt 20:34 *So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.*
- C. A Leper: Mark 1:40-42 *And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.*
- D. The widow at Nain: Luke 7:12-15 *Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.*

### II. THE THEOLOGY OF PERSONAL COMPASSION

- A. God Will Have Compassion On Whom He Will – Rom. 9:15 *For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*
- B. We Are To Have Compassion Toward One Another
  - 1. 1 Peter 3:8 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*
  - 2. 1 John 3:17 *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*
- C. We Are To Make A Difference Through Compassion – Jude 1:22 *And of some have compassion, making a difference:*
  - 1. There are some things in and by which we consider everyone alike, in teaching of doctrine, in church polity, in the ordinances, etc.
  - 2. But sometimes circumstances dictate that, when a person falls to the wayside through some event, we are to address each individual according to that particular occurrence rather than treating everyone alike.
  - 3. In some we are to make a difference, treating some with tender mercies and personal

compassion and help and with gentle reproof. Others may need to be dealt with by more or harsher reproof, but by any means we should always consider ourselves lest we also fall into the same temptation or problem.

III. MERCY IS THE SAME AS COMPASSION (Sometimes the Greek word for Compassion is translated Mercy)

- A. About 11 times in the N.T. there are cries to Jesus "Have mercy."
  - 1. The two blind men "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us."
  - 2. Canaanite woman "Have mercy on me, Oh Lord, thou Son of David."
  - 3. The lunatic son "have mercy on my son"
  - 4. Blind Bartimaeus, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."
- B. God Will Have Mercy On Whom He Will (Same as Compassion)
  - 1. Rom. 9:15 *For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*
  - 2. Rom. 9:18 *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*
  - 3. Rom. 11:32 *For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

IV. CHRIST'S COMPASSION SHOWN IN HIS LOVE FOR US

- A. Rom. 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
- B. 2 Cor. 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*
- C. Eph. 3:19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*
- D. John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*
- E. Rom. 8:37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*
- F. Eph. 2:4 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*
- G. 2 Thess. 2:16 *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,*
- H. 1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

V. CHRIST'S COMPASSION SHOWN IN HIS DEATH

- A. John 10:15 *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
- B. John 10:17 *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*
- C. Rev. 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us*

*from our sins in his own blood,*

VI. CHRIST'S COMPASSION SHOWN IN HIS DELIVERANCE

- A. 2 Cor. 1:10 *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*
- B. Col. 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*
- C. 1 Thess. 1:10 *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

VII. CHRIST'S COMPASSION IS UNTO THE END

- A. He Is With Us Unto The End – Matt 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- B. He Loves Us Unto The End – John 13:1 *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*
- C. We Are Confirmed Unto The End – 1 Cor 1:8 *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- D. We Have Hope Unto The End – Heb 3:6 *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*
- E. We Have Confidence Unto The End – Heb 3:14 *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;*
- F. We Have Assurance Unto The End – Heb 6:11 *And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:*

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 10-30-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON SEVEN- THE CROSS OF CHRIST

### I. THE IMPLICATION OF THE CROSS

- A. Before Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die on the cross, to be crucified, he did not mention the cross itself. It was only implied.
- B. The only mention of the cross was in a metaphorical way:
  - 1. Matt. 10:38 *And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*
  - 2. Matt 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
  - 3. See also Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23; 14:27
- C. It was not until Matthew Chapter 27 that the cross of Christ was even mentioned.
  - 1. Matt 27:32 *And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.*
  - 2. Matt 27:42 *He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.*
- D. It was not until Mark Chapter 15 that the cross of Christ is mentioned:
  - 1. Mark 15:21 *And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.*
  - 2. Mark 15:30 *Save thyself, and come down from the cross.*
  - 3. See also Luke 23:26
- E. Now John's first mention of the cross has to do with Jesus' cross, but it was not until John 19
  - 1. John 19:17 *And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*
  - 2. See also John 19:19, 25, and 31.
- F. There are only eleven (11) more mentions of the cross in the rest of the New Testament, which we will examine later.
- G. The cross of Christ was implied strongly, however, while he was walking the earth, as recorded in the Gospels.
  - 1. In a whole set of Scriptures Jesus said that "where I go ye cannot come."
    - a. John 7:34 *Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*
    - b. John 7:36 *What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?*
    - c. John 8:21 *Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*
    - d. John 8:22 *Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.*

