
Foundations:

Basic Christian Teachings

Session 4: “Jesus Christ”

Review from Session 3

- What makes humans unique among God’s creation?
- How is this different for the other two competing worldviews?
- According to the Christian story, what’s wrong with humanity?
- What are the consequences of sin in the world?

Today’s Session

In this session we will talk about:

- God’s solution to the fall into sin
- Jesus Christ
 - Who He Is
 - What He has done
 - What this means for our lives

Picking up where we left off . . .

The Stairway to Heaven

Religion, as a human institution, is _____ attempt to repair the relationship with God.



But this is where we see the differences between different types of theism. Different religions have different means to “climb the ladder.” What are these?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Modern Spirituality

There are many today who view the climb as very easy. There are two very common varieties

- _____
 - Anti-institutional
 - Personal
 - No outside accountability
 - Syncretistic
- _____
 - A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
 - God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
 - The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
 - God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
 - Good people go to heaven when they die.

- _____
- It doesn't matter which religion you follow since they are all going to the same place
- The distinctions between religions don't matter

What Is the Solution in the Christian Story?

- The Bible says that we cannot climb the stairway and so restore a right relationship with God.

Romans 3:20 *"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."*

- We need an answer. All of humanity needs an answer. All of creation needs an answer.
- This is why Jesus came. This is what Christmas is all about. This is what Good Friday and Easter are all about. This is what Christianity is all about.
- Christianity is not about climbing the stairway to heaven. Christianity is about God _____ to take us to himself.
- Christianity is about a restored relationship with Jesus, who _____ the stairway to heaven.

Genesis 28:12 *"(Jacob) had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."*

John 1:51 *"(Jesus) then added, 'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"*

Jesus Christ, God the Son

- **Who is Jesus?**

- Jesus is _____ God, co-equal with the Father. He is not God, Jr.

John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

- Jesus was born as a _____ .

John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”*

- His conception was a _____, since Mary was a virgin.

Luke 1:34-35 *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

- His life as a human for us began with his _____.

- **So, is Jesus God or Human?**

- He is _____
 - Jesus is fully God and fully human
- How do we confess that?
 - Jesus is one _____, but with two _____.
 - Jesus is “True God and True Man”

Colossians 2:9 *“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...”*

- A word we use for this: _____

John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

- Was Jesus a sinner, like the rest of us humans?

- He was _____ like us.
- But did not _____.

Hebrews 4:15 *“For we do not have [a Savior] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.”*

Hebrews 2:18 *“Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.”*

- **Why did Jesus come?**

- Jesus came as the solution to the problem in the story. He came to undo the fall and to restore God’s Kingdom.
- What this means for us:
 - A restored relationship with him:
 - _____
 - Entrance into the restored creation
 - _____
 - Called, empowered and sent as His agents in the world
 - _____

The Solution: What did Jesus do?

- He _____
 - His life pictured the perfectly restored relationship.
 - He displayed a perfectly restored relationship with His Father

John 10:30 *“I and the Father are one.”*

John 5:19 *“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’”*

Matthew 5:17 *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

- He restored relationships with God through forgiveness

Luke 7:48-50 *“Then Jesus said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ The other guests began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ Jesus said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”*

- Creation was restored in Him: Diseases were healed, dead raised, creation perfectly cooperated with him in the miracles that he performed:

Luke 7:21-23 *“At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, ‘Go back and*

report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

- He _____

- Jesus took our _____ from us; and gave His _____ to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

- Jesus received the _____ we would have received for our sins.

Isaiah 53:5 *“...the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”*

- Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice of _____.

1 John 2:2 *“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

See Romans 3:21-28

- Jesus has _____ us by His death.

1 Peter 1:18-19 *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,*

but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

- He _____

- His resurrection is the promise of _____, the time of perfectly restored relationships.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 *“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”*

- His resurrection shows that the fall is _____ in Him

Colossians 1:19-20 *“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”*

See Romans 5:15-19

- His resurrection is the preview of the restoration of _____

Romans 8:19-22 *“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be*

liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

How do we receive all this?

- By grace through faith
- What is grace?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith –and this not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God** –not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

Romans 5:8 *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

- What is faith?

- Faith is _____ , _____ , _____
- Faith saves because of its _____

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

- Faith _____ God’s gifts

John 1:12 *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”*

- Faith is more than _____

James 2:19 *“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

- Faith is trusting and receiving what Jesus has done

Romans 3:21-24 *“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

- Faith is a _____

Ephesians 2:8-10 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”.*

Jesus Ascended and Returning

- Jesus ascended to the _____ of the Father
- All power and _____ for the _____

Matthew 28:18-19 *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . .”*

Ephesians 1:19-23 *“That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the*

dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

- Jesus will return _____ and with great _____ on the last day.

Matthew 24:27-30 *“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. . . . They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”*

- Jesus will return to _____ the world.

Matthew 25:31-33 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”*

Who do you say that I am?

- Ultimately, the most important question any of us can answer about Jesus is this: “Who do you say that I am?”

Matthew 16:13-15 *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

- There are three choices:
 - Jesus is a _____.
 - He wasn't who He said He was and knew it.
 - Jesus is a _____.
 - He wasn't who He said He was but didn't know it.
 - Jesus is the _____.
 - He is who He said He is.

- If Jesus is who He says He is, this has profound implications. It means everything – all history, all lives, all things – really do revolve around Him and are subject to Him.

- So, who do you say that He is?

FOR FURTHER GROWING

From "Luther's Small Catechism"

- The Son, pp. 164-194

SHARPENING MY SWORD

Each week you will be given a verse of the Bible to put to memory. The Bible calls God's Word "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17). We want you to have a big, sharp sword!

This week:

Colossians 1:15, "Jesus is the image of the invisible God..."