

Back to the Basics

More About Jesus the Christ

Jesus: The Christ

Memory Verse:
1 John 5:1

In this lesson, we will delve deeper in our studies of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Let us begin with the statement that Jesus is the Christ. This fact is a crucial part of every Christian's foundation. John writes, "*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.*" (1 John 5:1)

The Greek word translated as "Christ" is *Christos*. *Christos* is defined as "anointed, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus: --- Christ." (The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words) *Christos* (Christ) is used in different ways in the New Testament, all referring to Jesus.

- q *Christos* is used as part of a proper name. In John 17:3, *Christos* is used with the proper name Jesus. "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*" Also, in 1 Corinthians 3:11, Paul writes, "*For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*"
- q *Christos* is used as a proper name. In Romans 9:5, the apostle Paul wrote, "*of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*" In 1 Corinthians 1:6, we read, "*even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you.*". One more example would be Romans 6:4, where the apostle Paul also wrote, "*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"
- q *Christos* is also used as a title. On several occasions, Jesus acknowledged that He was the Christ. Mark 14:61-62 records, "*But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' Jesus said, 'I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.'*" John writes in John 20:30-31, "*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*"
- q *Christos* referred to the long awaited Messiah, the anointed one sent from God. (It is difficult for us to appreciate the anticipation and expectation of the Jews. Not understanding the prophecies referring to the Messiah, the Jewish nation was expecting the Messiah to deliver them from their oppressors and to establish of a physical kingdom.) Because of

their expectations, many of the Jews refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed one, the Christ. However, there were some, who, when shown the truth, believed in Jesus as the Christ. In Acts 18:28, we see that Apollos, while in Achaia, “*vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is **the Christ.***”

1 John 5:1

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

Jesus: The Creator

As we begin our study of Jesus, the Creator, we must begin with the first verse in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 reads, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” Let us now consider John 1:1, which reads, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” As we have learned in previous lessons, Jesus was the Word. In the beginning, Jesus was with God and Jesus was God.

Not only was Jesus present in the beginning, He also played an active part in the creation of all things. Consider the following passages:

- Q *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* (John 1:3)
- Q *He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and the world did not know Him.* (John 1:10)
- Q *and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God **who created all things through Jesus Christ**;* (Ephesians 3:9)
- Q *For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him** and for Him. And He is before all things, and **in Him all things consist.*** (Colossians 1:16-17)
- Q *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds**;* (Hebrews 1:2)
- Q *But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom . . . **You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.**”* (Hebrews 1:8-10)

Without a doubt, the scriptures attest to Jesus being our creator. To Him, we should give our allegiance and our honor, standing in awe of His great power and might.

Jesus: The Savior

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, he said to Joseph, “. . . *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*” (Matthew 1:21) Take notice of the last part of the verse. It reads, “*He will save His people from their sins.*” Jesus came to be our Savior.

When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem, Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms and said, “*Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.*” (Luke 2:29-32) Simeon referred to Jesus as the salvation prepared for all peoples, a light to the Gentiles and the glory for the people of Israel.

On several occasions, Jesus acknowledged His purpose as Savior. Consider the following passages:

- Q *Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.**”* (Luke 5:31,32)
- Q *“For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives **but to save them.**” And they went to another village.* (Luke 9:56)
- Q *And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for **the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”* (Luke 19:9,10)

The apostles also understood that Jesus was sent to save man from sin. In Acts 3:26, Peter said, “*To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in **turning away every one of you from your iniquities.***” (Acts 3:26) Paul confirmed this fact by teaching the Corinthian brethren that God made Jesus to be sin for us so that we might become righteous. Paul wrote, “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***” (2 Corinthians 5:21) Peter explained that salvation came through the precious blood of Christ. Peter wrote, “*knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.***” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Jesus: The Redeemer

Along the same lines as Savior, Jesus is also our Redeemer. While the New Testament does not contain the word “redeemer,” it does use the word redeem. The first usage of the word redeem

is in Luke 24:13-32. In this passage, we find two people traveling to the village of Emmaus. As they talked of the events surrounding Jesus's death, Jesus appeared to them, although they did not recognize Him at first. Jesus asked the two what they were talking about. The two began to tell Jesus about Jesus of Nazareth, a Prophet who was mighty in deed and word, but whom the chief priests and rulers had put to death. In verse 21, they said to Jesus, "*But we were hoping that it was He who was going to **redeem** Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.*" (see Luke 24:13-32; cf. Galatians 4:5; Titus 2:14)

The Greek word translated as redeem is *lutroo*. The Enhanced Strong's Lexicon defines *lutroo* as, "(1) to release on receipt of ransom 2) to redeem, liberate by payment of ransom . . ." When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the ransom by which we were set free from sin. Jesus made possible our redemption. The Greek word translated as redemption is similar to redeem (*lutroo*). Redemption is translated from the Greek word *apolutrosis*. Strong defines *apolutrosis* as "(1) a releasing effected by payment of ransom 1a) redemption, deliverance 1b) liberation procured by the payment of a ransom." (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon) The Bible is replete with verses showing our redemption in Jesus Christ.