- e. John 13:33 *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.*
- 2. Mention of the Third Day
  - a. Jesus implied the cross in Matt 16:21 *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*
  - b. ... in Matt 17:23 *And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.*
  - c. Mention is also made of the third day in other Gospels and also in
    - (1) Acts 10:40 *Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;*
    - (2) 1 Cor 15:4 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- 3. Jesus' laying down his life for the sheep
  - a. John 10:15 *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

## II. THE ICON OF THE CROSS

- A. Many people make the cross an icon, a precious piece of jewelry or an icon of comfort or blessing.
- B. But there is no mention in the Bible of the use of a graven cross, a cross to carry in a pocket or hang on a wall or draw on a picture. I am not saying it is wrong to do this, but we must be very careful not to make a god out of the cross at the expense of our faith and trust in God and his Son, Jesus Christ.
- C. The cross had no significance except for Christ's death on it. Christ is not on the cross, so any cross that is made or drawn should not have Christ on it. There is both an empty cross and an empty tomb.
- D. The redemptive price has been paid, and all of our blessings come from the work that Christ did on the cross; no blessings come from wooden or golden crosses or crosses drawn on paper or hung on a wall.
- E. Let us be sure that we are not like Israel in the wilderness, worshiping a golden calf, trees, or altars built to gods made with hands.
- F. Listen to a couple of scriptures:
  - 1. Jer 16:20 *Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?*
  - 2. Gal. 4:8 *Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*

## III. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CROSS

- A. Many quotations have been made about the cross of Jesus Christ.
  - 1. "All God's plans have the mark of the cross on them, and all His plans have death to self in them." --E. M Bounds
  - 2. "Men have said that the cross of Christ was not a heroic thing, but I want to tell you that the cross of Jesus Christ has put more heroism in the souls of men than any

other event in human history.” –John G. Lake

B. The Cross Delivers From Sin

1. “The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from Hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness.”  
--Arthur W. Pink
2. When Christ died on the cross, he delivered us from our sins; he died for our sins. But when Christ died on the cross, he also delivered us from this evil world, and his grace teaches us:
  - a. Titus 2:11-12 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

C. The Cross Is To Be Preached

1. 1 Cor. 1:17-23 *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*

D. The Cross Is The Centerpiece Of The Gospel

1. 1 Cor. 9:16 *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*
2. 1 Cor. 15:1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

E. What Does The Cross Do For Us?

1. John Stott lists 6 ways in which he believes the Cross speaks: the Cross is..
  - a. a stimulus to patient endurance: Christians have always been comforted and emboldened by the example of their Lord who chose the way of suffering so that we might be reconciled to God - Heb 12:2,3 and 1 Pet.2:19-23. Isn't it significant that in Col.1:10-12 where Paul prays for the Colossian Christians to have 'all power according to God's glorious might' it is in order that they may endure! That's what it takes, apparently, to endure as a Christian.
  - b. the path to mature holiness; James 1:2-4, Rom. 5:3-5. The Bible uses three

images of how God uses suffering - the father disciplining his children (Heb.12:5-11), the craftsman refining silver and gold (1 Pet.1:6,7), and the gardener pruning the vine (John 15:1-8).

- c. the symbol of suffering service; Jesus was not any suffering itinerant teacher, he was the suffering messiah, leading Paul to say (Eph.3:1 and 13) that he was a prisoner of Christ for the sake of the gentiles and his sufferings were their glory!
- d. the hope of final glory; As for Christ, so for us, suffering is the route to glory. The glory that is to come far outweighs our present sufferings (Rom. 8:18).
- e. the ground of a reasonable faith; if trials and suffering sorely test our faith then the Cross tells us that God's love and justice will never be defeated either now or on the Last Day. Rom.8:32.
- f. the proof of God's solidarity with us in love; the Cross "smashes to smithereens" the idea that God does not care. He laid aside his immunity to pain and endured our world of flesh and blood and tears and pain , to redeem us from it all.

### **When I Survey The Wondrous Cross**

*Isaac Watts (1819-1858)*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,  
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;  
Then I am dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

To Christ, who won for sinners grace  
By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race  
Forever and forevermore.

