

Twelve Lessons

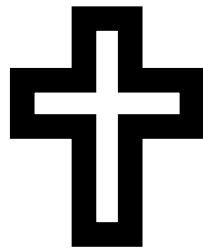
on

The Works of Christ

Compiled and Written

by

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CONTENTS

1. THE INCARNATION: CHRIST REVEALING THE FATHER.....4

2. THE INCARNATION: CHRIST BECOMING A FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST.....7

3. THE INCARNATION: CHRIST THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.....10

4. CHRIST: THE THREE APPEARINGS OF CHRIST.....13

5. THE INCARNATION: TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.....16

6. THE INCARNATION: TO GIVE US AN EXAMPLE OF A HOLY LIFE.....19

7. THE INCARNATION: AS PROPHET.....22

8. THE INCARNATION: AS KING.....25

9. HIS DEATH.....27

10. THE RESURRECTION.....30

11. THE ASCENSION AND EXALTATION OF CHRIST.....23

12. THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS.....35

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THE INCARNATION: CHRIST REVEALING THE FATHER – LESSON 1

Introduction: One of the missions of Christ was to reveal the Father – Matt. 11:27 “*All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*” In fact in John 17:6 Jesus said “*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.*” The word “name” is often used to designate the person. The word “name” here includes the attributes or character of the Father. Jesus had made known His character, His law, His will, His plan of mercy – or, in other words, he had revealed the Father to them

Lesson Goals:

1. Explain the purpose of Christ in revealing the Father.
2. To understand the different manners in which Christ revealed the Father.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Preeminence – Precedence; priority of place; superiority in rank or dignity.
2. Omnipresence – A theological term that refers to the unlimited nature of God or His ability to be everywhere at all times.

Matthew 16:13-16

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS NAME

A. His Church Proclaimed Him – Christ – Matt. 16:16 – “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (“the” excludes all others). The Greek for “Christ” is *Christos* – anointed – It is a Greek translation of the Hebrew word for ‘Messiah’.

B. His Converts Proclaimed Him – John 6:69 – “*And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*” This was the proclamation of the twelve.

C. His Crew Proclaimed Him – Matt. 14:33 – “*Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth, thou art the Son of God.*” You can’t worship until the wind ceases. His coming on board, caused the wind to cease.

D. His Comforted Proclaimed Him – John 11:27 – “*I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*” This was the proclamation of Martha just prior to the resurrection of Lazarus.

E. His Called Proclaimed Him – Acts 9:20 – “*And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*” This was the proclamation of Paul after his conversion and calling.

II. THE PREEMINENCE OF HIS NAME

A. The Inevitability of Jesus – It is impossible to avoid Him. Try to explain Him away by saying He is someone or something He’s not but He will not be avoided. Neither will He have secret disciples, a man must fearlessly confess to others what he believes.

B. The Inclusiveness of Jesus – This was not just a personal opinion – Disciples, Martha, Paul, Centurion (Matt. 27:54); Beggar (John 9:35-38)

C. The Exclusiveness of Jesus

1. Any preacher who does not present Christ is a false prophet.
2. Any cause unrelated to the kingdom of Christ is undeserving.
3. Any person who does not love the Lord cannot be a citizen of God’s country.

III. THE PROGRESSIVENESS OF HIS NAME – The name “Lord Jesus Christ” is progressive. In the Old Testament, God was shrouded behind a veil. The sin of Adam put a wall between Holy God and sinful man. Israel knew little about God and nothing about the Son or the Holy Ghost. All they learned about God was through what the High Priest told them. Jesus came to reveal the Father as the Holy Spirit today is revealing the Son.

A. In the Old Testament God is revealed as Creator and Governor – Ps. 103:13-14 – “*Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*”

1. “Father” in the Hebrew means chief, principle.
2. “Father” in the Greek means parent. I believe the difference in these two definitions is the difference in the O.T. and N.T. views of God as Father. In the O.T. He is unapproachable by the individual but Christ made the Father approachable.

