



E-Mail Newsletter

Bringing The Word of Life

"... that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

March 2010

Number 1091

Page 1



THE UNIQUENESS OF CHRISTIANITY Titus 2:11-14

People are always drawn by the unusual and unique. The most unique book in the world is the Bible. Its origin, teaching, and influence worldwide are all unmatched. In our passage we shall study seven unique aspects of Christianity.

1. A Unique Exhibition (v.11).

This is an exhibition of God's amazing grace. This means that God released all His kindness and mercy to save men. He made an open display of His goodness. This was seen at Calvary's cross, in the Son of God bleeding and dying for guilty men. All of the world's great exhibitions are only a heap of rubbish in comparison.

2. A Unique Character (v.13).

Some say Jesus is only man; but here scripture declares that He is the Great God and Saviour (cf. **Isa. 9:6; 1 Tim. 3:16a; Rom. 9:5; 1 John 5:20**). Here is assurance for the Christian! Your Saviour is the Great God - fear not! Here is encouragement for the anxious! The great God is also a Saviour - fear not to entrust your soul to Him. What great frustration is here for the self-righteous who hope to save himself, how fruitless his effort! Only a great God and Saviour can save a soul (**Isa. 43:11**).

3. A Unique Gift (v.14a).



For a man to lay down his life for his friend is great (**John 15:13**); this is man at his best. But while we were yet enemies, Christ died for us; this is God at His best! (**Rom. 5:10**). This is a rare example in history where one willingly died for his enemies. The Lord gave Himself for you. What have you given Him in return?

4. A Unique Work (v.14bc).

The work of Christ stated here was to **REDEEM** and to **PURIFY**; to **PURCHASE** and to **CLEANSE**. When a woman buys a set of kitchen ware, she does not think them fit for use until they are washed. They are first bought, then washed and cleansed. The Lord uses us, not because we are great and wise; not because we are good, but because we have been cleansed. It is not enough that we be redeemed; if God is to be glorified in us we must be cleansed and fit for the Master's use (**2 Tim. 2:21**).

5 A Unique People (v.14cd).

The redeemed and the purified are to be "a **peculiar people**." Some Christians are afraid of being peculiar, lest they should be talked about and criticized. Christians are a peculiar people.

They are unusual in their:

- (1) **Birth** [John 1:13; I Pet. 1:23];
- (2) **Citizenship** [Phil. 3:20];
- (3) **Language** [Col. 4:6];
- (4) **Affections** [Col. 3:2];
- (5) **Works** [Tit. 2:14d]. Such godly privileges are not to be ashamed of anytime and anywhere!

6. A Unique Life (v.12).

The life of the redeemed man is one of a constant fighting and resisting life - a denying of ungodliness. It is to be a **SOBER** life (I Pet. 4:7) - one that is moderate and balanced in all things in eating, clothing, spending, speech, hobbies, etc. The life of the born-again man is to be a **RIGHTEOUS** life (1 John 2:29) - one that is both pleasing to God and fellowmen. The Christian should be the most honest and fair businessman, the most honorable of all men. The life of the saved man is to be a **GODLY** life (I Tim. 6:6) - a life that reflects to a dark world the light and image of the invisible God. Overall, the true Christian life is to be a life that is "zealous of good works."

7. A Unique Prospect (v.13).

Christians are looking for Christ's glorious appearing. The reality of the sun rising tomorrow is as certain as Christ's return! It seems strange to many that Jesus Christ should say at least 3X in Revelation, "Behold, I come quickly..." over 19 centuries ago and not to have come as yet. Has He forgotten? Has He become indifferent? Certainly not! We must remember that our Lord is longsuffering and His tarrying grants mankind sufficient time and opportunity to repent and be saved (2 Pet. 3:9).

Conclusion: Biblical Christianity is very unique in so many ways. It is a living faith that counts on and lives in the light of the coming of the Son of God. Friend, are you a biblical Christian? Jesus Christ will surely return! Are you ready for His glorious appearing? May God grant you to be prepared for that great day. The vital question is – Where will you spend eternity, heaven or hell? The choice is yours now! *Rodelio Mallari*

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important. C. S. Lewis

The Monarch Butterfly



The Monarch butterfly is one of God's most wonderful creatures. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants, and when the egg hatches, a caterpillar crawls out. After feeding on the leaves of the milkweed plant, it climbs to the branch of a tree where it changes into a chrysalis within a cocoon. In a few weeks the cocoon splits open and a butterfly wriggles out.

This grand change from an egg, to a caterpillar, to a chrysalis, to a butterfly is called metamorphosis.

Each fall, millions of Monarchs migrate from Canada to the state of Michoacan near Mexico City.

The following spring they start north, laying their eggs along the way, which in turn hatch and the new generation flies on. It is unlikely that any single Monarch can make the entire trip, but its children and grandchildren continue the spring migration northward to Canada to again restart the life cycle.

It is the butterfly, not a caterpillar that flies from one country to the other. Just as metamorphosis is necessary to change the caterpillar that can only crawl to something that can fly, so a total change in our nature is necessary before we can come into the presence of God. The Lord Jesus spoke of this divine necessity to Nicodemus when He said, '*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*' (**John 3:3**). Nicodemus had kept the law of God to the best of his ability, but he lacked the spiritual metamorphosis that only the Lord Jesus can provide. If a person lacks this spiritual rebirth, he will never see or enter God's kingdom and home.

How are you hoping to enter into God's Heaven when you die? By self-improvement? God declares that '*All have sinned*' (**Romans 3:23**). A sinner, no matter how cultured, spiritually refined, or morally improved he becomes, is as unfitted to enter God's sinless kingdom as the caterpillar is of progressing, by his pathetic crawling, from one country to the next.

And so you need a new birth. Like the caterpillar, your first birth is not enough. You need a birth that is of God that will make you a child of God. This truth carries eternal significance. God's eternal Son proclaimed: '*Ye must be born again*' (**John 3:7**). '*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*' (**John 1:12**).

A Christian is not a person who has made a new start in life, but a person who has received a new life to start with. Anon

The Uniqueness of the Cross of Christ

*The Maker of the universe
As man for man was made a curse;
The claims of laws that He had made
Unto the uttermost He paid.*

*His holy fingers made the bough
That grew the thorns that crowned His brow.
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.*

*He made the forest whence had sprung
The tree on which His body hung,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.
He died upon a cross of wood.*

*The sky that darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread.
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space*

*The spear that spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.*

*The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years;
But a new glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall bow.*

The Gospel of Christ

- ❖ A Full Gospel – Christ and nothing less
 - ❖ A Plain Gospel – Christ and nothing more
 - ❖ A Pure Gospel – Christ and nothing else
- A.P. Gibbs

Point to Ponder

There are only two religions in the world. Christianity says – **DONE**



All others say - **DO**

*Bringing the Word of Life,
PO Box 12,
Carrickfergus,
County Antrim.
BT38 7YD
Northern Ireland.*

If any man be in Christ he is a new creation old things are passed away and behold all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

www.btwol.com

newlife@btwol.com