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 11-6-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON EIGHT - THE WORSHIP OF CHRIST

### A. THE IMPERATIVE OF WORSHIPING CHRIST

1. Example of microscope and telescope.
  - a. A microscope makes little things look big.
  - b. A telescope makes big, far-away things, look closer
2. This imperative is shown in the offerings of Cain and Abel.
  - a. Genesis 4:2 *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*
  - b. Genesis 4:5 *But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*
  - c. Without going into all the details about these two offerings, let us notice only that Abel's offering was proper, and Cain's offering was not proper. Therefore, God had respect, or received, Abel's offering but not Cain's offering.
  - d. This teaches us that Cain was trying to create his own kind of worship instead of submitting to God's imperative—a blood sacrifice.
  - e. Matt 15:9 *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
3. Imperative (commands) from the Old Testament
  - a. 1 Chron. 16:29 *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
  - b. Psalm 29:2 *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
  - c. Psalm 96:9 *O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.*
4. Imperative (commands) from the New Testament
  - a. Matt 4:10 *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*  
(1) Deut. 10:20 *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.*
  - b. John 4:23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
5. So, the Lord instructs us to worship him.

## II. THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIPING CHRIST

A. Psalm 69:29-30 *But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. 30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*

1. To *magnify* means to make larger or to raise up.
2. This magnification is more like the telescope than like the microscope.
3. In microscope magnification, we are making very small things to larger than they are.
4. In telescope magnification, we are looking at things that are already very large, but we are bringing them closer, or magnifying their distant obscurity, so that we can at least seem closer to them than we really are.
5. When we magnify God, we bring him from his farness to his nearness to ourselves. We bring him closer to ourselves, compare ourselves with his holiness, and respond to his greatness and majesty.
6. If we use a microscope, we are magnifying ourselves and eliminating God from our lives, thrusting him off into oblivion as if he does not exist, or turning aside from him, magnifying ourselves as God–humanism. We are so very small that we need magnification to make something of ourselves, but that magnification is not real—it is only a fleeting shadow. But we are to magnify Christ, because he is very large, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He is the Almighty God.

B. Psalm 50:9-14 *I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. 10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. 13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? 14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:*

1. In these verses God is telling us that we have nothing that he wants.
2. “If I were hungry, I would not tell thee.”
  - a. We must say to God “... give us this day our daily bread,” but God does not need to ask for daily bread. He owns the world and the fulness thereof.
  - b. He does not need bullocks, and goats, and beasts of the forest, because he owns them all, “the cattle upon a thousand hills.”
  - c. He has no need of human endeavor, human will, human love, human pleasure, human religion.
3. This is why we must magnify God. We must each day pull out our telescope in order to bring God closer to us.
4. The telescope is our Bible and our prayers. These draw God near unto us and we unto him.
  - a. Heb. 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*
  - b. Isaiah 48:16 *Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord*

*GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.*

5. None of us here, no doubt, will ever be any closer to the moon than when we look through a telescope to gaze upon its map, its mountains, its valleys, its color, its mystery.
6. We will never in this earth be any closer to God than when we are reading his word, praying to him, and living according to his will.

### III. THE EMOTION OF WORSHIPING CHRIST

#### A. The Charismatic Contradiction

1. We are so against the Charismatic Movement that we shun any expression of emotion in our worship. We have allowed them to steal this from us.
2. This is not to say that worship is made up of emotion, but this is to say that emotion does play a part in our worship.
3. We have a DOWN emotion, an UP emotion, and an INSIDE emotion in our worship of Jesus Christ.

#### B. The Down Emotion

1. When we approach Christ for worship, there is a sense of who we are in comparison to who he is.
2. Lu 5:8 *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*
  - a. Here Peter has seen the Lord perform a great miracle of calming the stormy sea, and it so impressed him and shook his emotion that he felt unworthy to even be in the presence of Christ.
  - b. "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."
3. Isaiah 6:1 *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ----- Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*
  - a. Isaiah saw God (Christ) high and lifted up sitting on a throne in God's real temple in Heaven.
  - b. So, he responded with this emotion: "Woe is me."
  - c. He felt *undone*, a man of *unclean lips*, unworthy to even come to the Lord with any thanksgiving and praise, because his eyes (his unworthy eyes) had seen the King, the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts.
4. Job 42:5-6 *I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

#### C. The Up Emotion

1. James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*
2. Matt. 23:12 *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*
3. So, we cannot go up until we have gone down.

