

Bible Doctrines II

Falls International Baptist Institute

Classes Five, Six, Seven, and Eight

The Doctrine of Christ

Text: Luke 2:40-52

Introduction: In these lessons, we will study the life and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not much is said about the early years of Christ, but our text gives us a small window into what has been called “The Silent Years of Christ.” **The four gospel accounts primarily focus on the ministry of Christ which began when Jesus was thirty-years old. They detail His ministry, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection.**

I. THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- A. As a Baby
 - 1. Angels Announce His Birth to the Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20
 - 2. Parents Circumcise and Present Him to the Lord when He is Eight Days Old: Luke 2:21-24
 - 3. Simeon and Anna Bless Him: Luke 2:25-39
- B. His Boyhood:
 - 1. The Wise Men Present Him with Gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh: Matthew 2:1-11 (Age: 2 years) (young child)
 - 2. Herod Seeks to Kill Him: Matthew 2:11-18
 - 3. Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt: Matthew 2:11-18
 - 4. Joseph and Mary move from Egypt to Nazareth after the Death of Herod: Matthew 2:19-22
 - 5. Jesus Develops Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually: Luke 2:40
 - 6. Jesus Both Questions and Teaches the Doctors of the Law in the Temple at the age of 12. Luke 2:41-48
 - 7. Jesus Reveals the Purpose of His Life: His Father’s Business. Luke 2:49
 - 8. Jesus Subjects Himself to His Parent’s Authority: Luke 2:50-51
 - 9. Jesus Increases Intellectually (Wisdom), Physically (Stature), Spiritually (in favor with God), and Socially (and man). Luke 2:52
 - 10. We Have No Direct Scriptures or Stories Between the Ages of 12-30.
 - 10. *“Of those obscure, thirty years during which God was preparing His Son for a brief ministry lasting for just over three years, Jesus would go to a Jewish school as any ordinary village child did. He could read and write (Luke 4:17; John 8:6-8). Leaving school around the age of fifteen; He followed the trade of the home and became a carpenter (Mark 6:3). In Joseph’s carpenter shop we*

have the toil of divinity revealing the divinity of toil. Strange that He should work with wood and nails—He had them when He died.” – Herbert Lockyer

C. The Baptism of Jesus

1. Matthew 3:13-17

- a. John’s Baptism was a baptism of national repentance from sin in order to be brought into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- b. **Jesus had no personal sins to confess**, but He set the example of national repentance and illustrated that if any would come into Messianic Kingdom, they must follow His footsteps and come in by way of baptism. **This was not a means of eternal salvation but rather a means of entering the Messianic Kingdom.**
- c. It is important to note that John was not preaching the gospel of the grace of God. His ministry was simply to “*prepare the way*” in the hearts of the people for the Kingdom of God and their King.

2. John 1:29-34

- a. John bore witness at the baptism of Christ that He was the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world!
Verse 29
- b. The Holy Spirit bore witness to the testimony and ministry of Jesus Christ! Matthew 3:16
- c. The Heavenly Father bore witness to the Sonship of Jesus Christ: Matthew 3:17
- d. The Baptism of Jesus Christ was to Him what an ordination would be to the Man of God! It was His earthly entrance into the ministry!

D. The Temptation of Jesus Christ

1. Matthew 4:1-11

- a. “*We would have thought that after such a mighty unction received at Jordan, Jesus was now ready to launch right in and witness and work in Galilee and elsewhere. But no. After the **dove**, there came the **devil**—After the **benediction**, there came the **battle**.*” – Herbert Lockyer
- b. Matthew 4:1 says “*Then was Jesus **led** up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*” Notice that Mark 1:12 says “*And immediately the Spirit **driveth** him into the wilderness.*” We learn a quick lesson here: if the Spirit of God is leading an individual into the ministry, He will drive him. **We don’t call and lead men into the ministry or into the will of God: that is the job of the Spirit of God!**
- c. Before Christ could deliver others from devils, He must experience the full weight and strength of the Devil: Hebrews 4:15