- Q *being justified freely by His grace through the **redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*** (Romans 3:24-26)
- Q *But of Him you are in **Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption*** (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Q ***In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*** (Ephesians 1:7)
- Q *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, **who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,*** (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
- Q *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, **for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*** (Hebrews 9:15)
- Q *knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*** (1 Peter 1:18-19)

This process of redemption or buying back by paying the ransom of Jesus's death, has made possible man's reconciliation with the Father in Heaven. Man is separated from God by his sins. This separation began with Adam and Eve and continues when each person chooses to walk in sin, not turning to the heavenly Father. When Jesus gave His life as the ransom for our release from our bondage to sin, He made possible our reconciliation with the God the Father.

The Greek word translated as "reconciliation" is *katallage*. The Enhanced Strong's Lexicon defines *katallage* as "(1) exchange . . . 2) adjustment of a difference, reconciliation, restoration to favour . . ." Jesus's death made possible the restoration of sinful man back to the favor of God. It is because of this reconciliation that the Hebrew writer could write, "*But without faith it is*

impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6) Also, reconciliation made possible Paul’s statement to Timothy, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” (2 Timothy 2:15)

On two different occasions, Paul wrote regarding this reconciliation between God and man. The first passage is Romans 5:8-11:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The second passage is 2 Corinthians 5:18-19:

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Jesus: The Mediator

When two sides are opposed, a mediator is needed to bring the two sides together. When man was separated from God, a mediator was needed to reconcile man back to God. This mediator was Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*” (1 Timothy 2:5) The book of Hebrews contains three references to Jesus as the mediator.

- Q *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.* (Hebrews 8:6)
- Q *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.* (Hebrews 9:15)
- Q *to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.* (Hebrews 12:24)

Jesus brought sinful man back to the Father through the establishment of a better covenant. This new covenant was empowered when Jesus, the testator, died on the cross. (cf. Hebrews 9:16-17) The new covenant makes possible the salvation of all who will call upon the name of the Lord. (cf. Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) Without the mediation of Jesus Christ, such salvation and reconciliation would not have been possible.

Ten Questions

1. What is the definition of *Christos*? _____
2. Which verse begins, “In the beginning was the Word, . . .” _____
3. Who wrote, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, . . .” _____
4. What did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph that Jesus would do? _____

5. Who came to seek and save that which was lost? _____
6. With what did Peter say we are redeemed? _____
7. Give the definition of *lutroo* (redeem). _____

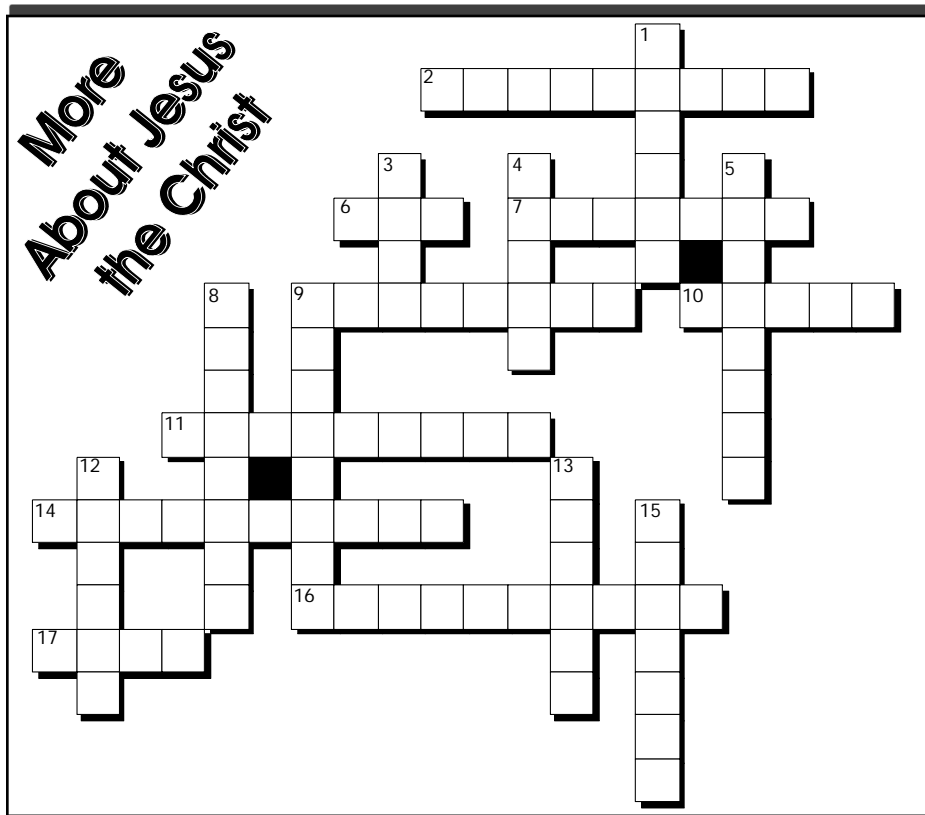
8. Who wrote, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, . . .”? _____
9. Of what is Jesus the Mediator? _____
10. “Now all things are of God, who has _____ us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the _____ of _____.”

True or False

1. T or F : Peter wrote, “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, . . .”
2. T or F : Apollos “vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”
3. T or F : All things were made through Jesus Christ.
4. T or F : Simeon said, “. . . for my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, . . .”
5. T or F : Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost.
6. T or F : Jesus appeared to four people traveling to the village of Emmaus.
7. T or F : Christians are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.
8. T or F : The apostles were given the ministry of reconciliation.
9. T or F : Jesus was the mediator of the old covenant, given by Moses.
10. T or F : Without the mediation of Jesus, salvation and reconciliation are not possible.

A Little Fun

(Use the lesson text to answer these questions.)



Across

2. "I have not come to call the _____, but sinners, to repentance."
6. "In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth."
7. This man "vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ."
9. ". . . and has given us the _____ of reconciliation, . . ."
10. "to _____ the Mediator of the new covenant, . . ."
11. ". . . You, Lord, in the _____ laid the foundation of the earth, . . ."
14. "being justified freely by His grace through the _____ that is in Christ Jesus, . . ."
16. ". . . For if when we were enemies we were _____ to God through the death of His son, . . ."
17. ". . . for the Son of Man has come to _____ and to save that which was lost."

Down

1. ". . . for He will save His _____ from their sins."
3. "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is _____ of God."
4. "But without _____ it is impossible to please Him, . . ."
5. "And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new _____, by means of death, . . ."
8. ". . . knowing that you were not _____ with corruptible things, like silver or gold, . . ."
9. ". . . inasmuch as He is also _____ of a better covenant, which was established on better promises."
12. "For by Him all things were created that are in _____ and that are on earth, . . ."
13. "Are You the _____, the Son of the Blessed?"
15. "And this is _____ life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Passages in this Lesson

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|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Genesis 1:1 | pg 68 | 1 Corinthians 1:6 | pg 67 |
| Joel 2:32 | pg 71 | 1 Corinthians 1:30 | pg 70 |
| Matthew 1:21 | pg 69 | 1 Corinthians 3:11 | pg 67 |
| Mark 14:61-62 | pg 67 | 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 | pg 71 |
| Luke 2:29-32 | pg 69 | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | pg 69 |
| Luke 5:31,32 | pg 69 | Galatians 4:5 | pg 70 |
| Luke 9:56 | pg 69 | Ephesians 1:7 | pg 70 |
| Luke 19:9,10 | pg 69 | Ephesians 3:9 | pg 68 |
| Luke 24:13-32 | pg 70 | Colossians 1:16-17 | pg 68 |
| Luke 24:21 | pg 70 | 1 Timothy 2:5 | pg 71 |
| John 1:1 | pg 68 | 1 Timothy 2:5-6 | pg 70 |
| John 1:3 | pg 68 | 2 Timothy 2:15 | pg 71 |
| John 1:10 | pg 68 | Titus 2:14 | pg 70 |
| John 17:3 | pg 67 | Hebrews 1:2 | pg 68 |
| John 20:30-31 | pg 67 | Hebrews 1:8-10 | pg 68 |
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| Acts 3:26 | pg 69 | Hebrews 9:15 | pg 70,71 |
| Acts 18:28 | pg 68 | Hebrews 9:16-17 | pg 71 |
| Romans 3:24-26 | pg 70 | Hebrews 11:6 | pg 71 |
| Romans 5:8-11 | pg 71 | Hebrews 12:24 | pg 71 |
| Romans 6:4 | pg 67 | 1 Peter 1:18-19 | pg 69,70 |
| Romans 9:5 | pg 67 | 1 John 5:1 | pg 67,68 |