

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

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

newlife@btwol.com

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Good News for the Lost

When a man has broken the laws of his country, and is under a sentence of death, he paces the floor of his gloomy cell, looks through the steel bars, and thinks of the fearful tomorrow. If you could speak to him, what would you say? Would a lecture on morality do him any good? Would you tell him to be a good man and to keep the laws of his country? Most likely he would reply, "What are you talking about? That doesn't help me at all. I'm going to die tomorrow!"

Poor lost one! Would it help him if you kept the laws of his country for him? Not in the least. The law demands his life, and the day is set. The only way to satisfy the law for him would be to die in his place (if that were possible), and the only good news for him would be the granting of a pardon.

Isn't it just the same for an awakened sinner who realizes he is lost? This world is a condemned cell to him. The devil roars in his conscience, "Guilty! Guilty!"

He has tried to be innocent. He has pleaded, "I'm not as guilty as my neighbours."

He has tried to make things in his life right. He has tried to keep the law of God, but he has broken it more and more. And now, trembling with guilt and fear, conscience—the devil's jailer—has turned the heavy bolt of the gate of despair.

In this way, every sinner who will be saved is brought to utter hopelessness, knowing that there is nothing in himself that can remove his guilt. Is there good news for a man who has learned the truth about himself, and feels that he is lost?

Will it be enough to tell him to make his life better, to love God, and keep His commandments? Surely he would reply, "You don't understand my case at all. If I could do those things, I wouldn't be lost! I am lost, I am vile, I am condemned. I feel that I have lost my life, lost the chance of going to heaven ... lost my everything!"

Are you this person? Have I described your condition? Are you the one who feels lost? Listen and I will tell you of One who came to seek and to save the lost. I do not come to your cell's gate to tell you what you must do—

*nothing that you can do
can save you from your dark
condemned cell or your
future fearful doom*

I tell you, if the Spirit of God has made you feel that you are lost, I have good news from heaven for you! Jesus sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He is the blessed One, who came in pity to this condemned cell, who took the sinner's place, and died—the Just for the unjust.

Think of the glory of this mighty Saviour. He knew that nothing short of His very life's blood could meet your guilty, condemned state. He gave it freely. What a plentiful redemption we have through that precious blood! You have sinned against God, but God is satisfied, justified, and glorified by this precious sacrifice. God has raised Him from the dead, and through Him is preached the forgiveness of sins—free and full. You can have everlasting forgiveness through Him—not through your own doing. If you will put your trust in Jesus Christ, who died for you and rose again, your cell door is open. Come out, and rejoice in the gospel, the good news for the man who feels he is lost. C. Stanley



How God can save, yet righteous be?

The perfect righteousness of God
Is witnessed in the Saviour's blood;
'Tis in the cross of Christ we trace
His righteousness, His wondrous grace.

God could not pass the sinner by,
His sins demand that he must die;
But in the cross of Christ we see
How God can save, yet righteous be.

The judgment fell on Jesus' head,
'Tis in His blood sin's debt was paid;
Stern Justice can demand no more,
And Mercy can dispense her store.

The sinner who believes is free,
Can say, "The Saviour died for me:"
Can point to the atoning blood,
And say, "This made my peace with God."



THE DEITY OF CHRIST



He was in the world and world was made by Him and the world knew him not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. (John 1:10-11)

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Colossians 1: 16-17)

Is any other question so far-reaching and important as the question, who is Jesus? Is He or is He not God? If Jesus is not God, then there is no Christianity, and we who worship Him are nothing more than idolaters. Conversely, if He is God, those who say He was merely a good man are blasphemers. The deity of Christ is the key doctrine of Scripture. Reject it, and the Bible becomes a confused jumble of words devoid of any unifying theme. Accept it, and the Bible becomes an intelligible and ordered revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

CHRIST'S POWERS AND PREROGATIVES

The attributes of deity
are ascribed to Him in the Scriptures.

● OMNIPOTENCE

He Himself laid claim to omnipotence: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). On occasions He exhibited this power

- over nature (Matthew 8:27),
- over demons (Luke 4:36),
- over angels (Matthew 26:53),
- over disease (Luke 4:40),
- over death (Mark 5:41,42).

● OMNISCIENCE

Omniscience is implied in the statement “Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men” (John 2:24; see also John 4:29; 16:30; Colossians 2:3).

● OMNIPRESENCE

The promise included in our Lord’s Great Commission involves the omnipresence of Christ. “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20).

He asserted His own self-existence in these words: “As the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself” (John 5:26; see also John 8:57–58; Revelation 1:8).

Actions are ascribed to Christ that are possible to Deity alone:

- **Creation**
(Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10)
- **Resurrection**
(John 5:28,29)
- **Judgment**
(John 5:27)

When Thomas exclaimed, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28), Jesus did not rebuke him for blasphemy, but accepted his ascription of deity without objection. Contrast this with the reaction of the angel, when John fell down to worship him (Revelation 22:8,9).

THE WITNESS OF CHRIST’S CLAIMS

In the first words recorded of Him, He offsets the words “My Father” against His mother’s “Thy Father” (Luke 2:41–52), surely an indication of His consciousness of a unique relation existing between Himself and God. The gospel narratives are so thoroughly saturated with the assumption of His deity, that it sometimes appears in quite unexpected ways and places.

For example, in three passages in Matthew’s record, He is represented as speaking most naturally of “His angels” (Matthew 13:41; 16:27; 24:31).

To the horror of the Jews, He even went so far as to assume to Himself the sacred divine name – “I Am.” “Before Abraham was, I Am” (John 8:58; Exodus 3:14; see also John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7–11).

These are undoubted assumptions of deity, as is His claim to possess the divine resources to meet all human need.

➤ Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28).

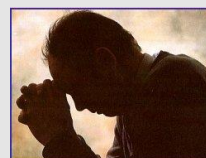
➤ Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14)

➤ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-38)

➤ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:28*. J. Oswald Sanders



POINT TO PONDER



The cross of Christ is the
cost of my forgiveness.

Anon

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

www.btwol.com

newlife@btwol.com