2. The Temptation of Christ leads many to ask the following questions?
- a. **Could Jesus have sinned? The simple answer to this question is “No”.** The temptation of Christ was not to prove to the world and to Satan whether Christ could sin or not; the temptation of Christ proved once and for all that He could not sin. The fact that Jesus Christ could not sin is called the doctrine of impeccability! **The word “impeccable” means “Not liable to sin; not subject to sin; exempt from the possibility of sinning.”** Jesus was impeccable: He could not sin! Why?
- Because He was God and God cannot be tempted with Evil: James 1:13 *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.”*
 - Because He did not have Adam’s nature. Had He been a son of Adam, He most certainly could have sinned! This is why the Virgin Birth is so important: Jesus had the Blood of His Heavenly Father; not the blood of sinful man! Jesus had the Nature of His Heavenly Father; not the nature of Adam! Where mere humans cannot be perfect, Jesus could not sin! There was nothing in Christ that the devil could appeal to.
- b. **What was the purpose of the temptation?**
- **To prove that He could not sin, therefore qualifying Him to be the Redeemer of Adam’s Race!** He could not redeem us from bondage to Satan had He succumbed to Satan’s power! Hebrews 2:14-15 *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
 - To qualify Him to be our great High Priest: Hebrews 4:15 says *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*
- c. **How did He overcome temptation? Satan brought three temptations to the sinless Son of God: each time, Jesus used the Word of God to defeat the Tempter.** In the first temptation of Matthew 4:2-4, Christ quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3. In the second temptation of Matthew 4:5-7, Christ quoted from Deuteronomy 6:16. In the third

temptation of Matthew 4:8-10, Jesus answers with Psalms 91:11-12. If the sinless Son of God defeated the Tempter with the Word of God, we must be doubly sure that we both know and use the scripture as we battle the temptations of this world!

E. The Ministry of Christ: Matthew 20:28 *“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

1. His Men:

a. Luke 6:12-19 Jesus spends a night praying before He picks twelve apostles out of the number of men who were already His disciples. We learn here the value of praying before making decisions involving men and ministry!

b. Matthew 10:2-4 and Mark 3:16-19 also give the list of the twelve apostles.

c. These men were ordinary men handpicked by God for an extra-ordinary purpose. Some were uneducated fishermen; one was an educated tax collector, while another was a revolutionary. But God would use these men in time to lay the foundation for the church of the living God. Just who were these men? **Memorize the twelve apostles:**

- **Simon**, called Peter. Church tradition tells us the Peter was crucified upside down in fulfilment of the prophecy that Christ gave concerning his death in John 21:18.

- **Andrew**, Simon’s brother. *“Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Greece. After seven soldiers whipped Andrew severely, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: “I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it.” He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he died.”*

- **James**, the son of Zebedee (Also known as James the Greater). Acts 12:2 tells us that James was put to death by the sword in **Jerusalem**.

- **John**, the son of Zebedee. He was known as John the Beloved. *“John faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and*

returned to what is now modern-day **Turkey**. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.” – gotquestions.org

- **Philip**. Philip died in **Egypt** after having been crucified upside down. Tradition says he preached until he died.
- **Bartholomew** (also called Nathaniel). “*Bartholomew also known as Nathanael, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed in present-day Turkey and was martyred for his preaching in Armenia, being flayed to death by a whip.*” – gotquestions.org
- **Thomas**. “*The apostle Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church there.*”
- **Matthew** the tax collector. “*Matthew suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.*”
- **James**, the son of Alphaeus. (James the Less). He died in his travels from church to church as persecutors beat and stoned him, and finally clubbed his to death.
- **Thaddeaus** (Judas, the son of James) Thaddeaus was crucified. Some believe that he was buried in modern day **Iran**.
- **Simon the Zealot** (Simon the Canaanite) Simon the Zealout became a missionary to **Africa**. Some say he died of old age in Africa. Others believe that he was crucified in Jordan.
- **Judas Iscariot**. Judas committed suicide after betraying Christ.

