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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The question for almost two thousand years is, who is Jesus Christ? Some have called him a good man, others a great teacher, still others a divine being and for many an object of cursing and hatred. But for those who have trusted him as their Savior, he is the Son of the Most High God, very God himself. This introductory study in the book of John is a synopsis on the person of Jesus Christ and is designed for the purpose of not only the edification of believers in Christ, but also for the evangelism of the unsaved, either in the context of the pulpit, the Sunday School class, or the home.

1. Christ is the Word.

“In the beginning was the Word” John 1:1a

Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. He is the sum of all wisdom and all truth. He is known as the Logos, the Word, the Truth and the Word of God. *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me.”* John 14:26 *“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”* Revelation 19:13

Christ existed in the beginning, that was not the beginning, with both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, coequal and co eternal with the other two members of the godhead. If you could take all the knowable of the omniscient God and put it into human form you would have Jesus Christ!

This concept of the Word of God becomes pivotal when someone believes on Christ as their Savior, for after their salvation the Word of God becomes paramount in their life. So much so, that Christ and his Word defines their existence in their post salvation experience to the place that their souls have to have the teaching, (Bible Doctrine), of God's Word.

2. Christ was with God the Father.

“And the Word was with God,” John 1:1b

The word for *with* here is *pros* and it denotes a face to face relationship. So what this tells us is that Christ was there with God the Father on a face to face personal relationship basis in the beginning, which was not the beginning of all things, such as: angels, men, the creation of the universe, etc., but **in the beginning of all things in eternity past before anything else existed.**

Pros, and other passages, denotes the concept that Christ is coequal with God. As Christ stated, *“I and my Father are one.”* John 10:30 The Jews knew that he was claiming to be God that's why they wanted to stone him. And because Christ was in the beginning with the Father that makes him coeternal with the Father. *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”* John 8:58

3. Jesus Christ was and is God in the flesh.

“And the Word was God.” John 1:1c

It is very clear in this passage that Jesus Christ is God himself in the flesh. Not that he was *a* god, but that he was incarnate deity, which was made clear by many other passages.

John the Baptist's message in the wilderness was, “*As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*” Luke 3:4 The subject of his message was Jesus Christ and he referred to him as the Lord. The Greek has his title, Lord, as *kurios*, but he quotes from Isaiah 40:3, “*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*”, which the original has *the Lord* as, *Yahweh*, יהוה .

This is as clear as it can get, **the Jesus Christ in the NT is the Yahweh in the OT!** Even his name Jesus, which is translated as Savior, in the Greek is *Iesous*, which comes from the Hebrew *Yehshua*, which when broken down comes from two words: Yah – the name of God, and Shua – salvation. And when combined together it meant that this man was Yah's salvation for mankind!

Christ is God, not a divine being, as some are in error about. The differences of divine beings and deity are: the *elohim* in heaven, even though they are extremely powerful, they are not all powerful; even though they have existed for extremely long periods of “time”, they have not existed from eternity past; even though they have vast amounts of knowledge, they do not possess all knowledge; and even though they may have the ability to produce things, they do not have the ability to create something out of nothing. And they do not possess self intrinsic life, as God does. Deity is not dependent on any external source for life. For a fuller development, go to, “Celestial Beings”, at www.pacificrimbible.com.

4. Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things.

“*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*” John 1:3

The *all things* here, *panta*, refers to the material universe, earth included, man, which he placed on the earth, and the entire angelic creation, also known as the celestial beings. Jesus Christ, the second member of the trinity, in his preincarnate existence, was the instrumental agency by which all that exists outside the godhead came into existence.

By him all things were created and he is the one who holds everything together. “*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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*” Colossians 1:16,17

5. Eternal life is found only in him.

“*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*” John 1:4

Eternal life deals with the life that exists beyond physical death. It is not only life after death, but life that continues on forever. Everyone wants to live forever, but what most fail to see that eternal life is vested in one man, Jesus Christ the Son of God, and **he gives it to those who believe on him**. “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*” John 10:28

Christ was granted the authority to give eternal life to those who trust him as their Savior by the Father. “*As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*” John 17:2 We must believe on Christ to live eternally.

