

Christian Study

Lesson 238

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

Understanding the Basic Gospel

Historical evidence of Christ's deity

A moment of reflection: Before beginning your study, pray and ask God to sharpen your faith in Christ and enable you to see Jesus as the fullness of God's revelation

Key Verse: John 20:30-31

"Many other signs Jesus did performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name

These signs were performed in the presence of His disciples they were eyewitnesses of these events for three years and therefore, we must trust that these statements are true. The signs were recorded that we may believe and believing we will have eternal life in His name. Christianity is not a blind leap into darkness, but rather a step into light. Our faith is historical and mystical. At a specific time God "became flesh and lived for a while among us" **John 1:14** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (and we behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." God made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge and His glory in the face of Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:6** "The God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!" is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of Christ." If man is to see God, he must focus on the life and words of Jesus Christ, for in Christ God gave Himself a face. Let me write this again, if man is to see God, he must focus on the life and words of Jesus Christ, for in Christ God gave Himself a face.

Jesus Christ received worship

From the wise men

Matthew 2:1 and 11 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. **11** And they came into the

house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

From the Apostles

Matthew 14:22-33 "Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. **23** After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; **24** and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. **25** Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. **26** When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear. **27** Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. don't be afraid!" **28** Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you." **29** "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. **30** But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried. **31** At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?" **32** They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. **33** Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed Christ demonstrates His power by walking on water and the apostle's response to this power He exhibited was that truly He is the Son of God.

John 20:26-29 "And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been closed, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here, and see My hands; and bring your hand here, and put it into My side. Be not unbelieving, but believing." **28** And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Prior to His appearance in the above passage Jesus had showed Himself to some of His disciples and Thomas was not present during those times and did not believe He arose. This time he had the opportunity to see for himself the risen Christ and got confirmation from putting his hands into His side. Then Thomas worshiped by calling Him LORD and GOD. If the one who walked with Him and saw Him after the resurrection calls Him LORD and GOD, then LORD and GOD He is. Blessed is every man who did not see and still believe that Jesus Christ died, was buried, to take away the sins of the whole world and rose again so that all believers in the death and burial will have eternal life with the Father. It is the resurrection that gives life to us.

From Mary Magdalene and the other Mary

Matthew 28:9 "Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him." The other Mary mentioned here is believed by Bible scholars that she was the mother of Jesus According to the passage they responded by holding His feet and worshiped Him. This event was after the resurrection of Jesus. They were the first human eye witness to behold the risen Christ. This also proved that He is what He claimed to be and what He said He was going to do, lay His life down for us and take it back. **John 10:15-17** Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and I lay down My life for the

sheep. **16** And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17** Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it *up* again

From the afflicted:

John 9:33-38 "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **34** To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. **35** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" **36** "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." **37** Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." **38** Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped him. The blind also confessed that Jesus is the Son of God and worshipped Him. He had nothing to fear after what has been done to him, and who did it for him, because those who were in opposition saw him and did not have the power to heal him from his blindness. As a result when Jesus revealed Himself to him, he worshipped Him. What they said or did to him did not matter.

Matthew 8:2-3 "And behold, a leper came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." **3** And reaching out His hand, Jesus touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

The leper did not wait for a sign in order to go into action. As soon as he saw Jesus, he worshipped Him and believed that if it is His will he is going to be healed. We read that the healing was "immediate." It was instantaneous. The healing was accomplished without delay. There was no object or space intervening; Jesus accepted the lepers worship and said, "I am willing, be cleansed." "Immediately" (**STOP HERE**) and let's say these five words together, "**Immediately his leprosy was cleansed**". Without any further delay, without any ceremony, without any special effects, he was healed. Here we have another justification of the fact that Jesus is God.

Only God must be worshipped

Luke 4:6-8 "And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. **7** Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." **8** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Jesus told Satan that there is only one that should be worshiped and that one is God. No matter what the enticement or how big, beautiful and tempting the offer is, if it's not given by God we must not worship it or the one giving it to us. Letting the Holy Spirit continue teaching us truth will enable us to know the difference. We cannot lean on our own understanding for this discernment.

Napoleon once said

"If Socrates should enter the room, we should all rise and do him honor. But if Jesus Christ comes into the room, we would all fall down and worship Him"

It is clear from the evidence that the act of worship is credited only to God. Jesus never showed reluctance to worship, but in fact encouraged it and made it a focal point of His ministry. We must conclude that the execution of Christ by the Jewish leaders was a just penalty for His blasphemy or that He was who He claimed to be, God on earth.

In speaking with a few people who are having a hard time believing that Jesus is the true "Emmanuel" God with us, we were directed to this simple and straightforward verse in 1 Timothy where the apostle Paul was giving his spiritual son Timothy some basic instructions on how to be the head of the church. It goes like this. **1 Timothy 3:16** "And without argument, great is the secret of our religion: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among nations, believed on in the world, and received up into glory.

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

Keep It Simple

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is santigiemandol@yahoo.com,

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)

Let's go light another candle