2. His Miracles:

- a. He turned water into wine: John 2:1-11
- b. He healed a nobleman’s son: John 4:46-47
- c. He filled Peter, James, and John’s nets with fishes: Luke 5:1-11
- d. He cast out an unclean spirit: Mark 1:23-28
- e. He healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a fever: Mark 1:30-31
- f. He healed a leper: Mark 1:40-45
- g. He healed the centurion’s servant: Matthew 8:5-13
- h. He raised a widow’s son from the dead: Luke 7:11-18
- i. He calmed a storm: Matthew 8:23-27
- k. He cast demons out of two maniacs: Matthew 8:28-34
- l. He cured a paralyzed man: Matthew 9:1-8
- m. He raised the ruler’s daughter from the dead: Matthew 9:18-26
- n. He healed a woman of an issue of blood: Luke 8:43-48

- o. He opened the eyes of two blind men: Matthew 9:27-31
 - p. He loosened the tongue of a dumb man: Matthew 9:32-33
 - q. He healed an invalid at the pool of Bethesda: John 5:1-9
 - r. He restored a withered hand: Matthew 12:10-13
 - s. He healed a blind and mute man who was also demon-possessed: Matthew 12:22
 - t. He fed at least five thousand people: Matthew 14:15-21
 - u. He healed the daughter of Gentile woman: Matthew 15:22-28
 - v. He healed a deaf and mute man: Mark 7:31-37
 - w. He fed at least four thousand people: Matthew 15:32-39
 - x. He opened the eyes of a blind man: Mark 8:22-26
 - y. He cast the demon out a boy: Matthew 17:14-21
 - z. He opened the eyes of the man who was born blind: John 9:1-38
 - a. He healed a woman who had been afflicted for eighteen years: Luke 13:10-17
 - b. He cured a man of dropsy: Luke 14:1-4
 - c. He cleansed ten lepers: Luke 17:11-19
 - d. He raised Lazarus from the dead: John 11:1-46
 - e. He opened the eyes of two blind men: Matthew 20:30-34
 - f. He caused a fig tree to wither: Matthew 21:18-22
 - g. He restored the ear of the high priest's servant: Luke 22:50-51
 - h. No wonder Acts 10:38 says "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*" And Acts 10:39 says "*And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree.*"
 - i. John 21:25 says "*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*"
2. His Ministries: "*In the Old Testament, **three great offices were created by God** to meet the spiritual and material needs of His chosen people.*"
- a. **The Prophet** was a man who represented God to the people.
 - In Deuteronomy 18:18-19, God predicted that there would be a Prophet like unto Moses.
 - His earthly ministry as a prophet began at the Jordan River and ended at Calvary.
 - He was recognized as a prophet by the Samaritan woman (John 4:19); the people of Galilee (Luke

7:16); the people of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:11; John 7:40); His enemies (Luke 22:64); and His disciples (Luke 24:19).

- This is His PAST ministry.

b. **The Priest** was a man who represented the people to God.

- This ministry began at Calvary and will end at the Second Coming.

- He met the qualifications for the priest's office as He was taken from among men (Hebrews 2:16; 4:15); chosen by God (Hebrews 5:4-6; Matthew 3:16-17); He was consecrated to God (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 7:26).

- He performed the responsibilities of the priest's office as He offered Himself upon Calvary (Hebrews 2:9); as He prayed and prays for His people (John 17; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25); and as He blesses His people (Ephesians 1:3; 2:11-22).

- This is His PRESENT ministry.

c. **A King** was an individual who ruled the nation of Israel for God.

- He will fulfill the office of a king as He comes from the tribe of Judah, and from the seed of David: Revelation 5:5

- This is His future ministry.

3. His Manifestation and Rejection: In Zechariah 9:9, the Bible promised that the coming Messiah would present Himself as the King to the nation of Israel in a very peculiar way: "*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*" In Matthew 21:1-11, Jesus manifested Himself as the King Who would fulfill this prophecy! Initially, the people accepted Him, while the scribes and Pharisees rejected! But within three days, the hearts of the people to whom He had ministered for three years were turned against Jesus Christ, and the nation of Israel rejected their Messiah and King.

a. Isaiah 53:3 prophesied His rejection: "*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*"

b. Matthew 27:39-44 "*And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. **If he be the***

King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.” Wow! Rejected by the people, the priests, and the prisoners alike! Jesus was rejected by the nation!