6. Christ is the light of the world.

“And the life was the light of men.” [John 1:4b](#)

When the incarnate Word of God came into the world of men, he revealed to us righteousness and truth, and he revealed to us, God. But men hated him because their deeds were evil. *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” [John 3:19](#)*

The world is put as darkness, the unsaved of this world are put as darkness, but Christ, the incarnate truth, comes into the world as a beacon of light. So what is our attitude toward Christ? What is our attitude toward the truth? Do we love the truth of God's Word?

7. The world did not know him.

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” [John 1:10](#)

How sad is this statement. Jesus Christ created the world; he created man and put him on it; man rebelled against his Creator and sinned; and thousands of years later here he is on the earth walking among his creatures and no one knew him personally; they didn't even recognize him.

8. Rejected by his own people.

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” [John 1:11](#)

Jesus Christ was an Israelite, born of the virgin Mary, descended from David, belonging to the tribe of Judah, the king of Israel. There was nothing about his appearance as a man that would say that he was the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel; he looked like any other Israelite, but there was something about him that revealed that he was different than all the rest when he opened his mouth and spoke. When he spoke he spoke the truth, he spoke the words of the one true God! *“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.” [Isaiah 53:2](#)*

But the nation rejected him. Why? Because he was on the side of the truth and they weren't. Their deeds were evil and they lived in darkness. They did not want the truth. So they rejected him and chose a thief instead and turned Jesus over to be crucified! He told them that he wanted to give them eternal life, but they would not come to him. *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” [John 5:39,40](#)*

9. Jesus Christ is the grantor of eternal life.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:” [John 1:12](#)

We receive Jesus Christ as our Savior by believing in him, even just believing on his name. Many people mistakenly think that they have to work for their salvation, or have some moral quality about them to be saved, but what they need to see is that forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life is just that, a gift that is received by faith.

Christ was granted all power and authority by the Father when he came to earth. **Power** is *dunamis*, and **authority** is *exousia*. *Dunamis* refers to the actual energy, power, or strength needed to accomplish something; while *exousia*, authority, look as the legal right to exercise that power. Christ was given the authority to raise the dead and to give eternal life to them by the Father. And he was also given the power to raise the dead, which he will, when he returns to earth.

“To as many as received him, [through faith in him], to them he gave the authority, [exousia – the legal right], to become, [ginomai – to become something that you were not before], the sons of God, even to them that [just] believe on his name.”

10. Jesus Christ is God incarnate.

“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.” John 1:14

Jesus Christ, (his human name), existed from eternity past at the right hand of the Father, very God, the second member of the trinity. Many times he appeared on earth in human form and was known as *Yahweh*. But taking the form of a human being is not the same as **becoming** a human being, a man, who was born of the virgin, Mary.

The second member of the trinity left his throne at the right hand of the Father on high and entered into the human race as a man, He lived as a man, died as a man and was resurrected as a man and given his resurrection body, now glorified, and exists now as a glorified man forever.

11. He brought grace and truth to us.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

When Moses lived on the earth, he brought the Law to the nation of Israel under the Old Covenant. But when Christ came to earth he brought grace and truth to us. The Law was given to Israel through the instrumental agency of Moses, but the grace and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ. John 1:14 says that he was full of, the absolute infinite maximum of, grace and truth, *“full of grace and truth.”*

What this tells us is that Jesus Christ was and is the embodiment of grace and truth. Grace and truth to many are abstract concepts. And to explain them, or display them, in such a way there needs to be a concrete representation in human form that we can understand.