B. Christ Came to Reveal the Father

1. Through the Testimony of the Saints – Matt. 5:16 – “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may*

- see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*"
- a. A shining light is also a guiding light. An incoming pilot knows where to direct his plane, for the avenue of illumination charts his course.
 - b. "Glorify" means the lost man will "highly esteem" God. The world sees a difference in the life of the true believer.
2. Through the Prayers of the Saints – Matt. 6:6 – *"...pray to thy Father which is in secret."*
 - a. Prayer is taking hold of the bell ropes and pulling so hard that all heaven becomes aware that someone on earth is needing assistance. Illustrate – Years ago towns had a bell located in the midst for alerting everybody a fire was burning out of control and someone needed help.
 - b. That secret place is not necessarily meaning "getting alone with God." The "secret" was the "Mercy Seat" behind the veil. I believe the meaning is "knowing how to pray" and "how to get to God" and it is only through the blood; sins covered and sins confessed. Illustrate: I knew how to get Dad to let me borrow the car on Saturday night; go through mother. The world sees a supernatural answer to the believer's prayer.
 3. Through the Care of the Saints – Matt. 10:29 – *"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."* A farthing was 1/10 of a Roman penny. Luke 12:6 – Five sparrows were sold for 2 farthings, one extra bird was thrown in free. Really it was worthless but if it fell to the ground, God cared about it. The world sees we endure suffering better than they do.
 4. Through the Power of the Saviour – John 1:18 – *"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."* Here we see the Omnipresence of the Son. He is definitely on earth talking to His disciples but at the same time He says He *"is in the bosom of the Father."*
 - a. John 10:30 – *"I and my Father are one."*
 - b. John 10:38 – *"But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."*
 - c. John 14:11 – *"Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."* Everyone but Christ did miracles in the power of another but Christ did His miracles in the energy of Himself.
 5. Through the Sufficiency of the Saviour – John 14:6-9 – vs. 8 – *"Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us."* The point behind this discussion is that if they would see that He and the Father were one, it would be enough. He's more than a fire escape – He's my Father.
 6. Through the Love of the Saviour – John 16:27 – *"For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."* Loveth – means keeps on loving. Luke 15 – I can hear the Elder Brother say, "Why do you put up with him, I'd turn him out and have nothing more to do with him." I can hear the Father say, "You see, he's your brother but he's my boy."
 - a. A Father knows the exact amount of love and discipline.
 - b. "I spanked a little boy last night, I thought that I was doing right,
I only punished a little boy, As a shield from things that might destroy.
Today I bought a ball and kite, For some little boy I spanked last night,
I bought marbles, tops and everything, To counteract some of my harsh punishing.
You see, through tears my little lad, Tried hard to smile, and then he said,
'Dad, will spanking make me good like you?' Oh, I think you'd have bought some toys, too.
 7. Through the Supply of the Saviour – Matt. 6:8 – *"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."* – Verses 25-34
 8. Through the Trust of the Believer – Matt. 7:11 – Luke 11:13 – *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*
 - a. Act like children – In getting saved – Satan is too much of a match for us, run and jump into the arms of our Father.
 - b. He didn't say "your God" but "your Father" emphasizing the loving relationship existing between a heavenly Father and children whom He loves intensely. They were not to approach Him with fear and apprehension. Their father was a multimillionaire and was exceedingly generous. Their Father's attitude is governed by love and wisdom. This makes the child trusting when the Father says no and grateful when He gives.
 9. Through the Birth of the Believer – John 3:3 – We have to be born into God's family. A Father produces.

- G. Campbell Morgan says concerning this revelation of the Fatherhood of God: “This manifestation wins the submission of the reason; appeals to the love of the heart; demands the surrender of the will.”
10. Through the Compassion of the Saviour – Ps. 68:5 – *“A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.”*
 11. Through the Creation of the Saint – Is. 64:8 – *“But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”* Physically, we are genetically made. Spiritually, we are re-gened. I can no more change my spiritual make-up than I can change my physical make-up. Physically, I am limited by my genetic make-up but spiritually, I am not limited.
 12. Through the Faith of the Saint – Rom. 8:15 – *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*
 13. Through the Wisdom of the Saviour – A Father always knows what to say. A Father has faith in the time of adversity. Illustrate about the farmer and his boy looking over a destroyed grain crop. The boy expected to hear words of despair from his father but instead he began to sing, “Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.”