

The 'Discipleship Check List' Transcript

A GV247.TV Programme presented by Stewart Menelaws

DCL No6: Who is Jesus Christ?

This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or who has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, overseers and believers reaching out to others.

Jesus Christ – The Son of God: (Matt 8:29)

Were you aware that many Christian believers are unable to explain who Jesus Christ actually is other than to reply 'the Son of God' - which of course is clearly stated in the New Testament. Yet, it is our experience that this important subject is not clearly understood. We live in a world where there are many opinions responsible for leading both unbeliever and believer into error and that is why it is important to understand, 'Who is Jesus Christ?'

There is a statement that goes something like this.

'Jesus was either a good man, a con man, a lunatic or He is who He claims to be; God - come to earth to save us from our sins'.

That's probably a reasonable statement that demands a rational answer. In Matthew 16:13-15, Jesus Himself asks the same question of His disciples. "Who do you say I am?"

Who do you say I Am? (Matthew 16:13-15)

There are various groups and organisations that hold to a wide range of viewpoints and will for example tell you that Jesus of Nazareth is:

- The Archangel Michael
- The brother of Lucifer
- An ascended master
- A failed leader who needed to be replaced by ---- place the name of a cult leader here
- He was / is a prophet
- He was a revolutionary, historical figure but not divine
- And some persist in flogging a very dead horse by saying He never existed at all

The list goes on, but all are making the same statement that He is not God. The Bible texts are clear about the 'required attributes' of The Saviour of Mankind, but before we can look at this, we need to understand more about God Almighty the Creator Himself.

First - The dimensional or triune nature of God:

1. Gen 1:1 It begins with 'In the beginning God' (Heb: 'Elohim' is plural ie 'Gods')
Elohim is used over 2500 times in The Bible
2. Gen 1:2 The Spirit of God hovered over the waters (In Luke 1:35 The Spirit came upon Mary)
3. Gen 1:26 We see that God is speaking in the plural: 'Let us make mankind in our image'
4. Gen 11:7 At the tower of Babel we read: 'Let us go down'
5. Gen 18:1-5 The 3 Visitors to Abram illustrates something deeper: 'They answered in unison'
6. Deut 6:4 Reads The LORD your God is One
7. Isaiah 9:6 We see the triune nature of God, beginning with The Son, Counsellor (Holy Spirit) and Mighty God (Father). These aspects are brought out further throughout the Gospel of John
8. Isaiah 43:11 & 44:8 God is One. There is no other God
9. Matt 28:19 - Disciples are to baptise in the Name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit

The scriptures clearly indicate that there is a multi-dimensional aspect to the 'One' we human beings call 'God Almighty'. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, He is present everywhere and He is timeless. For finite beings such as ourselves to try to comprehend the infinite is quite simply – not possible.

To say that we can fully understand 'The Creator' is to bring Him down to our human level. The Old Testament texts make it clear that there is only one God and only one Saviour (Isa 43:11) There are no others. Yet, in the New Testament we see that Jesus Christ is the Saviour - the *only* Saviour (Acts 4:12). So what does this mean?

Second – The need to simply trust God:

In Genesis 32:29-30 Jacob son of Isaac wrestles with a Being that he believes to be God, and in this struggle Jacob asks His name to the response, '*Why do you ask My Name?*'

In the book of Exodus 3:13-15 we read the account of Moses and the burning bush. He also asks for a name and the reply was 'I Am who I Am'. When this passage is understood from a Hebraic perspective the reply is most solemn and implies - that is all you need to know.

We continue to read in the book of Judges where Samson's father Manoah is speaking with The Angel of The Lord (Judges 13:17-18) and he too asks for a name. The reply again is, "*Why do you ask My Name? It is beyond understanding*". Another word would be '*wonderful*' which implies something extraordinary or simply beyond comprehension.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 we read that the Saviour who will be born will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor' and Jesus spoke of The Holy Spirit as Counsellor in John 16:7. 'Mighty God, Everlasting Father'. Jesus said there is only one Father in Matthew 23:9. And 'Prince of Peace'. All these titles are presented as one.

Third – Jesus is God The Son:

Who is Jesus in the New Testament? There are hundreds of passages that we can look at. Here is a small selection.