#### D. The Inside Emotion

1. Psalm 51:15-17 *O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.* 17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*
  - a. The words that come from our mouths first come from our hearts.
  - b. Our expression of praise is an inside emotion. Before we can shout to God our praises, we must first have a broken heart, a surrendered heart, a heart desiring to give to God what he desires and commands from us.
  - c. He did not command nor desire sacrifice, but he desired a broken and contrite heart. God will not despise that. He will receive that kind of heart.
  - d. But God must open the heart, since no man can open his heart to God. It is all of grace.
  - e. Then, as we reach into that grace wherein we stand, our hearts are broken and contrite as we see our daily sins and come to God with confession and contrition, pleading forgiveness. Then we can truly worship God, but not until then.*

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Acts 17:24-30 *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 *And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:***

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 11-13-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON NINE - THE PRAYERS OF CHRIST

### I. CHRIST'S PATTERNED PRAYER, Matthew 6:5-13

#### A. No Prayers for Show, Mat.6:5

1. Matt 6:5 *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*
2. These hypocrites are most assuredly the Pharisees, since they were the religious leaders of the people, mingling among the people and giving personal and group support to them.
3. The Sadducees took care of the practices and patterns of the temple; the Pharisees spent their time among the people
4. But the Pharisees were hypocrites. They put on a show for the people, practicing religion, not necessarily spiritual praise and worship to God.
5. As hypocrites, they loved to pray standing in the synagogues, of which there were some 500 in and around Jerusalem at that time.
6. They also loved to stand on the street corners and pray aloud so that they could be seen of men
7. Jesus said that they have their reward. Their reward was the praise of the people, but their job was not to please people but to please God.
8. If a person pleases God, he must know that men will speak evil of him, and that the Pharisees could not imagine, so they practiced a religion that would please people.
9. The people loved to hear their beautiful words, their dignitary style, and their pretended sincerity toward religious practices.

#### B. No Prayers in repetition, Matt. 6:7

1. Matt 6:7 *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*
2. Vain repetition is the repeating of words as in a trance or as a chant. This was cultic.
3. The heathen (Gentiles) thought that their prayers would be heard for their much speaking, or for repeating certain phrases over and over again.
4. The lord calls these sayings “vain repetition.

#### C. Prayers in Secret, Matt. 6:6

1. Matt 6:6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*
2. When believers pray, they should turn their minds away from the world and directly upon God.
3. We do not pray to impress people but to please God, to praise him, and to be thankful to him for everything that he has given us and has done for us.

4. But we are to do this secretly, as in a closet, because he promises to hear that kind of prayer and he will reward us openly, He will bless us through our prayers with grace and mercy that we need in order to be effective in his service.
- D. Christ's Pattern of Prayer, Matt. 6:9-13
1. Matt 6:9-13 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*
  2. Jesus gave his pattern of prayer in these verses.
  3. First he says that we should direct our prayers to "our heavenly Father," which, of course, he is.
  4. Then we are to hallow his name in our hearts. His name is above every name.
    - a. Phil. 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*
  5. We are to pray that his will is done on earth even as it is in Heaven.
  6. We are to pray for our daily bread, which only he can supply.
  7. We are to ask forgiveness for our debts, or sins.
  8. We are at the same time to forgive others of their debts, or sins.
  9. We are to pray that he will not lead us into temptation, because we know that he leads no one into temptation; but here we are affirming that truth.
  10. We are to pray that he deliver us from evil, from every evil, not just the ones we abhor but even the ones that we love.
  11. We are to acknowledge that his is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
  12. We are then to say *Amen*, which means that both he and we agree or that we agree together that all the things in this prayer are true.