For example, how do we define love? We can define it by an exhausted mother staying up late at night with a sick child. Or, we can define it by the soldier who puts his own life in jeopardy to protect his fellow soldiers. Or, we can define it by the epitome of love where Christ died on the cross bearing the penalty for our sins!

So how do we understand God? First of all, finite man cannot comprehend the infinite God. But when we look at Christ we can see God. The person of Jesus Christ defines to us the concepts of: love, compassion, patience, mercy, gentleness, kindness, forgiveness and grace and truth. He is the embodiment and epitome of all these things.

12. Christ is our sin bearer.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

Jesus Christ knew no sin. He did not sin with his mind, his mouth, or his body. He was sinless in every respect, yet he was crucified on that cruel cross as a sinner. And that was because the Father laid on him all the sins of the world, making him our sin bearer, and he bore the punishment for our sins. *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2*

Remember, the wages of sin is death. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23* This death was passed on to all mankind because of the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden. *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:17* And when Christ died he was paying the penalty for the sins that we had committed!

13. Christ is the Savior of the world.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16,17 This is why the title Savior is applied to Jesus Christ and only to Jesus Christ.

As mentioned earlier, the name Jesus came from the Hebrew, *Yehshua*, which translated means “*Yah's Salvation*”. And when the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream he was told that the child's name was to be, Jesus. *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*

And all people have to do to be saved is believe on Jesus Christ, that he died for their sins, that he was raised from the dead and to call on his name for forgiveness. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*
“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13

14. Christ's mission on earth was to do the Father's will.

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” John 6:38

From birth on every single human being is centered around doing their own will; people want their way. Every student of the Bible knows that this self-willedness began with Lucifer. *“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isaiah 14:13,14* But when Jesus Christ came to earth there was finally someone who wanted, and did, the will of God on earth.

The fact that Christians want to do God's will for our lives after we have become saved is due solely to a regenerated nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit. *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13*

15. Christ will resurrect those who have believed on him.

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” [John 6:40,44](#)

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins; his victorious resurrection from the dead; his ascension into heaven to be at the right hand of the Father on high, and his returning to earth to raise up from the dead all those who have believed on him are the key doctrines of Christianity. These are the things that set us apart from all religions.

Among the various member groups in Christianity there are differences of opinions, (they call theology), as to whether Christ will return to earth before a seven year tribulation, or after it, some say there will be no tribulation. But there is one thing that all agree upon and that is Jesus Christ is returning to earth to raise the dead and establish his earthly millennial kingdom.

Our resurrection from the dead, the receiving of an eternal glorified body and living in glory with Jesus Christ for all eternity is the hope of all Christians. *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” [Titus 2:13](#) “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” [1 John 3:3](#)*

16. Christ is preparing our home in heaven for us at this time.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” [John 14:1,2](#)

The Semitic custom for many people was to have a large home with a surrounding wall for privacy and security, a central court yard for gathering and socializing, and around the perimeter of the court yard were the various rooms, sort of like apartments, where the sons and daughters of the father lived with their respective spouses and children. One large house, but with many rooms.

Now the word for *prepare* is *hetoimazo* didn't mean to build, for the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, is already built, but it meant to prepare a room, sort of like when you have someone to visit with you, or a family member move in.

The description of the New Jerusalem is found in [Revelation 21,22](#) and is mind boggling to say the least. The entire city is made of the purest diamond and its walls are around two hundred forty feet thick and fifteen hundred miles high! The outer wall is made up of twelve different precious stones and the twelve gates are made of twelve pearls of immense size.

If our homes, *apartments*, are in the walls, then they could be around one hundred feet wide, two hundred feet long, and five stories high! One side would look in at the inner *court yard* where the Father and the Son are in all their glory, and the other side would look out at the entire universe!

