

CBC BIBLE STUDY

DEC 13, 2023

THEME: "BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS " PART TWO

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4: 17) NKJV

**And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.
(Matthew 4: 23-24) NKJV**

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
(Luke 4: 18-19) ESV**

BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

2. Jesus' Ministry

God had not spoken to His prophets in 400 years. God did not speak- no Scripture was written, between the Old Testament and New Testament, so far as we know. It lasted from the prophet Malachi's time to John the Baptist ministry.

God's chosen people, the Jewish Nation was ruled by the Greek and Roman occupations. Also during this period political and religious groups began to rise in Israel, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

God chosen people was oppressed, depressed, beat up, beat down without hope And in great despair. They was in need of the prophesied, promised "Messiah", "Savior" and the long awaited "King". Jesus the Christ, The Anointed one of (Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus the Christ, Suffering Servant(Isaiah 53:4). Jesus Christ, The Branch(Jeremiah 23:5) Jesus Christ, The Cornerstone(Psalm 118:22). Jesus Christ, The King(Zechariah 9:9). Jesus Christ, Immanuel(Isaiah 7:14). Jesus Christ, The Redeemer(Job 19:25). Jesus Christ, The Messiah(Daniel 9:25). Jesus Christ, The Sun of Righteous(Malachi 4:2). Jesus Christ, The Elect Of God(Isaiah 42:1).

Jesus Christ is the long awaited Messiah of the Jewish nations. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promised King and Redeemer.

Jesus Christ humanity, the 42 generations of Christ as recorded in Matthew chapter one. Jesus Christ the Son of David and the Son of Abraham.

Jesus Christ is God in all is deity, taking on humanity. The Eternal is now of time. The Invisible God became visible. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)NKJV

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Jesus began His earthly, public ministry, by standing up in the synagogue in Nazareth, making known why He came by reading the Scriptures(Luke 4:18-19).

Jesus' ministry, to show us God and God's character. To spread the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He reflected the heart of God.

Jesus' ministry, to reconcile a broken world back to God. To draw God's people back into a right relationship with Him. To trust God always in all things.

May we who believe and have faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, this Christmas Season, celebrate with excitement and overwhelming joy, Jesus' minstry.

The Christmas Season, is more than a Hallmark Card or movies. Lights and blow up decorations in the yard. A new 70 inch smart T.V. . A country ham sandwich. A cold glass of Eggnog. Or Big Mama's sweet potato pie.

Jesus' minstry, revealed to His early disciples and us today, His mission as Savior of the World. His coming death and the cost of discipleship.

Jesus came for salvation, to save our souls. He healed the sick and delivered us from sin. He fed the hungry, physically and spiritually. He set the demon-possessed free and raised the dead.

Jesus' ministry, He performed many miracles. He controlled the weather. Provided money when needed. He taught His disciples, you and I, how to pray.

Jesus' minstry on earth was about three years, some writing say three and half years. He accomplished all that He was sent to do.

Preaching the Gospel. "but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."(Luke 4:43)ESV

Redeeming mankind. "He has no need like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

(Hebrews 7:27)ESV

Jesus' minstry, shows us how to live in this dark evil world. And let us know our salvation is secure in Him. He is still changing lives today. That we may be forgiving and loving like Him. That we may be meek and show compassion like Him. So that we humble ourselves before Him and repent. Extend grace. Be kind and gentle to one another. Let go of anger and bitterness. Love our enemies. Trust God's provision and protection. Give to the needy. Be devoted to God. Do justice and mercy. Becoming more Christ like on a daily bases.

BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

3. Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Christ suffered and died to show the wealth of God's love and grace for sinners. (Author, John Piper)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life".

(John 3:16)ESV

The measure of God's love for us is shown by two things. One is the degree of his sacrifice in saving us from the penalty of our sin. The other is the degree of unworthiness that we had when he saved us.

(Author, John Piper)

We can hear the measure his sacrifice in the words, "He gave his only son"(John 3:16). We also hear it in the word Christ. This is a name based on the Greek title Christos, or "Anointed One," or Messiah." It is a term of great dignity. The Messiah was to be the King of Israel.

(Author, John Piper)

When we add to this consideration the horrific death by crucifixion that Christ endured, it becomes clear that the sacrifice the Father and Son made was indescribably great- even infinite, when you consider the distance between the divine and the human. But God chose to make this sacrifice to save us.

(Author, John Piper)

" For one will scarcely die for a righteous person-- though perhaps a good person one would dare even to die-- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:7-8)ESV

The measure of his love for us increases still more when we consider our unworthiness. We deserve divine punishment, not divine sacrifice. I have heard it said, "God didn't die for frogs. So he was responding to value as humans." This turns grace on its head. We are worse off than frogs. They have not sinned. They have not rebelled and treated God with contempt of being inconsequential in their lives. God did not have to die for frogs. They aren't bad enough. We are. Our debt is so great, only a divine sacrifice could pay it.

