



The Christian Life

Module 2

Jesus Christ

MODULE TWO

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INTRODUCTION

Well, you made it to Lesson Two! That first lesson wasn't any too difficult, and it really was exciting to get into the Bible and begin studying about the Christian life, wasn't it? When you've finished the course you'll not only be very knowledgeable about the Christian life, but you'll be experiencing the truths you've learned.

Before you begin studying about Jesus, let's take a moment and review the first lesson. One important thing for you to remember is that **you have a new nature**. Jesus Christ lives within you. In fact, He is the reason you have a real desire to learn about God and His ways.

Secondly, don't forget that **God loves you and that you are a very important person to Him**. The lessons in this course will reflect His love and show you how you can have a strong relationship with God.

Third, it is God's desire to bless you in every way: **spiritually, mentally, physically and materially**. This course is designed to teach you the ways in which you can receive the blessings God delights in giving you.

As you begin studying this valuable lesson about Jesus, you'll find that it is somewhat harder than the first lesson. On three occasions you will encounter a SELF-STUDY.

Before you begin studying again, it might be a good idea to **go back and review the instructions to the course**. And don't forget – **God loves you and He is always with you to help you study and bless your life as you learn His many truths**.

Part One: Who Jesus Is

1. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

STUDY 1 John 4:9-15.

One of the most important teachings of the **New Testament** is that Jesus is the Son of God. He was not simply a man who proclaimed Himself to be God's son, or a man who somehow became God's son. Rather, **He already was the Son of God** when He came into the world. Thus, we see that Jesus was the Son of God before He came to earth, **while** He was on earth, and He **remains** God's Son for all time and eternity.

These verses also show us that Jesus must be received not simply as a good teacher or a philosophical moralist, but as **the very Son of God**. John says that it is when a person declares that Jesus is the Son of God that God lives in him. In other words, for a person to receive Jesus as Saviour he must believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God.

The Virgin Birth

STUDY Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35.

The beautiful story of Jesus being born of the virgin Mary tells us much of who Jesus is. First of all, Jesus did not have an earthly father but **was** miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit. Thus, even in a physical sense Jesus was the Son of God.

Secondly, the divinity of Jesus stands magnificently before us in the title given Him, "Immanuel." The word means "God is with us," and it was **only in Jesus**, the Son of God, that God has lived on this earth in physical form.

SELF-STUDY #1

STUDY Matthew 16:13-17 and answer the following questions:

- (a) Who did the Apostle Peter say Jesus was? _____

- (b) How did Peter know who Jesus was? _____

Note: You will find the answers to the SELF-STUDY at the end of the lesson.

Throughout the New Testament Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God. Each of the four Gospel writers state that He is the Son of God (In addition to the verses we've already studied see Mark 1:1 and John 3:16), and the Apostle Paul, who wrote 13 New Testament Letters, likewise said that Jesus is God's Son (see Acts 9:20 and Romans 8:1-3).

Other New Testament writers verify Jesus divinity as did His disciples (Matthew 14:33 and John 11:27). A first century evangelist by the name of John the Baptist, who heralded the coming of Jesus, also said that he was God's Son (John 1:29-34). **And even the Roman soldier who was in charge of the crucifixion of Jesus confessed that He truly was the Son of God (Mark 15:39).**

2. THE ETERNAL NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST

STUDY John 6:35-40 and John 8:58.

Jesus has always existed. He told the Jews of His day that He was alive even before their ancestor Abraham, who lived approximately 1800 years before Him. The expression “I am” dynamically states Jesus’ eternal nature, for it has no limits of time. **Just as God has always been in existence and always will be in existence, so is His Son, Jesus, an eternal being.**

Where was Jesus before He came to earth? In John 17:5 He states that **He was with God in Heaven long before the world was ever created.**

God’s Word to Mankind

STUDY John 1:1-3 and 1:14-18.

John also says that Jesus was with God in the very beginning. He calls Jesus the “Word”, which in the original Greek language of the New testament has a dual meaning. First of all, it literally means “word”, and applied to Jesus, John is simply stating that it is through Jesus that God speaks to man.

Secondly, it can mean “a way of thinking” in a philosophical sense. Thus, by use of this Greek word; **logos**, John is proclaiming Jesus to be God’s “thought,” **or** “truth” for man. To know God man must first receive Jesus Christ as His Saviour.

In these three verses John also states that Jesus was **the Creator of the universe.** “God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him”. This same fact is taught throughout the New Testament, look up 1 Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 1:16, and Hebrews 1:1-2.

Here again we can see why Jesus came to earth to die for our sins. By God’s decree, Jesus Himself created us, it hurts Him to see men destroy their lives with sin, and so **He, because He loves us, willingly came and died on the Cross for our sins that we might be reconciled with God to live with Him forever in Heaven.**

3. THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

STUDY Philippians 2:5-11.

Although Jesus had a divine nature, **He was in every way just as human as we are while He was on earth.** Many great Bible scholars have tried to explain the union of the divine, eternal Jesus with the babe born into the world like any other human being, but it seems to be beyond man's understanding, the Apostle Paul says only that Jesus "gave up his divine privileges" to enter our physical world.

Truly it was, as Paul says, a humbling experience for Jesus to give up the glories of Heaven and come into a world of sin and suffering. **Once again we see the great love Jesus has for each of us.**

STUDY Hebrews 2:14-18.

The writer of Hebrews states that since we are of flesh and blood Jesus also became flesh and blood. There are several reasons for that. First of all, it was necessary for a human being to give himself as a sacrifice for the sins of men.