We can only guess at what all of it looks like, but it sure is wonderful to think about it! And this is what Christ is preparing right now for every single person who puts their faith in him. **Our very own eternal home specifically designed by Jesus Christ for each individual's tastes and personality.**

17. Christ is returning to earth to raise the dead.

“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.” John 14:3

In the story of Martha's brother, Lazarus, he had become sick and as the result died. By the time that the word about Lazarus had reached the Lord, and he got to where had been placed, four days had passed. In her grief she told the Lord that if had been there her brother wouldn't had died. But the Lord told her that he would rise again.

Now Martha believed in the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead at some future time in history, for it had been taught and believed throughout Israel for centuries. *“Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” John 11:24* But what she had not grasped is that the one who resurrects the dead was standing there before her and he could do it at any time that he chose! *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” John 11:25*

The resurrection of the dead was a doctrine unique to Israel. Everyone on earth has wondered what happens to people when they die. Some individuals believe that when they die, they're dead like a dog and that's the end of it. Others believe that they're reincarnated into other people, or animals. Many in that day believed that when they died their soul went to another galaxy, or into another dimension. But the people of God believed that the soul would be raised up into a body, after which they would be judged to determine whether they would inherit everlasting life or punishment. And the One who will raise the dead and judge them is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

18. Christ gives his peace to those who believe in him.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

The first thing that we want to note is that Christ's peace is given to those who have trusted him as their Savior and only to them. He has not given it to the people of the world. This peace is one of the things that sets us apart from the unsaved of the world, and it is found in the sphere of the spiritual life dynamic as we are filled by the Holy Spirit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,” Galatians 5:22*

The next thing we want to note is that there is a “peace” found in the world, but it is more the idea of a calmness or tranquility, more from the absence of agitation, than the presence of something. Many practitioners of various religions and the sort experience this sort of calmness, but it is not the same as the presence of the peace of Christ which is beyond comprehension.

The next thing we want to note about this is that Christ did not create a separate or different kind of peace that he was going to give to those who believe in him, a kind of junior peace, or a peace designed just for human beings, but this peace he gives us is the very peace of Christ himself. It is the very spiritual atmosphere that he has existed in from eternity past! And as a side note, **it is this peace of Christ that is both the prevention and cure for stress!** The KJV word for *troubled* here, *tarasso*, is the same idea that we have for the concept of stress today.

19. Jesus Christ is hated by the world.

“But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.” John 15:25

The word for *hatred* is *miseo* and it speaks of the most negative, violent, evil emotion that people can have. It is the emotion that drives people to the act of murder. And it leaves one stunned, taken aback, to think that mankind could hate the one who created it, such is the tragedy and horror of the sinful state of fallen man in its present unregenerated state. But what this shows is that the world not only hates Jesus Christ, it hates the Father also! *“He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.” John 15:23,24*

Many people claim to worship the true God, but the God they claim to worship is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they hate! So, can they really be true worshipers of the one true God when they hate his Son? **No!** *“Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.” NIV John 8:54*

The world not only hates the Son and hates the Father, but it also hates those who believe on the Son. *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18* The Apostle John wrote to fellow believers about this phenomenon of being hated by the world. They couldn't understand why there was so much vitriolic hatred toward them and Christ. *“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” 1 John 3:13* The word for *marvel* here is *thaumazo* and meant to be shocked, taken back in your tracks by being the object of one's hatred.

Many religious practitioners today are driven by hatred, and usually a hatred of Jesus Christ and his followers. Have they ever thought about the idea that the true God actually is a God of love, not a God of hatred? There is a god of hatred, but he's the devil. And whatever the *love* they are able to exude is a pseudo love, a faked love, a phony love. The letters of the Apostle John go into detail about what it means to operate by true love, such as, if we are truly born again, born from above, then we will truly love God, and we will manifest this love by loving one another, or loving fellow Christians.

