Life Giver

Experiencing the Life of Christ
Why are we on this earth? Are we alive and alert and living life to the extent that we were meant to live it? Or are we surviving, just making it?

Are we as the existentialist says nothing more than a random collection of cells or is there more to the complex order that exists in each individual? Or are we here to experience the utmost pleasure as the hedonist would suggest? Is life about the gathering of possessions that make us more important and comfortable? Are we here to learn?

Let me suggest that we will find our greatest fulfillment and fruitfulness not in the seeking of pleasure or the acquiring of goods, or the rise to prominence, but in something else. In something greater than ourselves. That our life is meant to be lived fully, abundantly. And that life comes only through the real historical person of Jesus Christ. In His words, He is Life. He came to give life, life abundant and life eternal. Abundant in the sense of a fulfilled / satisfied life, a fruitful life. Not merely a healthy and wealthy life, but a fulfilling and eternally meaningful life. His was not a life marked with comfort, fine things, and yet He lived more abundantly than any human. He lived a fulfilled life in a perfect relationship with God the Father and no person has ever had a more fruitful life as evidenced by the fact that his works and words are still revered and followed 2000 years removed from his death.

The abundant life is not void of difficulties, but is full of significance and joy and value. It isn’t sitting on the couch watching others live, but engaging in the reality of all that life is. To taste life and see that it is better than the bite of an apple. To live fully alive. Even if that means experiencing suffering and disappointment and heartbreak. But it also means experiencing real joy that no gadget could produce, real love that can only be described as unconditional, and real life that will last for an eternity in fellowship with the eternal God.

Christ is the Life Giver. The one who is life, who gives life to all who ask for it. The Bread of Life, the Water of Life, the Breath of Life, the Resurrection and the Life, the way the truth and the life. To come alive is to place your self in the hands of the author of life and allow him to resuscitate you. To breathe into your lifeless lungs. To give what only God can give. Abundant and eternal life. Will you come and learn more about this man?

Over the next 6 weeks we will be investigating and experiencing the Life Giving character of Christ.

“...Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 15:45 (nlt)
Experiencing the Incarnation of Christ
John 1:1-18

Reading

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. 13 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 14 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” 15 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 16 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 17 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

Record Observations

What words or phrases does John use to describe person of Jesus Christ in verses 1 - 4?

Reread verse 14 & make 5 observations of this profound text.

Questions

1) Lots of people have lots of differing ideas about who Jesus was and is. What are some of the more common ideas about the identity and nature of Christ among people with whom you associate?

2) What is significant about the fact that Christ is the source of life (v.4)?
Experiencing the Incarnation of Christ
John 1:1-18

Comments from The Bible Knowledge Commentary

1:4. Life is man's most important asset. To lose life is tragic. John affirmed that in the ultimate sense, life is in Christ. Man's spiritual and physical life come from Him. (For John's teaching on life, cf. 5:26; 6:57; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6; 17:3; 20:31.) Jesus, the Source of “life” (cf. 11:25),

1:14. The Word (Logos; cf. v. 1) became flesh. Christ, the eternal Logos, who is God, came to earth as man. Yet in doing so, He did not merely “appear” like a man; He became one (cf. Phil. 2:5-9). Humanity, in other words, was added to Christ’s deity. And yet Christ, in becoming “flesh,” did not change; so perhaps the word “became” (egeneto) should be understood as “took to Himself” or “arrived on the scene as.”

“Flesh” in this verse means a human nature, not sinfulness or weakness. In the Greek the words lived for a while among us recall God’s dwelling with Israel in the Old Testament. The word “lived” is eskēnōsen, from skēnē (“tabernacle”). Much as God’s presence was in the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34), so Jesus dwelt among people.

Look up these verses & record your thoughts

John 5:26

John 11:25

1 John 1:2

1 John 5:11

Questions

What does it mean that Jesus is life?

What type of life does Jesus offer humanity?
Experiencing the Incarnation of Christ
John 1:1-18

Cross Reference: Matthew 1:18-24

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Cross Reference: Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Question

1) Why did Christ have to be born of a virgin?

2) What does ‘Immanuel’ mean? Why is this significant?

Cross Reference: John 1:1-18

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

By Charles Wesley
Experiencing the Incarnation of Christ
John 1:1-18

C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity

C. S. Lewis wrote these words in his classic book Mere Christianity:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about [Christ]: ‘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. 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 moral teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to”


Questions

Has there been a time in your life when you “received” Christ or believed in His name. If so, describe this time.

Which of your friends and neighbors need to know the grace and truth that come only through Jesus Christ? Commit to pray for these individuals.

Questions in this lesson are taken from:

Application

Without Christ’s willingness to come to Earth on our behalf, humanity is without life. Consider your life and how Christ’s death brought you access to life. Life to the full and life eternal. Write a psalm of praise to the Lord:

“There is in the world only one figure of absolute beauty: Christ. That infinitely lovely figure is an infinite marvel.”

—Dostoevsky renowned Russian novelist 'The Brothers Karamazov'
# Experiencing Christ Together
## Community Group Week 1

### Names & Numbers

Record your groups names and numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Prayer Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Experiencing the Supremacy of Christ
Colossians 1:1-2:15

Reading
Colossians 1:15-20
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 2:8-15
8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Record Observations
List the adjectives used to describe Jesus in verse 15 - 20.

Make 5 observations about 2:9

Questions
How do verses 2:9 and 2:10 connect? What are the implications of this for your life?

“Jesus Christ is an admirable conjunction of diverse excellencies.”
-Jonathan Edwards
Experiencing the Supremacy of Christ
Colossians 1:16-2:2

Comments from *With the Word Bible Commentary*

Three prepositional phrases define the creative activity of Christ: All things came to be "in [NIV, by] him" (v. 16a), "through [NIV, by] him" (v. 16b), and "for him" (v. 16c). Creation was in him in the sense that it occurred within the sphere of his person and power. He was its conditioning cause, its originating center, its spiritual locality. Creation is through Christ in the sense that he was the mediating Agent through whom it actually came into being. The entire life of the universe is mediated from God through Christ (cf. Jn 1:3, 10). Creation is for Christ in the sense that he is the end for which all things exist, the goal toward whom all things were intended to move. They are meant to serve his will and to contribute to his glory.


**Question 1**

How is Christ's role in creation clarified by each of these expressions in Colossians 1:16, 17?

"All things were created … through Him"

"All things were created … for Him"

"He is before all things"

"In Him all things hold together" (see Heb. 1:3)

**Question 2**

Everything belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. First, He carried out the plans of the Father in creating the physical and spiritual worlds. Later, He carried out the Father’s plans in redeeming men and women to establish a new creation, the Church, of which He is the Head.

What do you find to be the most awe-inspiring concept in Colossians 1:15–23? Why?

In contemplating the preeminent Christ, what encouragement do you find for persevering in your faith and in the hope of the Gospel?
Read Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Questions

1) What does it mean to be ‘dead in your sins?’

2) How has God made us ‘alive with Christ?’

Cross Reference: Philippians 2

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Cross Reference: Hebrews 1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.
Experiencing the Supremacy of Christ
Colossians 1 & 2

“...so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

Commit to Memory Colossians 1:17-19

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Questions

1) How does Christ’s supremacy over creation & the church impact you in your daily journey?

2) What area(s) of your life need to be submitted to Christ’s preeminence?

Prayer

Write a prayer to God bearing in mind Christ’s preeminence in your life:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answered Prayers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading: John 6:25-40

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Record Observations

What did the people assume was the goal of religion? (see verse 28)

How did Jesus respond to their question?

How many times is the word ‘life’ used in these verses?

Questions

The people were seeking Christ because ‘[they] ate [their] fill of the loaves.’ They looked for physical filling, but Christ came to ‘give life to the world.’ What is the difference in these 2 perspectives?

“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man...everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me...I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ.”  
-Napoleon Bonaparte
Reading: John 11:17-27

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Record Observations

According to verses 25 & 26, what does Jesus claim about those who believe in him?

What does Jesus ask of Martha in verse 26? How would you respond to this question?

Questions

How does Christ’s statement that He is the “resurrection and the life” change the way a Christian views death?

