What We Believe

Lesson 3

The Person and Work of Christ

*John 1:1-2, 14* | *Colossians 1:14-20*

Introduction: Today we are going take a closer look at who Jesus is and what His work is. Jesus is unlike any other figure in human history. He is unique in this universe. What you decide about who Jesus is will determine so much about how you live your life, and furthermore what you will experience after this life. As with all of the beliefs we hold dear at Hillcrest Baptist Church, we must be certain that what we believe comes from the Word of God. One thing that is clear by reading the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is that the men who were closest to Him did not grasp the enormity of the person with them until late in His ministry. It was not until He had ascended to heaven that they began to see who they had been following. Only through studying the scriptures can we adequately understand who He is.

**The Person and Work of Christ**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)
4. Christ, the eternal God, became a man for us.
	1. He was conceived by a virgin birth. Luke 1:35
	2. This miraculous event marked His entrance into the world, but not his beginning.
	3. Christ has always been, is, and always will be.
		1. John 1:1, 12
		2. Genesis 1:1
		3. Revelation 22:13
	4. Christ was not created, all things were created by Him.
		1. Colossians 1:16-17
	5. In coming to the world He became 100% man.
5. His coming to this world was for a single purpose.
	1. John 3:16 tells us very clearly the reason God gave His Son.
	2. Matthew 20:28 … to give His life a ransom for many.
	3. 1 Corinthians 15:2-3 Scripture testifies to His purpose.
	4. 1 Peter 2:24 His suffering is the only means by which we have a hope in heaven.
6. His willingness to die for us had nothing to do with us, but everything to do with His nature.
	1. 1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.
	2. Romans 5:8,10 But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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.

Transition: His death was a powerful manifestation of His love for us, but His work did not end there, He had yet to manifest His power over death.

IV. The power of Christ is in the resurrection.

a. Christianity stands alone among all other religions in the belief of the resurrection.

b. 1 Corinthians 15:14-15 explain very clearly that without the resurrection our faith is vain.

c. This was central to the message of the apostles. Acts 2:24, 1 Peter 1:21

d. Our belief in His work is the key to eternal life. Romans 10:9-10

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,* ***and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead****, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Transition: Praise God for what He did for us! What His death, burial, and resurrection are the reasons we are saved. But His work is not just something that happened 2000 years ago, He is as work in our lives today.

V. He is working now in and for believers.

a. He is active preparing a place for us.

 i. John 14:2 His work is done in anticipation for our arrival in heaven.

b. In spite of our failures, He is active interceding for us.

 i. Romans 8:34 His case is not based on our goodness, but on His sinless sacrifice.

 ii. Hebrews 7:25 There is nothing that Christ cannot save us from.

Conclusion: When we study the person and work of our Savior, one thing is blaringly obvious; His great love. He came here because of love, He died because of love, He rose again because of love, He is working now because of love. How can we see these things about our Lord and not be thankful. We have every reason in the world to be safe and secure in God’s love for us. He leaves us an example of a life motivated primarily by love. Commit this morning to follow His example, He has shown us such great love, how can you show Him you are thankful for that love?