Life in Christ: Session Five

Jesus Christ – God with Us

**OVERVIEW:** Previously, we discovered that God created everything, including humans, exactly as He intended. This includes a design feature that allowed for humans to reject Him because that was the only way to also have the type of loving and trusting relationship God desired. Since Adam and Eve rebelled in the garden we live in a broken world, as a broken person, surrounded by other broken people.

We also understood that we are completely incapable of saving ourselves. The death penalty is in place and all who are guilty will receive that judgment. We have no one else to blame. Yet, God in His mercy promised to save us from: ourselves, our sin, and the condemnation we deserve. He promised the hope of eternal life with Him through the redeeming work of His Anointed One, The Messiah.

In this session, we will explore the Biblical understanding of what is required of the one who would be our Savior. Then we will take a look at Jesus of Nazareth.

**We Need a Savior!**

We live in a broken world with hurting people and damaged relationships. We are unable to expunge ourselves from the guilty verdict. This is not only a temporal or immediate problem, it is an eternal problem. We can try to ignore the issue, pretend it isn’t all that bad, convince ourselves that there won’t be consequences or that we can deal with whatever the consequences may be, believe that we can rise above. Not one of these options or any other human generated option will work. Scripture says plainly that God is the only one with the authority and ability to restore that which has been broken.

**The Fall revisited: Genesis 3:15**

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
    and between your offspring[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-71e)*] and her offspring;****he shall bruise your head,
    and you shall bruise his heel****.”*

Theologians call this the “protoevangelium”, or the “first gospel.” God made a promise to Adam and Eve as well as to their descendants of one who would come and save them from the penalty of their rebellion. He would save them by defeating sin, death, and the devil as well as providing the means to be forgiven.

**Job Description for the Savior!**

**WANTED: Savior of the World**

Three vital characteristics of the Savior:

1. The Savior will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	1. Genesis 3:15
	2. Matthew 4:2
	3. Luke 2:7
	4. Luke 22:44
	5. John 1:14
	6. John 19:28
	7. 1st Timothy 2:5
	8. Hebrews 2:14
	9. Why is this important?
2. The Savior will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	1. Daniel 9:24
	2. Isaiah 53:9
	3. Luke 1:35
	4. 2nd Corinthians 5:21
	5. Hebrews 7:26-27
	6. 1st Peter 1:!9
	7. 1st Peter 2:22
	8. Why is this important?
3. The Savior will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	1. Matthew 1:22-23
	2. Isaiah 7:14
	3. Exodus 6:6
	4. Psalm 49:7-8
	5. Romans 5:10
	6. Galatians 4:4-5
	7. 1st John 1:7
	8. Why is this important?

.**IF….**

* God is love
* God designed us for a reciprocal loving relationship with Him
* God is just and therefore lives by His own rules
* We are completely incapable of rectifying the problem

**THEN….**

* THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION!

**Jesus of Nazareth – Who is He?**

Jesus: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Matthew 16:13-17
* Luke 1:68
* Luke 24:1

Jesus: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Mark 2:1-12

Jesus: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* John 20:24-31
* Deuteronomy 6:13-15
* Matthew 4:8-10

Jesus: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* John 10:28-30
* John 5:17

**“Who are you?” - “I AM”**

Exodus 3:14

John 6:35; 8:12; 8:18; 8:58; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1

**Liar, Lunatic, or Lord**

Jesus asked the question, “Who do men say that I am?”

C.S. Lewis wrote:

*I am trying to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus]. “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse.*

Lewis continues with:

*You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.* (Mere Christianity, p.56)

Josh McDowell, in his book Evidence that Demands a Verdict, calls this the “Trilemma.” It looks something like this:

