

# The Right Answer To The Wrong Question

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## *We See Jesus*

So, today I would like to look at a question that seems pretty settled in the Christian world today. But is it? I believe this to be an important question because the answer each of us might give indicates just how we see Christ. I have titled this lesson “**The Right Answer To The Wrong Question**”. I did struggle some with the title thinking I might instead title the lesson, **We See Jesus**. So, I ultimately decided to add it as a sub-title. Problem solved.

We have a small group here. But I believe it is a dedicated group with some of us driving many miles and passing many churches on our way, many of us have been attending for 30 + years through some ups and downs because we believe strongly in the message that is preached. We believe that the focus of that message, the preaching of Christ and Him crucified, is the right focus, the biblical focus. We do not get off into what a war in the middle east might be foretelling, how many people did we save this last week, the need for good works, so many things we could get distracted by. No, we come here to hear about Christ and what he has accomplished for His people and how that affects all of our lives clear into eternity. We come here because we want to hear how Christ as one of the God Head in eternity, the Three In One, was chosen to come down to earth as a man to redeem all those people that God the Father had set aside from before the beginning of time, identified in scripture as the elect, the chosen of God. Christ Himself says in

**John Chapter 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”**

Christ, the Son of God, was given the assignment of redeeming all the ones given Him by the Father and lose none, raising them up at the last day. We know Christ and Him alone completed that assignment. But there are those that throw it all into question, preaching Jesus did not accomplish this on His

own, He did what He could do and the rest is now up to you. So, do we see a Savior who accomplished it all, or do see a Savior who accomplished only some of it? Well, again I believe this is one of the many reasons why we drive by and pass up many churches to get here because we believe that scripture teaches without a shadow of doubt that Jesus paid it all. He did it all, and He as the captain of our salvation left nothing up to man because there was nothing we could do or would ever do. He was sent to satisfy the debt and who according to Paul in Titus 2:14-----

**14 “gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”.**

Then he tells us in Ephesians 1:7: **“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace”**

*He gave Himself for us, In Him we have redemption through His blood.* This is what we are told over and over again in scripture. I could read vs. like this until the hour was over and not exhaust them all. Jesus Christ was given an assignment and Jesus Christ alone accomplished the assignment. But..... the opposite is what most Sunday school teachers, preachers, seminary professors teach. They teach a doctrine of free will and that man has the deciding role in salvation. Those teachings will lead to those who might be seeking answers to ask a question something like this: “What do I need to do to be saved?”. Well, that is the wrong question as mentioned in the title of the lesson. To answer that question in the way it is asked, we might say something like “Well, I think the only answer to that question is found in Jude Chapter 2”. Well, you guys are all pretty smart and we all know there is no Jude chapter 2. But likewise, there also is no answer to that question in God's plan of salvation when asked in such a way. But now, if we tweak the question just a little bit to where it asks this “What do I **need** to be saved?” Just drop the “to do” and emphasize “need”, then we have a question easily answered, and it will be the right answer. What do I need to be saved..... Scripture is pretty clear that anything we try to do just messes things up even worse. We had a speaker at one of our early, early summer camps years ago who said “Get your heads out of your belly buttons. The answer to your problems are not going to be found in you!” Our self righteousness is nothing that God will accept, in fact, he despises it.

But the revised question.....there is an answer to that and it will provide us with something that God does accept...even requires. So, the wrong question can only be answered by the right answer.

As we start looking at the answer to that question, let's begin by spending just a little bit of time in **II Corinthians 3: 7-12**

**7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!**

A lot here and I'm going to just skimp over it because there are so many lessons to be brought in these few vs.,. But this is such a fascinating passage and I do want to make just a couple of comments here that will help us to get on the right track.

Paul is speaking to the glory of the old ministry, the law, the covenant that brought well, as it says.....it was the ministry that brought death. Moses face reflected that Glory of the old ministry and his face shone in such a way that the Israelite's would have to turn their eyes away. Moses would put a veil over his face while speaking with them until the shine would fade away, But in the end Moses reveals to us that as glorious as that old ministry was, it was transitory, in other words temporary, it would soon fade away and by necessity be replaced, and it's glory would be seen as nothing when compared to the surpassing glory of the new ministry, one that is NOT transitory, but the new eternal ministry of Christ that has replaced the old.

Hebrews 8;6 tells us that **“ in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. “** And as Paul in 2 Corinthians 3 goes on to say, if that which was transitory

came with such glory, how much greater would the glory be in the one that is not transitory, but is eternal. It is the Glory of God the Father through His Son Christ Jesus. It brings to mind for me a passage in Philippians 2 that says:

**Philippians 2:14-16 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.**

I once heard a message from this passage where the preacher claimed that in order to shine like stars in the sky we must always have pure thoughts in our minds, be constant in our good works going on and on, claiming this was about all our good works in our daily lives.

But, in reality, we are like stars in the universe because we reflect, we project, the light of Christ that is in us. Just as Moses did nothing in and of himself to produce that shine from his face, he was reflecting the glory of God and the former ministry, we likewise do nothing of our own to create a light that shines, but we do have Christ in us and in Him there is the light that shines. It His light that causes us to shine like stars in the sky.

Now looking back at II Corinthians 3 and vs 12 which is where I was heading as the start of the main part of this study. We read this:

II Corinthians 3:12

**Therefore since we have such a hope, we are very bold.**

So, why this hope? This boldness? It's because **We See Jesus.**

**Hebrews 2:9**

**But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.**

We do have our hope in Him. Because of His willing sacrifice He has been

crowned with Glory and Honor. And His sacrifice we know brought hope through life eternal in Him.

## **And then**

### **Hebrews 12:1,2**

**12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher (perfecter) of our faith.**

It is He who is the source of hope and confidence. We once were blind, but now we see. We see Jesus, the author and the finisher, the perfecter of our faith. What hope and confidence that gives us. Now we can say we know Him as we have never known Him before and we see Him as we have never seen Him before. And the good news is Jesus enables us to see so many things that back when we were blind we would have never been able to see. And he enables us to know so many things that we would never have been able to know back when we were lost. But not only does He enable us, He teaches us and guides us. In this lesson we will be looking at just a few of the things that we are now made able to know and to see.

As we already mentioned we are now able to see Christ in His surpassing glory. We see it in Him, we see it in His work. Let's turn in our bibles to John chapter 1 and see how it speaks to us about this glory of Christ.

John 1:14

**14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

We now see that new found glory of the ministry that Moses spoke of and then the writer of Hebrews helps connect the dots for us. And as we read down just a little farther in John 1 we also see Him as the Son of God and even God Himself.

**John 1: 17-18 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is at the Father's side, has made Him known.**

In John 14 when Phillip says “Lord show us the Father”, Christ responds “If you have seen me , you have seen the Father”. And in John 10 verse 30 He says, I and the Father are one. So, we see Him as our Lord, our God and our Savior. All these things we see is something not understood by the unregenerate man. Oh they might see Him as someone in a story, they might have a mind knowledge of Him because of the things they have heard about Him. But the question is, have you really **SEEN** Him? Do you really know Him? Have you been accepted in the beloved because with out that what you see and know is all superficial. Without that born again experience, you can not see Him as He really is. We must first be born again. Then and only then can we truly see Him. Then we will truly know He is the Son of God and we see Him as the perfectly obedient Son, We see Him as one who was made like us, suffered temptations like us yet remained without sin. Then we can understand what is meant in **Hebrews 2:9,10** when we are told this about His trials and temptations:

**9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**

**10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the captain of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.**

And then this in **Hebrews 2:18 Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.**

And what greater help to brothers and sisters can there be than for one of their own to reach down and deliver them from the grasp of sin and death.

**In Romans 5:8** we see the greatest thing He has done, how He rescued us, His brothers and sisters from that grasp:

**8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

While we were yet sinners He died for us! I heard a sermon from a pastor in Georgia one time that I hope you all also get to meet sometime. He said something that has really stuck with me. He said “It is impossible for you to

understand just how good the good news is until you know how bad the bad news is". So, did you get that? "It is impossible for you to understand how good the good news is until you know how bad the bad news is." In Ezekiel 36, a very well known passage that tells us a whole lot about our selves, it lays out what the pastor is saying. First it tells us a lot about how God goes about making us a new creation. We are told among other things that He will remove our old heart of stone and give us a new heart of flesh, He will sprinkle and cleanse us from all our impurities and He will put a new spirit in us, a spirit of obedience. But then after He tells us all the good news, He acquaints us with the bad news: **"then you will remember all your evil ways and wicked deeds". And you will loathe yourselves for your detestable ways.** Now that's a jolt to who we thought we were! Now we know something about the bad news! Without Him, we are forever lost and in need of a Savior. We are truly a valley of dry bones.

While we wrestle with all that, and we deal with the knowledge of how evil and wicked our deeds truly are, we then begin to see the results of all that bad news about ourselves. We see what happens to our Savior as He is led up the hill of Calvary with a crown of thorns on His head, then we see Him hung on the cross with nails through His palms and His feet. We see Him hanging there in our stead, for our sins, our guilt, persecuted, mocked, prodded, a sword pierced through his side releasing a flood of blood and water. Taking all the pain and agony that was meant for us, shedding His blood, He suffered it all because of us! But He did it all willingly, being obedient to the Father even onto death. Still He cried out in agony—My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?! Then with His last breath He said **"It Is Finished"** . Christ, the one who knew no sin, who had no sin, took upon Himself our sin, our guilt, OUR punishment, faced Gods wrath so that we would not have to.....**While we were yet sinners He died for us. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame.....(Hebrews 12:2)** How good the good news is as we see how this one act canceled out all our bad news.

