

The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

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Who, in your opinion, is the most outstanding personality of all time? I have posed this question to people of many religions, even atheists and Communists around the world. The answer from all knowledgeable people is always the same: “Jesus of Nazareth.”

She had been born into a non-Christian religion and was a dedicated atheist and committed Communist, demanding the violent overthrow of our government.

I asked her, “Who is the greatest person who has ever lived? Who in all of history has done the most good for mankind?”

There was a long awkward silence and finally a reluctant reply, “I guess I would have to say Jesus of Nazareth.”

People of every religion, if they know the facts, acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the unique personality of all time.

Visit any part of the world and talk to people of any religion. No matter how devout they may be or how committed to their religion, IF they know anything of the facts, they too will have to acknowledge that

there has never been a man like Jesus of Nazareth. He is the unique personality of all time.

He is the One who has changed the whole course of history. History is His story. Remove Jesus of Nazareth from history, and it would be a completely different story.

Consider today's date on your calendar. It gives witness to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth lived on the earth. B.C. means "Before Christ," and A.D., anno Domini, is the Latin phrase translated "in the year of our Lord."

No other person has influenced the world for good more than Jesus Christ. Wherever His true message has gone, great changes have taken place in the lives of men and nations.

A long list could be made of such outstanding scholars who devoutly followed Christ.

It is true that there are men – among them some of the world's most honored scholars – who do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior.

Many cynics and skeptics deny the claims of Christ.

ACCEPTING THE TRUTH

I have yet to meet a man who has honestly considered the overwhelming evidence concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who does not admit that He is the Son of God. While some do not believe, they are honest in confessing, "I have not taken the time to read the Bible or consider the historical facts concerning Jesus." Their attitude is founded

upon an unfortunate childhood experience, the inconsistency of some Christian, or perhaps the influence of a college professor; but they admit that they have not honestly and sincerely considered the person of Jesus Christ and His claims on their lives.

Jesus Christ promises to all who place their trust in Him to be with them always, never to leave them or forsake them. Of all the great, life-changing truths contained in the Bible, the most meaningful to me is that my body is a temple of God and the living, loving Lord, Jesus Christ, actually dwells within me.

Not only is Jesus the Son of God, He also can do things for us that no one else can do. I want to concentrate on four of these.

First, He is the only One who can pardon man from his sin. Second, He alone can give purpose for life. Third, He alone can give peace to a troubled heart. Fourth, and finally, only Jesus can give us power to live an abundant life.

JESUS PARDON SIN

The Bible tells us that God is holy and man is sinful. Sin creates a great gulf between the two, which man cannot bridge no matter how good he is. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NASB), and "the wages of sin is death [Eternal Separation from God]" (Romans 6:23, NASB).

But what do we mean by sin? It is not necessarily just a matter of lying, stealing or being immoral. Basically, sin is an attitude. It is going one's own independent way indifferent to God. It is a lack of relationship or fellowship with Him. The Bible clearly defines sin as falling short of

God's standard, which is His own perfect righteousness. Sin often manifests itself as self-centeredness, an attitude of active rebellion, or passive indifference to God.

Jesus Christ, whose blood would not just cover man's sins temporarily, but would wash them away forever. God sent His only Son, who was without sin, without spot or blemish, to give His life, to shed His blood upon the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Scriptures say:

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22, NASB).

“God so greatly loved and dearly prized the whole world that He even gave up His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”(John 3:16, Amplified)

God bridges the gulf to man through His Son. He has promised that we can know Him and have fellowship with Him now and for all eternity, through the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the most precious truth in the Word of God.

JESUS GIVES PURPOSE TO LIFE

Not only is Jesus of Nazareth the only One who can pardon our sins, but He is the only One who can give purpose to life. The Bible says it was through the Son that God made the whole universe, and He has ordained that all creation shall ultimately belong to the Son.

One can really see that God has created everything for a purpose. There is order, system and design to the whole of creation. man is the

highest expression of God's creation – the only part with intelligence. God created man with a free will, with a right of choice. he can say "yes" or "no" to God, and, for the most part, he has chosen to say "no." Because of this tragedy, those who have said "no" have never discovered God's purpose for their lives.

JESUS GIVES PEACE

Jesus of Nazareth, the Prince of Peace, is the only One who can give us unshakable peace in a world of turmoil. As someone said, "There will never be peace in the individual heart or at the peace tables of the world until the Prince of Peace reigns supreme in the hearts of men." Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"(John 14:27). He also said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"(Matthew 11:28).

Everyone experiences difficulties. The Christian is not exempt. Becoming a Christian does not mean that we will suddenly be ushered into a utopian situation, but rather that we have One with us who said, "Lo, I am with you all the days – perpetually, uniformly and on every occasion – to the (very) close and consummation of the age. I will never leave you, nor forsake you. My peace I give you"(Matthew 28:20, Amplified).

What kind of peace does He give those who trust in Him? It is a quiet confidence that, since our sovereign, loving, all-powerful God is in control, we have nothing to fear. Jesus gives us peace with God through the forgiveness of sin. He provides peace of mind through an

unhindered relationship with Him. He shows us how to have peace with man by teaching us how to love others. When He is in control, no situation, heartache or sorrow can ever disturb that peace. Tragedy, heartache and sorrow will come into your life, but Christ, the Prince of Peace, waits to sit upon the throne of your life to give you His pardon, His purpose and His peace.

JESUS GIVES POWER FOR LIVING

Pardon, purpose, and peace are not all that He can give. Jesus of Nazareth is the only one who can give you power to live a new life.

Frequently men and women say, "I would like to become a Christian, but if I do, I am sure that I will never be able to live the life. You don't know the mistakes that I have made, the resentments that I have, my tendencies to sin, my immorality, heavy drinking, drug addiction, cruel tongue and many, many other problems. I do not believe that I could live the Christian life."

But, as they have received Christ into their lives, these same people have discovered that the Christian life is a supernatural one and that Jesus literally changes them — their attitudes, their actions, and their desires. When we trust in Him, Jesus Christ literally comes to live within us and lives His life in and through us. Therefore, it is no longer what we do through our own self-effort, but what He does supernaturally, because He is the one who provides the power, and we are merely the instruments through which He releases that power.

Simply begin every day on your knees, acknowledging that He is Lord of your life. Invite Him to walk around in your body, think with your

mind, love with your heart, speak with your lips, and continue seeking and saving the lost as He came to this world to do two thousand years ago.

As you continue in obedience to Jesus' commands, you will experience the fulfillment of His promise of an abundant life. I encourage you to study the Word of God diligently and become active in the vital Christian fellowship of a New Life Group and a local church. May God bless and keep you in this great adventure with Christ our Savior.