20. Christ prayed to the Father concerning us.

*“I pray for them: **I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.**” John 17:9*

The first thing that we note is that Christ's prayer is only for the elect, those who had already believed on him as their Savior, and those who would believe on him down the road of time. *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;” John 17:20* We also want to note that these men receive Bible Doctrine, or the Word of God. *“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.” John 17:8*

The next thing we note is that these men had been given to Christ by the Father, *“them which thou hast given me”*. We see it in John 17:2, *“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”* And John 6:37, *“All that the Father giveth me **shall come to me**; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

21. Christ died for our sins.

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” John 19:30

The pivotal doctrine that separates Christianity from religion, (Christianity is not a religion), all the religions of the world, is the doctrine that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, incarnate deity himself, suffered and died on the cross for our sins. That is, in his death he paid the penalty for our sins thus satisfying the righteous justice of God. *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

The reason why is, because it was through the transgression of Adam that, when he disobeyed God in the Garden, sin entered into the human race and so death came upon all mankind. *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12*

Adam was free to do anything he wanted to do on earth. The only thing he couldn't do is eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He disobeyed God and ate from it and fell under the curse of death as the result of his transgression. *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:17*

The legal indictment of sinner, and the consequence of death, judgment and Hell, also passed on to all Adam's descendants, unto all the human race, for we all proceeded from Adam and we have all sinned against God. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23*

But Christ died for us; he died as our substitute, that is, he took our place and bore the penalty for our sin against God – and died! Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, and he becomes our personal Savior when we believe on him. *“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” 1 John 4:14*

22. Christ was raised from the dead.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

John's account of the resurrection of Christ goes from John 20:9-20, but the doctrine of Christ's resurrection is found throughout the entire NT. *“But God **raised** him from the dead:” Acts 13:30 “Knowing that Christ being **raised** from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.” Romans 6:9 “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he **raised** from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thessalonians 1:10*

Now some understand this only to be Christ coming back to life, but this is an incomplete understanding of what actually took place. When Christ died, there was his spiritual separation from the Father and his physical death, which was the separation of his soul from his body, whereupon his soul went down into Hades for three days and three nights. His resurrection was his soul being raised up from Hades to join his resurrection body in the tomb.

23. Christ ascended into heaven.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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.” Acts 1:9-11

This is known as the **ascension** of Christ, where Christ ascended into heaven, or the *anabasis* of Christ. The *katabasis* of Christ is Christ coming down from his throne in heaven at the right hand of the Father, down to earth as a man, and on down into Hades. The *anabasis* of Christ is Christ coming up from Hades, to the surface of the earth, and on into heaven back to his throne at the right hand of the Father. And also as the **exaltation** of Christ, where Christ is seated, once again, at the right hand of the Father on high, only now as a glorified man. *“Wherefore God also hath highly **exalted** him, and given him a name which is above every name.” Philippians 2:9*

This is what God did to counter the ancient strategy of Lucifer to take God's throne away from him, when he said that he would put his throne above the throne of *Yahweh*. *“For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.” Isaiah 14:13***

Lucifer wanted to ascend into heaven, ascend the heavenly Mt. Zion and depose the Almighty from his throne! But God addressed this and rebuked him in Psalm 24:3,4, when he said, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”* What Lucifer wanted to take by force, God gave to his Son!

24. Christ is our eternal High Priest.

“Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” Hebrews 6:20 “(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)” Hebrews 7:21

A priest represents God to man, and man to God. Under the old covenant the priests were taken from the tribe of Levi and out of all those priests there was one priest who was selected by God to be the chief priest, or the high priest, who could go into the very presence of God, into the Holy of Holies with sacrifices and offerings. To be a priest in those days you had to be of a certain race, the race of Israel; you had to be male, no females allowed in the priesthood; and you had to be without physical defects or deformities.

But in the Melchizedean priesthood you could be male or female, of any race, and physical abnormalities were not an issue. This priesthood opened the door for all Church Age believers in Christ to become the priests of God. The NT teaches that all Church Age believers in Christ, both male and female, from all races and tribes, are priests of the Most High God and Christ is our High Priest. *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5*

25. Christ is our defense attorney.

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* 1 John 2:1

The word *advocate* is *parakletos*, παρακλητον, and actually referred to one's defense attorney in a court of law. In a court of law there were four persons in view and the law. There was the law, the prosecuting attorney, the accused, his defense attorney and the judge.