- c. John 1:11 says “*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*”
- d. In Luke 19:14, Jesus gave a parable which spoke of Himself and said “*But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*”

F. The Suffering of Christ: In Luke 24:26-27, after His death, burial, and resurrection; Jesus met two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Notice what Christ said to them: “*Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*”

- 1. **Psalm 22 is a graphic Psalm prophesying the suffering of the coming Messiah.**
- 2. **Isaiah 53 is another descriptive prophecy of the suffering that Jesus Christ would go through for our sins.**
- 3. In Acts 17:3, Paul was “*Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.*”
- 4. In I Peter 1:11, we learn the it was the Spirit of God who “*testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ.*”
 - a. **The Physical Suffering** of Jesus: Let’s examine His suffering for a moment: “*The physical trauma of Christ begins in Gethsemane with one of the initial aspects of His suffering—the bloody sweat. It is interesting that the physician of the group, St. Luke, is the only one to mention this. He says ‘And being in agony, He prayed the longer. And his sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground.’ Though very rare, the phenomenon of hemathidrosis, or bloody sweat, is well documented. Under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, this mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could have produced marked weakness and possible shock. After the arrest in the middle of the night, Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest. A soldier struck Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards then blindfolded Him and mockingly taunted Him to identify them as they each passed by, spat on Him, and struck Him in the face. In the early morning hours, Jesus,*

battered and bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted from a sleepless night, is taken across Jerusalem to the Praetorium of the Fortress Antonia. It was there, in response to the cries of the mob, that Pilate ordered Barabbas released and condemned Jesus to scourging and crucifixion. Preparations for the scourgings are carried out. The prisoner is stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head. The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum in his hand. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each. The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles. The small balls of lead first produce large, deep, bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped. The half-fainting Jesus is then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with his own blood. The Roman soldiers see a great joke in this provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in His hand for a scepter. A small bundle of flexible branches covered with long thorns is pressed into His scalp. Again there is copious bleeding (the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body). After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from His hand and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp. Finally, they tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from His back. This had already become adherent to the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, and its removal, just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, causes excruciating pain—almost as though He were again being whipped, and the wounds again begin to bleed. The heavy beam of the cross is then tied across His shoulders, and the procession of the condemned Christ, two thieves and the execution detail, begins its slow journey. The weight of the heavy wooden cross, together with the shock produced by copious blood loss, is too much. He stumbles and falls. The rough wood of the beam gouges

into the lacerated skin and muscles of the shoulders. He tries to rise, but human muscles have been pushed beyond their endurance. At Golgotha, the beam is placed on the ground and Jesus is quickly thrown backward with His shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square, wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexion and movement. The beam is then lifted in place at the top of the posts and the title reading 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' is nailed in place. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each. As He pushes Himself upward to avoid the stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there is the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet. As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by His arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, He is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the life-giving oxygen. Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber. Then another agony begins. A deep crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. The compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues—the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues send their flood of stimuli to the brain. Jesus gasps, 'I thirst'. He can feel the chill of death creeping through His tissues. With one last surge of strength, He once again presses His torn feet against the nail, straightens His legs, takes a deeper breath, and utters His seventh and last cry, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' Apparently to make doubly sure of death, the legionnaire drove his lance through the

fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. Immediately there came out blood and water. We, therefore, have conclusive post-mortem evidence that our Lord died, not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.” – A Beka Book Condensed from “The Crucifixion of Jesus”.

- b. **The mental suffering** of Jesus Christ: He died in the presence of sinners: Psalm 22:13, 16-17 He suffered great shame in the process: Isaiah 50:6; Hebrews 12:2; Mark 15:27-28. He bore the sins of every man: Hebrews 2:9; I Peter 2:24
- c. **The spiritual suffering** of Jesus Christ: He was forsaken by His Father: Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46. He suffered the agonies of Hell as He died on the cross: Romans 6:23a. He literally tasted death for every man!

G. The Death and Burial of Christ:

- 1. Matthew 27:50 *“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.”*
- 2. **The death of Jesus Christ was a part of the eternal plan of God:** Matthew 20:28 says *“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*
- 3. Daniel prophesied in 9:26 that *“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself”.*
- 4. In John 10:11 Jesus Himself said *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”*
- 5. **He died to destroy him that had the power of death and deliver us who were in bondage to death, Hell, and the grave!** Hebrews 2:14-15
- 6. Isaiah 53:9 speaks of His burial: *“And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”* Matthew 27:57-60 is the fulfillment of that prophecy! Christ physically died and was buried!!! Muslims would have us to believe that Jesus did not die! But the scripture is clear on this matter: I Corinthians 15:3-4a is clear: *“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...”*