Insights

Twenty-three times in all we find our Lord’s meaningful “I AM” (ego eimi, Gr.) In several of these, He joins His “I AM” with seven tremendous metaphors which are expressive of His saving relationship toward the world.

“I AM the Bread of life” (6:35,41,48,51).
“I AM the Light of the world” (8:12).
“I AM the Door of the sheep” (10:7,9).
“I AM the Good Shepherd” (10:11,14).
“I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (11:25).
“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (14:6).
“I AM the true Vine” (15:1,5).
**Reading: John 14:1-7**

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

**Record Observations**

Make 5 observations:
1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5) 

**Questions**

What is Jesus the ‘way’ to?

What is significant about Jesus claiming to be *the* truth?

How does Christ being ‘the life’ affect you?

“Faith is a confidence in the person of Jesus Christ and in His power, so that even when His power does not serve my end, my confidence in Him remains because of who He is.”

- Ravi Zacharias
Application

Jesus is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way the truth and the life. He is a life giver.

1) Record your story of how Christ, the Life Giver, has changed your life.

2) How can you be a ‘life-giver’ to the people in your life this week?

Thoughts from C.S. Lewis

What are we to make of Christ?” There is no question of what we can make of Him, it is entirely a question of what He intends to make of us. You must accept or reject the story. The things He says are very different from what any other teacher has said. Others say, “This is the truth about the Universe. This is the way you ought to go,” but He says, “I am the Truth, and the Way, and the Life.” He says, “No man can reach absolute reality, except through Me. Try to retain your own life and you will be inevitably ruined. Give yourself away and you will be saved.” He says, “If you are ashamed of me, if, when you hear this call, you turn the other way, I also will look the other way when I come again as God without disguise. If anything whatever is keeping you from God and from Me, whatever it is, throw it away. If it is your eye, pull it out. If it is your hand, cut it off. If you put yourself first you will be last. Come to Me everyone who is carrying a heavy load, I will set that right. Your sins, all of them, are wiped out, I can do that. I am Re-birth, I am Life. Eat Me, drink Me, I am your Food. And finally, do not be afraid, I have overcome the whole Universe.” That is the issue.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Community Group

Answered Prayers

Life Giver
Experiencing the Mission of Christ  
John 10

Reading: John 10:7-18

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Record Observations

What metaphors does Jesus use to describe himself?

What 3 things does the thief come to do? (verse 10)

What 2 things did Jesus come to do? (verse 10)

Questions

Jesus is often found in pop culture songs and movies. How is Jesus usually portrayed in pop culture?

If we were to ask students on campus about what Jesus was all about what might some of the common answers be?
Experiencing the Mission of Christ
John 10

Key Verse

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Questions

What does Jesus mean when he says that he is the ‘door?’

What does Jesus mean when he says that he is the ‘good shepherd?’

Who is the thief in verse 10?

What does Jesus mean that He came that ‘they may have life and have it abundantly?’

Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible

To give life to the sheep. In opposition to the design of the thief, which is to kill and destroy Christ saith, I am come among men, 1. That they might have life. He came to put life into the flock, the church in general, which had seemed rather like a valley full of dry bones than like a pasture covered over with flocks. Christ came to vindicate divine truths, to purify divine ordinances, to redress grievances, and to revive dying zeal, to seek those of his flock that were lost, to bind up that which was broken (Eze. 34:16), and this to his church is as life from the dead. He came to give life to particular believers. Life is inclusive of all good, and stands in opposition to the death threatened (Gen. 2:17); that we might have life, as a criminal has when he is pardoned, as a sick man when he is cured, a dead man when he is raised; that we might be justified, sanctified, and at last glorified.

“The Glory of God is man fully alive”

-St. Irenaeus
Cross References about ‘Life’ in John’s Gospel

Look up the following verses. Write out what the verse says about ‘life.’