## II. CHRIST'S PERSONAL PRAYERS

### A. Prayer of Intercession, John 17

1. This prayer concerned salvation, John 17:1-3 (2)
2. This prayer is about intercession, John 17:4-10 (8)
3. This prayer is about revelation, John 17:11-16 (14) "I have given them my word."
4. This prayer is about sanctification, John 17:17-19 (17)
5. This prayer is about exclusion, John 17:20-23; see also verse 9 "I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me."
6. This prayer is about glorification, John 17:24-26 (24)

### B. Prayer in the Garden

1. Jesus' first prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matt. 26:36-41 (39)
2. Jesus' second prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matt. 26:42-46 (42)

### C. Private Prayer Alone

1. In the mountain, Matt. 14:23
  - a. Matt 14:23 *And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a*

*mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*

### III. CHRIST'S PUBLIC PRAYERS

#### A. At Lazarus' Tomb

##### 1. John 11:41-42

- a. John 11:41-42 *Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.*

#### B. Before Feeding 5,000, etc.

1. Matt. 14:19 *And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.*

#### C. At The Lord's Supper

1. Matt. 26:26 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

#### D. On The Cross

1. A prayer of forgiveness – Luke 23:34 *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*
2. A prayer of loneliness – Matt 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15:34).*
3. A prayer of reunion – Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 11-20-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON TEN - THE DEITY OF CHRIST

### I. CHRIST'S DEITY SHOWN IN HIS ESSENCE

- A. Col. 1:17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
- B. Jesus Is The Son of David – Matt. 1:1 *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
  - 1. But he is the “root” of David, also – Rev. 5:5 *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*
- C. Jesus Is The Son of Abraham – Matt. 1:1 *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
  - 1. But he is also “before” Abraham – John 8:58 *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*
- D. 1 John 2:13 *I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.*
- E. John 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*
- F. 1 John 5:7 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
- G. We may “become” one with the Father, but Jesus “is” one with the Father.
- H. In a prophecy of Jesus Christ, Isaiah says in Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

### II. CHRIST'S DEITY SHOWN IN HIS EQUALITY WITH GOD

- A. God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit are all recognized as God.
- B. God The Father
  - 1. John 6:27 *Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*
  - 2. 1 Peter 1:2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
  - 3. Actually, we have the phrase “God the Father” mentioned 13 times in the new Testament.
- C. God The Son
  - 1. John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
  - 2. Titus 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great*

*God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

D. God The Holy Spirit (Ghost)

1. Acts 5:3-4 *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

III. THE NECESSITY OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST

A. The Twofold Nature of Christ

1. Jesus Christ had to be both human and divine in order to accomplish his mission on earth.
2. The mission of imputation
  - a. 2 Cor. 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
  - b. The word “imputation” means a transferring from one person to another. Notice these two definitions from Webster’s New World Dictionary: (1) to attribute (esp. a fault or misconduct) to another; charge with; ascribe – (2) to ascribe (goodness or guilt) to a person as coming from another.
  - c. In the first place, according to 2 Cor. 5:21, God imputed our sins to his son, Jesus Christ, in order that he may “made to be sin for us, who knew no sin.” This was done so that Jesus Christ could impute his righteousness, or the “righteousness of God” to us.+
  - d. This takes in both human and divine attributes in order to accomplish the atonement for our sins. Jesus had to meet the demand of God upon man, which was perfect righteousness, and he had to meet the just demand of God that all sins must be punished. These both were done in Jesus Christ. That’s why the verse ends with the prepositional phrase, “in him.”
  - e. Jeremiah 23:5 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*
3. The mission of reconciliation
  - a. Romans 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*
  - b. Hebrews 2:17 *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*
  - c. 1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*
  - d. Jesus had to have two natures in order to do this, one to correct the sin of man and to meet the justice of God and express God’s eternal love for us.

4. The mission of intercession
  - a. There is a heavenly language, and Jesus must know that language – 2 Cor. 12:4 *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*
  - b. God (Jesus) performed a great miracle on the Day of Pentecost so that every man could hear in his own language – Acts 2:8 *And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?*
  - c. Jesus knows heavenly language and earthly language so that he can make intercession for us.
  - d. Rom. 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*
  - e. Rom. 8:27 *And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*
  - f. Rom. 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
  - g. Rev. 10:5-6 *And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:*

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. It took a divine person to die a divine death, resurrection with divine power, pray to a divine God who always answered him, and ascended into heaven to make intercession for us.
- B. This could not be done by a mere human. He is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- C. If he is only a human being, how will he come and take us to be with himself (as Romans 14 tells us), and so shall we ever be with the Lord?
- D. How can he come and make his abode with us, along with God the Father, if he is only a man? John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
- E. That is why he is the way, the truth, and the life.
- F. That is why no man can come unto the Father but by him.