H. **The Bodily Resurrection of Christ: I Corinthians 15:3-4 says “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.”** The greatest message that scripture proclaims is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the gospel message. *“The*

resurrection of Jesus Christ was the act by which He, of His own will, came back to life bodily after his death and burial.” – A Beka Book
Herbert Lockyer said that *“the importance of Christ’s victory over death cannot be too strongly stressed.”*

1. **His Resurrection was Physical in Nature: it was a Bodily Resurrection:** This is an important truth to understand. It is fundamental to our faith. The Scriptures are clear that it is not just the influence, idea, or ideals of Christ that lived on after His death. He was physically raised from the dead.
 - a. Matthew 28:1-9 give the account of the resurrection: read it. Notice that in verse 9, ***“they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.”***
 - b. John 20:25-28 *“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. **Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”***
 - c. In Luke 24:36-43, the disciples thought He was a spirit and He told them *“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”* Then He went on to eat meat in front of them to prove that He was not just a spirit, but a physical body!
2. The Resurrection of Christ was Exceptional in Nature: while others, such as Lazarus, had experienced resurrections, Christ was exceptional in His resurrection.
 - a. He wasn’t raised to life by the power of another: He raised Himself from the dead. In John 10:17-18, He had said *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”*
 - b. While others who rose from the dead died again, Jesus arose, never to die again. Revelation 1:18 says *“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.”*
 - c. **The Resurrection of Christ guarantees that everyone who believes in Him will also experience their own**

bodily resurrection: John 11:25 “*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 5:28-29 says “*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*”

3. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is Factual in Nature:
 - a. The Resurrection was the subject of Prophecy:
 - Psalm 16:10-11
 - Acts 13:31-37
 - b. The Resurrection was repeatedly declared by Christ:
 - Matthew 16:21
 - Matthew 17:9-23
 - Mark 8:31
 - c. The Resurrection was witnessed by the evidence of the empty grave:
 - John saw it: John 20:8
 - The women at the grave reported it: Luke 24:11; John 20:13-15
 - d. The Resurrected Christ appeared to Peter: Luke 24:34
 - e. The Resurrected Christ was witnessed by His disciples, the Apostle Paul, and hundreds of others:
 - John 21
 - Acts 10:40-41
 - I Corinthians 15:5-8
4. **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is Foundational in Nature:**
There are what we call fundamental doctrines of the faith.
These doctrines are the foundation of our faith. To reject these doctrines would be to reject the faith. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one such doctrine. “*The doctrine of the resurrection is of primary value for on it all the doctrines of grace depend.*” – Herbert Lockyer
 - a. In I Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul defends the doctrine of the resurrection and he teaches us the importance of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ: Notice verses 12-19 “*Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is*

vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

“The resurrection of Jesus Christ and the claims of Christianity stand, or fall, together.” – A Beka Book

- b. If the Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not occur, then Jesus Christ could not be the Son of God nor the Savior of the world: He would be a liar!
 - Matthew 16:21 *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, **and be raised again the third day.**”*
 - Matthew 17:9 *“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, **until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**”*
 - Matthew 17:22-23 *“And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, **and the third day he shall be raised again.** And they were exceeding sorry.”*
- c. The Resurrection of Christ was the theme of the Apostles’ preaching in the book of Acts: if the resurrection did not occur, then their preaching was a lie, and our faith is vain!
 - Acts 2:24, 32
 - Acts 3:15, 26
 - Acts 4:10
 - Acts 10:40
 - Acts 13:30-37
 - Acts 17:31
- d. The Resurrection of Christ was the theme of the Apostle Paul’s epistles to the New Testament churches: if the resurrection did not occur, then these New Testament epistles are filled with lies, and our faith in them is in vain.
 - Romans 4:24
 - Romans 6:4, 9
 - Romans 7:4
 - Romans 8:11
 - Romans 10:9
 - I Corinthians 6:14
 - I Corinthians 15:4
 - II Corinthians 4:14
 - Galatians 1:1
 - Ephesians 1:20
 - Colossians 2:12

- I Thessalonians 1:10
- II Timothy 2:8

Consider the following quote: *The resurrection “was the belief that turned heartbroken followers of a crucified rabbi into the courageous witnesses and martyrs of the early church. This was the one belief that separated the followers of Jesus from the Jews and turned them into the community of the resurrection. You could imprison them, flog them, kill them, but you could not make them deny their conviction that ‘on the third day he rose again.’” – Michael Green*