(Author, John Piper)

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7) NKJV

There is only one explanation for God's sacrifice for us. It is not us. It is "the riches of his grace". It is all free. It is not a response to our worth. It is the overflow of his infinite worth. In fact, that is what divine love is in the end: a passion to enthrall undeserving sinners, at great cost, with what will make us supremely happy forever, namely, his infinite beauty.
(Author, John Piper)

BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

Christ suffered and died to achieve his own resurrection from the dead.
(Author, John Piper)

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

The death of Christ did not merely precede his resurrection it was the price that obtained it. God brought him from the dead "by the blood of the eternal covenant." The "blood of the covenant" is the blood of Jesus. When the Bible speaks of the blood of Jesus, it refers to his death. No salvation would be accomplished by the mere bleeding of Jesus. His bleeding to death is what makes his blood-shedding crucial.
(Author, John Piper)

Now what is the relationship between this shedding of Jesus blood and the resurrection? The Bible says he was raised not just after the blood-shedding, but by it. This means that what the death of Christ accomplished was full and so perfect that the resurrection was the reward and vindication of Christ's achievement in death.

(Author, John Piper)

The wrath of God was satisfied with the suffering and death of Jesus. The holy curse against sin was fully absorbed. The obedience of Christ was completed to the fullest measure. The price of forgiveness was totally paid. The righteousness of God was completely vindicated. All

that was left to accomplish was the public declaration of God's endorsement. This he gave by raising Jesus from the dead.

(Author, John Piper)

**"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."
(1 Corinthians 15:17)**

We as Christians place all our hope in a resurrected Jesus Christ. We have resurrection faith. If Christ is not raised, sin and death has not been conquered. We have hope, to live in heaven with God forever, because Jesus was raised from the dead by God. The blood of Jesus Christ, and his resurrection is the new covenant. Jesus provided complete atonement for all our sins, past, present and future.

As followers of Christ, we proclaim that God raised Jesus from the dead, and our risen Savior, our King, lives forever and ever. Whoever heard of a Christless Christmas. We must declare everyday and everywhere we go, we will not take, Jesus Christ out of Christmas, and proclaiming nothing is more important. Not Christmas trees, Christmas gifts, Christmas parties or dinner, Christmas decoration, than telling the whole world, Jesus Christ is the reason for all seasons. He is the Savior of the world. Let's celebrate Our Savior, Jesus Christ!!

BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

4. Jesus' Ascension and Second Coming

"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

(Luke 24:50-51) ESV

(Acts 1: 6-11) NKJV(Read)

According to the Book of Acts, Jesus Ascension was 40 days after the Resurrection. Jesus Christ was glorified and exalted following His death crucifixion and resurrection, as He returned to His Heavenly Father. This time with nail- scarred hands and the keys of Death. Just imagine what a celebration all of Heaven must have had!

Jesus' earthly ministry, was finished. He had completed all God the Father had sent him to fulfill. And Jesus was to return back to the Glory of Heaven. By dying and rising , He is now seated at the right hand of God, as our Lord, our Savior, our King, our Redeemer and High Priest. Christ has won the victory over sin and death. We therefore can rejoice in our suffering, for we are now over comers through Jesus Christ.

"and what is the immeasurable greatness of power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 1: 19-20) ESV

He will forever make intercession for all believers. Jesus Christ work at the cross is finished and we have salvation. His tomb is empty , He is not here. Jesus also went to prepare a place for you and I, and all believers. Absent from the body we will present with the Lord after physical death.

Jesus, advised his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7) ESV

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Bible says in Acts chapter 2, the day if Pentecost, they was all filled with the Holy Spirit. And today He lives in us as believers. He's our helper who will guide us into all truths. He empowers us, challenges us, and convicts us to be more like Christ every day. He is always with us. He lives in us.

This age we live in now, won't last forever. Jesus' Second Coming. Jesus Christ will no longer be seated on His throne in Heaven. He will return back to earth in all His glory!

**"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God."
(1 Thessalonians 4:16) ESV**

**"Behold he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
(Revelation 1:7) ESV**

**"Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
(Matthew 24:30) ESV**

**"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."
(2 Peter 3:11-13) ESV**

Jesus' Second Coming, will be sudden! And without any warning. The Second Coming should motivate us(you and I) to live holy and godly, now and the days ahead.

Jesus' Second Coming, we should long for. But in the meanwhile during this Christmas season and daily, be sure to share Jesus' Virgin Birth, Jesus' Ministry, Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection, and Jesus' Ascension and Second Coming. So that others may turn to God and not perish but have everlasting life.

BE GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

**In closing: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD hosts will do this."
(Isaiah 9:6-7) ESV**