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 11-27-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON ELEVEN - THE PEOPLE OF CHRIST

### I. WE ARE A PECULIAR PEOPLE

#### A. Specific References

1. Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
2. 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

#### B. Specific Names

##### 1. My People

- a. Psalm 95:7 *For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,*
- b. Romans 9:25-26 *As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*

##### 2. His People

- a. Matt 1:21 *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*
- b. Luke 1:68 *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,*
- c. Luke 1:77 *To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,*
- d. Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

##### 3. My Sheep

- a. John 10:14-15 *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
- b. John 21:15-16 *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*
- c. Psalm 100:3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

##### 4. My Disciples

- a. John 8:31 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*
  - b. John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*
  - c. Luke 22:11 *And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?*
5. My Brethren
- a. Matt. 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*
  - b. Matt. 28:10 *Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*
  - c. John 20:17 *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*
6. My Friends
- a. Luke 12:4 *And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.*
  - b. John 15:14 *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

## II. A PICKED PEOPLE

- A. It is quite an honor to be picked out of a crowd or to be chosen for a certain position.
- B. It is the great honor to be chosen by God to be his child, and that is just what we are.
- C. Matt 22:14 *For many are called, but few are chosen.*
  - 1. Many are called by the Gospel as the proclamation goes out across the world in what we call the General Call, but the Effectual Call is the call that comes ringing o'er the restless waves sending the light to us into our hearts to hear the Gospel effectually, see our sin, and turn to Jesus Christ in faith, repenting of our sins, and trusting Christ alone for our salvation.
  - 2. Few are chosen; that is, few compared to the many in the world who hear the Gospel and turn it away. Some may come by profession and walk away from the Gospel; but only those who come by possession are the true children of God.
- D. Mark 13:20 *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.*
  - 1. The horrors of the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD were to be shortened in length due to the fact that God still had people he had chosen unto salvation and would saved, otherwise no flesh would be saved.
  - 2. God is still saving people today.
- E. John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
  - 1. This was specifically spoken about the 12 apostles, but it is also true of each one of

- us. God has chosen you. He has called you. He has saved you. You are his Chosen Child.
2. We should be extremely thankful that God has chosen us, but we should not be proud.
- F. Eph 1:4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
1. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. We do not understand everything about this, but we are blessed by it and can worship God for it.
  2. Therefore, we should live holy lives, since he has chosen us to be without blame before him (God) in love. Our salvation is kept in Christ, because we are his chosen ones.
- G. 2 Thess 2:13 *But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
1. Some say that this choosing is simply for Christian service and not unto salvation, but this verse reveals that we are chosen unto salvation.
  2. Don't ask why God chose you to salvation; it is not a question that can be answered by Scripture except to say that he loved us for his own reason and not for anything that we are or anything we have done.
- H. 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
- I. Rev. 17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

### III. A PROSPEROUS PEOPLE

- A. Psalm 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*
- B. Mark 4:20 *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*
- C. John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
- D. Rom. 7:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

So, we are a Particular people, special to God. We are a Picked people in that we have been chosen by God before the foundation of the world to be his children. We are a Prosperous

people, because we will produce fruit unto the Kingdom of God and of Christ.

We are the People of Christ. 1 Cor. 7:23 *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.* Therefore, we are to serve Christ, because we are his children, his servants; and it is a great privilege to be so. May God prompt us by his Holy Spirit to be servants of Christ, since we are bought by his precious blood.