We have this same thing going on in heaven today. We have the law, where any violation of it is called sin; we have the prosecuting attorney, who is the devil; we have those who are charged with violating God's righteous standards, that's us; we have our defense attorney, Jesus Christ; and we have God the righteous judge of all.

Christians do sin after they're saved. God doesn't want us to sin, but we do sin in one area or another. Even those who claim, or think, they don't sin any more, or have reached some state of sinless perfection in their Christian walk, still sin; they just don't know it. There are mental sins, emotional sins, (in 7 categories of emotions), sins of various lusts, (over 25 categories of them), sins of the tongue, sins of pride, sins of overt acts, and whatsoever is not of faith is sin!

And whenever we sin, Satan brings an accusation before God seeking for God to condemn us. *“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the **accuser** of our brethren is cast down, which **accused** them before our God day and night.”* Revelation 12:10

To *accuse* is *kategoreo* and it means to bring a charge of wrongdoing before the judge. So the devil is constantly watching and waiting for us to sin. He even brings temptation around trying to tempt us to sin, and once we do, if we do sin, then he runs back to God with a charge of wrongdoing. The matter is now in the court of God, and even though God is our Father, he is still the righteous judge of all and he must hear the case against us brought to him by the devil.

Now our Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous One, enters into the courtroom scene as our defense attorney. The merits of the case are not argued – we did do that sin. But the argument is that Christ has already paid the penalty for that sin and the case is dismissed from court. God now switches from his role as judge to his role as our Father and he may very well deal with us as errant children and bring in some fatherly discipline to train us to change our ways!

26. Christ is alive forever more.

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Revelation 1:17,18

When the Apostle John saw the Lord he saw him in all his resurrected glory, as he describes in the passage. The sight so overwhelmed him he fell at his feet as if he had died. The Lord then told him that he had died, but now he was alive forever, into the ages of the ages, and that **he** had the keys to hell and death. It is Christ that holds mankind's eternal future in his hands!

27. Eternal life comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

*“And this is the record, that God hath **given** to us eternal life, and this life is **in** his Son. He that hath the Son **hath** life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13*

So many people out there are mistakenly working to have eternal life, or hoping to gain eternal life by their morality or good works, but what they don't realize, even though the Bible is very clear on this matter, is that eternal life cannot be earned; it is a **gift** of God's grace to us and it comes to us only through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Jesus Christ is eternal. Yes he died physically, and was spiritually separated from the Father, but he was resurrected from the dead and is alive now forevermore. And if we have Christ in us, through faith in him, then we have Christ's eternal life in us. If we have not believed on Christ, then we do not have Christ in us, and we don't have eternal life.

John also addresses this passage to those who have believed on Christ as their Savior, but who think that they can lose their salvation, or have no assurance that they are saved. He says that God wants you to **know** that you have eternal life. Not guess that you do! Not hope that you do! But to **know** that you have eternal life! And not at some time in the future, but **now**!

God wants us to know that our eternal future lies not in the hands of some man here on earth, nor in some religious institution, but only in the person of Jesus Christ! It is only Jesus Christ who holds the keys to hell, death and eternity. And we have eternity living within us right now because we have believed on Christ as our Savior and God wants us to **know** that!

28. Jesus Christ is our only Savior.

*“To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ **our Saviour**.” Titus 1:4 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

29. Jesus Christ will judge all men upon his return to earth.

*“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;” 2 Timothy 4:1 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the **judgment**.” Hebrews 9:27*

30. Christ is the heir of all things.

*“For the promise, that he should be the **heir** of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed **heir** of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” Hebrews 1:2*

Pastor Mike