**21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** From sinners to saints-How good the good news is.(2 Corinthians 5:21)

There's a hymn called "His Robes For Mine". It talks about this very

moment and what it means.

For the sake of time I'll just read the first stanza which goes like this:

*His Robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!*

*Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath Gods rage.*

*Draped in His Righteousness, I'm justified.*

*In Christ I live, for in my place He died*

Christs righteousness was imputed to us at the same time as our sin and guilt was imputed to Him. He then took that sin and guilt and buried it in the grave with Him, canceling out all our sins and iniquities...all of them past, present and future. **Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And then,,,,and then there's that 3<sup>rd</sup> day. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day where we are enabled to see the gospel fully fulfilled in Him. How? Because on that day the grave, the tomb, was found to be empty. When looking inside all that was there was a bundle of grave clothes laid on the cold stone bed. There was an angel there saying to those who came to visit the grave site, **Why look you for the living among the dead? He is not here, He has risen.**

Wow! Such glorious news! Because the truth is this, He died and was then buried, and if on the third day He had not risen we would not have that savior who was promised and whom the many believed was Him. If you would like to turn in your bibles to I Corinthians 15:17-19 let's read what Paul says regarding the importance of the resurrection.

### **I Corinthians 15:17-19**

*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then all those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost 19 if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.* Is there any question as to why the two on the road to Emaeus were hanging there heads in sadness? The one they saw as their Messiah, their redeemer was dead. All hope was vanquished. They **thought** their faith had turned out to be useless.. they thought.... But what does Paul exclaim when we read verse 20?

He reassures us by saying **But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has**



**become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

The good news, yes He arose. And what does it mean? And for all those promised redemption---it is here.

By the Grace of God that we truly do serve a Risen Savior. Now we see Him Risen and ascended into the Heavens and seated at the right hand of the Father. Just as Hebrews 1 tells us:

**3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

So now, how do we see Jesus? We see Him in heaven sitting at the right Hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all His creation. We see Him as our mediator and how He is ever living making intercession for us.

**34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)**

**Hebrews 7:24.25**

**24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

We see Christ as our advocate. That is part of His intercession for us. In 1<sup>st</sup> John we hear this from the apostle: **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous .....(1 John 2:1 )**

Well we all do sin and we all are in need of our advocate. As John says in Chapter 1 of 1 John: **if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** As much as we wish it would not be, sin will be a constant with us until by the grace of God we are absent from the body and present with the Lord. Until then, we will always be in constant need of Christ our advocate.

Well, my time is running out and yet there is so much more that we can see. The more time we get to walk with Christ on this earth, the more we will grow in His Grace and The knowledge of Him and will see more and understand more than we do now.

**“What do we need to be saved”.**

In Acts 4:12 we are told that **Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

There is no mans decision or freewill mentioned there. There is no raising of the hand, no walking the aisle, no saying a sinners prayer. There's no rules about church attendance, about mans baptism, about communion. There is no “need to do” there. Throw in there what you might but it tells us plainly it's Jesus and Jesus alone who has done it all.

What do we need to be saved? It's Christ. He's it. He's all there is, He's all we've got, but He's all we need. We are poor sinners and nothing at all, but Jesus Christ is my all in all.

With the few minutes that are left I would like to conclude with this. Earlier I mentioned that we are a small group, but you know, we're big enough because we are where God has us. Also when we take into account all the people we are privileged to have join us on Zoom every Sunday and then even more of you on Wednesday nights. You all come from several states and even foreign countries like Japan and yes,even Canada . And then there's sermon audio. When you look at the analytics, we have downloads from all around the world and across the United States. Our message is definitely getting out. I also find it a real blessing when I think about all the preachers we have had at our many special meetings standing in this pulpit preaching the gospel of Christ. We've had one who spent many years as a missionary in Mexico, we've had one from the Caribbean, Lance Heller was just here from New Guinea and we also had a former pastor who spent 10 years as a missionary in the Amazon of Brazil with his family, who of course would be my mother in law Adeline and my wife and all her siblings. Then we look at all the states that have been represented by speakers from places like Florida, West Virginia, North Carolina, Iowa, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, California and probably one or two

that I have missed. It has been wonderful to get to know them all. And when you stop to think about it, what is the tie that binds us all? What is it that we all have in common that gives us such sweet fellowship? What is it that we need? It's Christ. He truly is all we need.