Jesus Understands Us

Secondly, Jesus came to earth to experience in a human way temptation, suffering, and death. Verse 18 says that because Jesus suffered and has been tested **He is now able to help us in our suffering and testings.** Sometimes we feel as though no one understands our problems. **But Jesus has been there. He's walked the dusty roads of life. He's been tempted with sin just as we are tempted. He knows the agony of physical and mental pain. He has even experienced death.**

Because Jesus was human just as we are, we can have confidence in His love and understanding. We can go to Him in prayer, knowing that; He will have compassion on each of us and minister to us out of the abundance of His love.

Part Two: The Meaning of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

1. JESUS' BLOOD WAS SHED FOR OUR SINS

STUDY Ephesians 1:3-8 and 1 Peter 1:18-21.

The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23), as a result we were cut off from God and every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

But Jesus came to earth to pay the price (secure a redemption) for our sins so that our relationship might be made right (reconciled) with God. It is not through His good works or through His teachings that we can be forgiven of our sins, but rather **by the precious blood of Jesus when he died on the Cross.**

Jesus Himself, when initiating the Communion service as a memorial of His death, told His Apostles, "for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many" (Matthew 26:28). **His blood has provided for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we might not have to stand before God as guilty sinners.**

Jesus-God's Sacrifice of Love

STUDY Hebrews 9:11-14 and 9:22.

Why was it necessary that Jesus come to earth and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins? Couldn't there have been another method? The book of Hebrews reminds us that in God's dealings with men He had initiated a covenant long ago which required the shedding of the blood of animals to make amends (atonement) for the sins of men. Nothing is costlier than the sacrifice of blood, for it is through blood that the lives of animals and human beings are sustained. (Study Leviticus 17:11 in the Old Testament)

Thus, in as much as man chose to ignore God and the fellowship and love that He offers, God decreed that if man wanted that fellowship restored he would have to make a very costly sacrifice. In the Old Testament, under God's Old Covenant, that meant the sacrificing of man's most prized possession and means of existence, his animals.

However, man still chose to ignore God, so God in His love and mercy sent His own Son, Jesus, to be the supreme blood sacrifice for the sins of men. Hebrews 10:12 tells us that Jesus death on the Cross was "a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time."

No longer are blood sacrifices required. Forgiveness for our sins has already been secured through the shed blood of Jesus. Praise God that Jesus came and died for each one of us!

SELF-STUDY #2

STUDY the following verses and write down what each verse says concerning the death of Jesus on the Cross:

(a) Matthew 20:28 _____

(b) 1 Peter 2:24 _____

2. THE PURPOSE OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

STUDY 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

Another important teaching of the New Testament is that **God raised Jesus Christ from the dead**. Each of the Gospels gives an account of the resurrection, and it was a central theme in the preaching of the Apostles, both in the Book of Acts and in the letters of the New Testament.

STUDY Acts 17:30-31 and Romans 1:1-4.

What is the purpose of the resurrection of Jesus? First of all, in raising Jesus from the dead, **God verified Jesus claim to be His Son**. Following Jesus' death most of His disciples became disillusioned and planned to return to their secular occupations. But when Jesus appeared to them again they knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus was who He said He was - the Son of God. Openly, as they called men and women to repentance and to faith in Jesus Christ, they proclaimed the resurrected Son of God whom they had seen with their own eyes (see Acts 1:1-3).

STUDY 1 Peter 1:3-4 and I Corinthians 15:12-22.

Another reason for the resurrection is that in raising Jesus, **God is showing us that we also shall be raised from the dead**. The resurrection gives us hope beyond the grave. Many people believe that death is the end of our existence, but in the resurrection of Jesus we have the assurance that we too shall one day be raised from the grave to live forever with God and with Jesus.

SELF-STUDY #3

1. We refer to Jesus as the Son of God only because the writers of the New Testament gave Him that title. True () False ()
2. Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit. True () False ()
3. The Apostle Peter knew that Jesus was the Son of God because he was a wise man. True () False ()
4. John said that Jesus lived in Heaven with God from the very beginning of time. True () False ()
5. In referring to Jesus as the "Word," the Apostle John is proclaiming Jesus to be man's Saviour. True () False ()
6. While on this earth, Jesus was a super human being who experience few, if any, of the problems that we face. True () False ()
7. Jesus was not bothered with temptation because He was divine. True () False ()
8. The Bible tells us that some men are good and others are bad, and only those who are bad need salvation. True () False ()
9. Why was Jesus crucified on the Cross?
 - (a) He was punished as a sinner.
 - (b) The Romans were afraid He wanted to be king.
 - (c) To provide salvation for mankind.
 - (d) To appease the wrath of God.
10. What is significant about the shedding of Jesus' blood?
 - (a) It was for the forgiveness of our sins.
 - (b) It was God's method for the atonement of sin.
 - (c) It was the final blood sacrifice for sin.
 - (d) All of the above.
11. What can we be certain of from the historical accounts of the resurrection of Jesus?
 - (a) Many eyewitnesses verified His resurrection.
 - (b) They are too sketchy to give us much information.
 - (c) A number of the Apostles never accepted His resurrection.
 - (d) All of the above.
12. Why was Jesus raised from the dead?
 - (a) To verify His position as judge of all mankind.
 - (b) To vindicate His claim to deity.
 - (c) To show us that we also could have eternal life.
 - (d) All of the above.

ANSWERS TO SELF-STUDY #1

- (a) The Messiah, the Son of the Living God.
- (b) God revealed it to Him.

ANSWERS TO SELF-STUDY #2

- (a) Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many.
- (b) Jesus personally carried our sins in His body on the Cross.

ANSWERS TO SELF-STUDY #3

- 1. F
- 2. T
- 3. F
- 4. T
- 5. T
- 6. F
- 7. F
- 8. F
- 9. C
- 10. D
- 11. A
- 12. D