

The Life of Jesus Christ, Part 1

Paul himself was consumed with Christ: Philippians 1:23: Paul's greatest desire for the future is to be with Christ, his greatest desire for the present is to know Christ and to become like Him: Philippians 3:10

What does Christ mean to us?

1. Christ is our life

He is our life because He is our Savior, He has raised us from death into life, and He lives within us:

Philippians 1:21: "to live is Christ"

1 John 5:11-12; Galatians 2:20

2. Christ is our goal

Romans 8:29

2 Corinthians 3:18

As we look at the gospel, we see the glory of Christ, and the Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ

"from glory to glory": from the glory of Christ to the glory produced in us, or the steps we take from one glory to another as we become more like Christ

1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21

Christlikeness is our destiny; it is our progression even now

3. Christ is our example

1 Corinthians 11:1-2

Just a few ways Christ is our example:

Conduct: 1 John 2:6: "the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."

Humility: Philippians 2:5: "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus"

Suffering: 1 Peter 2:21-23

A.W. Pink (http://www.eternallifeministries.org/awp_Christ4.htm):

Christ did more than proclaim the Truth, He was Himself the living embodiment of it. He did more than utter the will of God: He was the personal exemplification of it. The Divine requirements were perfectly set forth in the very character and conduct of the Lord Jesus. And therein He differed radically, essentially, from all who went before Him and all who come after Him. In the lives of the Old Testament Prophets and in the New Testament Apostles we behold broken and scattered rays of light, but they were merely reflections and refractions of the Light—Christ is in His own blessed and peerless Person—"the Sun of righteousness." Therefore is He fully qualified to say, "learn of Me." Not only was there no error whatever in His teaching, but there was not the slightest blemish in His character

or flaw in His conduct. Thus, the very life that He lived presents to us a perfect standard of holiness—a perfect pattern for us to follow.

How should we respond? Follow Christ

The call to follow Christ

The call to be saved is a call to follow Christ. Jesus often called people to follow Him.

Matthew 4:18-22: Think of what it meant for the early disciples to follow Jesus. They would walk with Him, experience life with Him

What are some aspects of following Christ?

1. Leaving old things behind, giving up our own desires and plans

Mark 2:14-15: Matthew, and tax collectors and sinners

2. Identifying with Him

When the disciples followed Jesus, they were saying, this Man is my rabbi. As Christians, we take His name to ourselves.

Acts 11:26: “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”

“Christian” only used 3 times, twice in Acts and once in 1 Peter: 1 Peter 4:16: “but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”

May have originally been a term of derision: the idea of one belonging to Christ, but those who followed Christ accepted this name for themselves

3. Learning from Him

Disciple = learner; Matthew 11:28-29: “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.”

4. Submitting to Him

Matthew 16:24: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.’”

What does it mean to follow Christ? To go where He goes, to do what He does, to live how He lives, ultimately to become like Him!

Great way to learn how to follow Jesus is to study the gospels and understand how He lived and what He said.

John’s purpose

1 John 1:1-3: John’s mission was to communicate what he saw about Christ, to testify about Him

John 1:14: John beheld his glory, and now he communicates it to us