John 5:21

John 6:57

John 8:12

John 14:19

John 20:31

“Bring Me to Life” by Bebo Norman

I am a barren land
And it's all I can do to stand
I am thirsty, I am thirsty
Father, reach out Your hand
I have given all that I can
Still I'm sinking, I'm still sinking
I want to run into the deep
And let the deep call out to me
I want to lose myself in Your love
So let it rain down over me
As I fall down to my knees
Let the ocean rise to meet me
I need You to bring me to life
Well of eternal things

Endless is all the life You bring
Be the water that I long for
And show me Your Kingdom Come
Father and let Your will be done
Here in me as it is in Heaven

Prayer

Thank the Lord for life, for the breath that He has given you. For the joy, and peace, and freedom that you have in Him.
“I have come to…”

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Luke 5:31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. [32] I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Matthew 10:34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Questions

How do these various reasons for Christ’s mission on earth fit together?

How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare / contrast to the Jesus propped up in pop culture?

Thoughts

Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was and what he was all about (Mark 8:27, 28) How would you respond to that question?

“...everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me...I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ.” -Napoleon Bonaparte
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Answered Prayers**
Reading: Romans 5:12-21

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Record Observations

What is the result of sin entering the world?

List the benefits that come to believers through Christ in verses 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 21.

Questions

What is the state of the human heart after Adam sinned? What is humanity’s greatest need?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What does it mean that we are all by nature “objects of wrath?”
Reading: Ephesians 2:1-9

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Reading: Colossians 1:19-22

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Reading: Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Record Observations

What did Christ accomplish for humanity on the cross? (see Eph. 2:5) Why? (see Eph. 2:7)

According to Col. 19-21 what did Christ accomplish for humanity on the cross?

Fill in the following:
Col. 2:13 God made you _________ with Christ. He _________ us all our _____.

LifeGiver
Our Response: Believe

3 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” Romans 10:9

Have you ever placed your trust in Christ’s work on your behalf for the means of your salvation?

Our Response: Rejoice

10 For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:10,11

How does the reality of the cross bring you to rejoice?

Our Response: Praise

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ... 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace…” Ephesians 1:2-7

How does what you learned about the cross of Christ this week impact your worship of Christ?

Our Response: Obey

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,...” 3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands... 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him.”

How does Christ’s obedience to the Father encourage you in your obedience to God?
Verses on Our New Identity

As a believer in Christ the New Testament declares that we are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17)

What do the following verses say about the new identity of a person who has believed in Christ?

Our New Position

1 Peter 1:18-19  For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that ______ from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law. He paid his life as the price to redeem sinners from the power, consequences, and condemnation of sin.

Mk. 10:45, 1 Peter 1:18,19; Ro. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 6:19,20; Gal. 3:13;

Romans 5:10 “…when we were God’s enemies, we were __________ to him through the death of his Son,

Christ allows humanity to make peace with God relationally.

Allows man to respond to God’s love and receive forgiveness

Ephesians 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins…”

God no longer holds our sin against us. We are clean and purified from all unrighteousness.

Galatians 2:16 “…know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may __________ by faith in Christ and not by observing the law.

We are declared right. The infinite righteousness of Christ is imputed to the believer as our sin has been imputed to Christ  Rom. 3:19-26;

Commentary: Scott Horrell

There are 3 aspects to our salvation:

1) Past – 2 Tim. 1:8,9 once for all the sinner is juridicially pardoned and inhabited by the Holy Spirit

2) Present – the salvation of the soul – James 1:21, 1 Pe 1:9, Lk. 9:23,24 – we now experience in part the liberation from the power and effect of sin

3) Future – Ro. 13:11, 1 pe. 1:5 – we anticipate complete liberation from the effects of sin when glorified in Christ.
## Prayer Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Answered Prayers

| Community Group | Life Giver |
Introduction

Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world (John 3:16) and that he rose from the dead (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20). These two facts are the keys to the faith. If they are not true than we have nothing to believe in. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:17-19, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” The truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus forms the foundation for all of Christianity. This week we will discuss the resurrection of Jesus and what the Bible says about it.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Observe

List the evidences for Jesus’ resurrection given in verses 1-11.
1) the ____________________ (vv. 1, 2);
2) the ____________________ (vv. 3, 4);
3) the ____________________ (vv. 5–7);
4) the ____________________ (vv. 8–10);
5) the ____________________ (v. 11).

In verses 12-19 Paul identifies at least 6 consequences for humanity if Jesus did not actually raise from the dead. List them here.
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Question

If you were to take a poll on your campus about the afterlife what type of responses might you expect to hear?
Questions

Reread 1 Corinthians 15: 50- 58

What difference does it make if Jesus did overcome death?

Truth for Your Life

We have a living Lord (1–19). Jesus is alive, and the gospel message is true! Witnesses who saw Him have passed along their testimony to us. When you trust Him, you receive resurrection life, eternal life (John 5:24); death can hold you no more.

Pray: Thank You Lord for the life that you have given me because of Christ. Thank You for life today and for life eternal.

We have a living hope (20–49). Jesus Christ will come again, and the dead in Christ will be raised. We will have glorified bodies like Christ’s body (1 John 3:1–3). Keep in mind that resurrection is not reconstruction. God does not reassemble the original body that has turned to dust. Like flowers and fruit from the planted seed, the glorified body is related to the “planted” body but different from it.

Pray: Thank You for the hope that comes in Christ. That our lives which have been sanctified will someday be glorified.

We have a living dynamic (50–58). We have no reason to give up because Jesus has conquered sin and death! If you really believe in the resurrection and return of Jesus, verse 58 will characterize your life. The best is yet to come, so let us give Him our best now.

Pray: Lord would you encourage my heart with this truth so that today I will live in this newness of life; experiencing full life now.


Death could not hold him, no power and no enemy could prevail against him. Our best is yet to come. So father banish fear and fretting and discouragement and moodiness from our lives. Rivet our attention on the ultimate reality of Christ final triumph over death. John Piper
Theories of False Resurrection

Wrong Tomb – the women accidentally visited the wrong tomb in the dark and in their emotional state.  
**Response:** the apostles would have corrected them. Opponents to Christianity would have quickly showed them the correct tomb.

Hallucination Theory – the people that saw Jesus were just hallucinating b/c they really wanted to see Him.  
**Response:** many different people saw Him on more than one occasion.

Swoon Theory – Jesus just passed out, but didn’t really die so he probably just walked out of the tomb.  
**Response:** it was impossible to survive a roman crucifixtion, the executioners were experts, they speared him in the side to make sure he was dead. Even if he was only passed out, he couldn’t have had enough energy w/o food or water & after being beaten close to death to move a 2 ton stone from the tomb.

Stolen Body Theory – Jewish leaders or romans stole the body to keep it protected.  
**Response:** If this is true and they wanted to disprove the Christian movement they would simply have brought the body as evidence against the resurrection.

Sleeping Soldiers Theory – the soldiers fell asleep and the disciples took the body.  
**Response:** The soldiers were professionals who would be severely punished if they let this happen. The disciples would have had to sneak past the guards, move the 2 ton stone in front of the tomb, take all the burial clothes off of jesus and fold them neatly in the tomb w/o making any noise. The tomb had a roman seal on it and it was punishable by death if an unauthorized person broke the seal; the disciples were cowardly and hiding what would have brought about a sudden change in courage to risk their lives by breaking the seal?

Post Resurrection Appearances

Look up the following and record who Jesus appears to after the resurrection:

- Mt 27:53; 28:2-15
- Mk 16:1-11
- Lk 24:1-12
- Jn 20:1-18
- Rev 1:18

Physical Evidence of the Resurrection

The evidence for the Resurrection as an event within history may be listed as follows:
1) The tomb of Jesus was found empty. The body was never located or produced by those who allegedly stole it or by anyone else.
2) The disciples saw Jesus when they were fully awake and when they doubted that he was alive.
3) There is no attempt to describe the Resurrection itself, and there is no obvious collusion between the various writers to doctor or adorn their material.
4) Men who were cowards became fearless preachers, preached the gospel, and saw lives changed by that living Lord.
Experiencing the Resurrection

Applying the Resurrection

Look up the following verses and record what the resurrection has accomplished

Acts 17:31
Romans 1:4
Romans 4:24-25
Romans 8:11
Ephesians 1:18-20
Colossians 2:12-15
Hebrews 7:24-25
1 Peter 1:21

Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Answered Prayers

Community Group

Life Giver