Gospel of Matthew:

1. He is the Messiah / Christ (Anointed One) (Matt 1:1)
2. He will save His people from their sins (Matt 1:21)
3. He is the Son of God (Matt 8:29)
4. The Son of Man will be raised on the third day (Matt 17:23)
5. The Son of Man will appear in the sky (Matt 24:30)
6. His Blood was poured out for many for forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:28)
7. All authority has been given to Him in Heaven and on Earth (Matt 28:18)

Gospel of John (One of the three who was closest to Jesus Christ):

1. He is God (John 1:1)
2. He was in the beginning with God (John 1:2)
3. All things came into being through Him (John 1:3)
4. He became flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:14)
5. He is the Saviour of the world (John 4:42)
6. He and the Father are One (John 10:30)
7. He is the resurrection and the life - bringing eternal life (John 11:25)
8. He is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6)

According to the scriptures, the coming Messiah would need to fulfil certain criteria before being given the title 'Messiah or Christ our Saviour'. Here is just a small portion of Old Testament prophecy that Jesus would need to meet if He was the promised Saviour. These prophecies go back from 450 – 1400 years before Christ and see their fulfilment in the New Testament Gospel accounts.

- Messiah would need to be born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:14 – Matt 1:20-23)
- Messiah would need to be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2 – Matt 2:1-6)
- Messiah would need to be “God with Us” (Isaiah 9:6 – Colossians 1:15)
- Messiah would need to enter Jerusalem on a Colt (Zech 9:9 – Matt 21:1-11)
- Messiah would need to be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12 – Matt 26:14-16)
- Messiah would need to be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7 – Mark 14:60-61)
- Messiah would need to be struck and spat upon (Isaiah 50:6 – Matt 26:67)
- Messiahs hands and feet would need be pierced (Psalm 22:16 – John 19:16-18 – Luke 24:39)
- Messiah would need to be condemned alongside criminals (Isaiah 53:12 – Matt 27:37-38)
- Messiah’s garments would need to be divided and lots cast (Psalm 22:18 – John 19:23-24)
- Messiah could not have any bones broken (Exodus 12:46 – John 19:31-33)
- Messiah’s side would need to be pierced (Zech 12:10 – John 19:34)
- Messiah would need to rise from the grave and from death (Psalm 16:10 – Luke 24:1-8)

To Conclude:

In the letter to the Hebrews chapter 1, there a number of important statements from the Old Testament stating that Jesus Christ is definitely NOT an angel. For God said of The Son...

‘Your throne O God will last forever and ever and Righteousness will be the Sceptre of your Kingdom’
(Psalm 45:6-7 - Hebrews 1:8)

In the same letter we read of many statements confirming the divine nature of Christ Jesus who is ‘The New Covenant’ which God has purposed to make with man, as spoken by the prophet Jeremiah chapter 31:31-34. (Hebrews 8:8-12)

There are many scriptures throughout the New Testament that speak of Jesus’ divinity and triune connection with The Father, for He is the image of the invisible God, for by Him all things were Created (Col 1:15-16). He is the only name by which you can be saved (Acts 4:12), He is God and Saviour (Titus 2:13) He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (Rev 1:8). And He is coming back (Rev 22:12)

As mentioned previously, the infinite Triune nature of God is hard for the finite human mind to grasp (*3 in 1 and 1 in 3 and often referred to as ‘The Godhead’ as a way of understanding*) but we are not asked to grasp that which is out-with our understanding. We are simply told to trust God and the rescue that He has provided. (John 3:16)

It is important to point out that we are not praying to all three but to The Father, as Jesus instructed His disciples in Matthew chapter 6:9; and our prayers are spoken in the name of Jesus Christ (John 16:23).

Next week (DCL No7) we look at:

Baptism in the Holy Spirit – what is it? What is it not?

The ‘Discipleship Check List’ series has been produced with the sole aim of encouraging the hearer / reader to study the Holy Bible so that faith in Jesus Christ will be built on Him alone. Every human work is fallible and whilst every effort has been made to represent the truths of God Almighty’s Holy Words, this series is but an aid to help encourage study so that the Christian disciple of Jesus Christ will go onto maturity in the most Holy faith.

This is a GV247.TV (Global Vision TV) production. While this work may be copied and disseminated freely, under no circumstances can this work be re-edited, misrepresented or sold for financial gain.

All copies should have the credit: ©Studio Scotland Ltd / Gv247.tv

This series is a copyrighted work 2018 and unauthorised use of this work will be liable to prosecution.