# The Benefit of Christ

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe – 12-3-2013

Wednesday Messages

## LESSON TWELVE – THE COMING OF CHRIST

### I. THE PREDICTION OF CHRIST'S COMING

#### A. Illustrations

1. After 14 years of studying the Bible, William Miller (1782-1849)--a U.S. revivalist who predicted the second coming and earned a large but temporary following of 50,000-100,000--became convinced that Christ would return in 1843. When Miller announced April 3 as the day, some disciples went to mountaintops, hoping for a head start to heaven. Others were in graveyards, planning to ascend in reunion with their departed loved ones. Philadelphia society ladies clustered together outside town to avoid entering God's kingdom amid the common herd. When April 4 dawned as usual the Millerites were disillusioned, but they took heart. Their leader had predicted a range of dates for Christ's return. They still had until March 21, 1844. The devout continued to make ready, but again they were disappointed. A third date--October 22, 1844--was set, but it also passed. -Today in the Word, MBI, December 20, 1991.
2. In Warren Wiersbe's *Meet Yourself in the Psalms*, he tells about a frontier town where a horse bolted and ran away with a wagon carrying a little boy. Seeing the child in danger, a young man risked his life to catch the horse and stop the wagon. The child who was saved grew up to become a lawless man, and one day he stood before a judge to be sentenced for a serious crime. The prisoner recognized the judge as the man who, years before had saved his life; so he pled for mercy on the basis of that experience. But the words from the bench silenced his plea: "Young man, then I was your savior; today I am your judge, and I must sentence you to be hanged." One day Jesus Christ will say to rebellious sinners, "During that long day of grace, I was the Savior, and I would have forgiven you. But today I am your Judge. Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire!"<sup>2</sup>

#### B. Jesus' Own Predictions

1. Jesus speaks of his second coming in some detail in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Let's read a little from each of these gospels:
  - a. Matt 24:27 *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*
  - b. Mark 13:35-37 *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/c/christ\\_second\\_coming.htm](http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/c/christ_second_coming.htm) (12-3-2013)

- c. Luke 21:28 *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*
  - 2. John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
  - 3. Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
- C. Predictions Of The Apostles
  - 1. In that day ...
    - a. Luke 10:12 *But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.*
    - b. Paul uses the same expression in 2 Tim. 1:18 *The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.*
  - 2. Day of the Lord
    - a. 2 Peter 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*
    - b. 1 Thess. 5:2 *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*
- D. Whole Books On The Subject
  - 1. 1 Thessalonians was written to warn the people of God that Christ's coming has not already happened, and there are some things in that book that Paul says must first happen before Christ comes.
  - 2. The book of Revelation is taken up with the "revelation of Jesus Christ." This is the subject matter of the book. Twenty-two chapters are taken up with the idea of Christ' coming, its importance, and the detail of it. Many of the illustrations and details in that book are difficult to understand, but we are, however, to read the book often for its blessing. Rev. 1:3 *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

## II. THE PROCESS OF CHRIST'S COMING

### A. First, Christ had to "go away."

- 1. John 16:7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*
- 2. John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- 3. Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

### B. There Must Be A Destruction Of The Temple

1. Matt 24:2 *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*
- C. There Must Be Wars and Rumors of War
  1. Matt 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*
- D. There Must Be False Christs
  1. Mark 13:22 *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*
- E. There Must Be A Falling Away & The Man of Sin Be Revealed
  1. 2 Thess 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*
  2. There are many interpretations of this verse, but whatever the meaning in particular, we know that there will be a falling away from the truth of God and love for God, as the Ephesus church in Revelation Chapter 2 left their first love, etc.
  3. We can know by the bent of our own society that there has been a great falling away. We know that people all across the world are seeking God less and less and are following other gods even as Israel of old did.
- F. There Must Be Much Sin and a Coldness Concerning God
  1. Matt 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*
- G. The Gospel Must Be Preached To All Nations
  1. Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

### III. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING

- A. He Will Come To Rapture
  1. 1 Thess 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
  2. Rev. 14:14-16 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*
- B. He Will Come To Judge
  1. 1 Peter 4:5 *Who (the lost) shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*
  2. John 12:48 *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

3. Rev. 20:11-15 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*
  4. Rev. 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*
- C. He Will Come To Reward His Saints
1. Matt 10:42 *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*
  2. Matt 5:12 *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
  3. Col. 3:24 *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*
  4. Heb. 10:35 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*
  5. Rev. 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

## CONCLUSION

So, we can be excited and confident about the Lord's coming. Notice Phil. 3:20 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: It is a great joy to know that we are one day going to be with the Lord. The greatest comfort is to know that "we shall ever be with the Lord."*

The gospel must be preached to every creature and to all nations. We should be busy about our Father's business in this matter, and we should be encouraged by his coming. We should study it often, even if we cannot make all of the details agree. We know for a fact that his coming is certain; it is coming, and it is closer than it has ever been.

**THE END**