

WHAT WE BELIEVE – WEEK 3

The Lord Jesus Christ & Salvation

BIBLE STUDY

4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

GET THINKING!

1. How can you imagine Jesus being described by people in the UK today?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, 16 for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him- all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers- all things were created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. 18 He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son 20 and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross- through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Col. 1:15-20 NET)

1. How does Paul describe Jesus in vv.15-17?
2. How does this relate to Jesus being both fully God and fully human (see also v.19)?
3. How does Paul refer to the resurrection in v.18?
4. If Jesus is the firstborn, what does that mean for his people?
5. What did Jesus achieve on the cross according to v.20?

FOR US

1. What is the significance of Jesus' divinity for us according to this passage?

2. What is the significance of Jesus' humanity for us according to this passage?

3. What does Jesus death and resurrection achieve for us according to this passage?

5. SALVATION

GET THINKING

1. Why might it be hard to explain that we are 'saved' to someone who doesn't come from a Christian background?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

1 And although you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you formerly lived according to this world's present path, according to the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest... 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, 5 even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you are saved!- 6 and he raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them. (Eph. 2:1-10 NET)

1. How does Paul describe humans without Jesus (vv.1-3)?

2. What could we do about that?

3. What does God do about it (vv.5-9)?

4. Why does God do it?

5. How are we saved?

6. Why can't we boast?

7. What are we saved for (v.10)?

FOR US

1. Using this passage, how would you explain to someone why they need to be saved?
2. What things are we tempted to say we can 'do' for our salvation?
3. What's our response to God if we have been saved?

DAILY READINGS

DAY 1

Read

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. 2 The Word was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. 5 And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it. (Jn. 1:1-5 NET)

Reflect

John starts his gospel talking about Jesus in ways that remind us of Genesis 1.

1. How does John describe Jesus in these verses?
2. Why do you think John uses these descriptions?

Pray

Ask God for a deeper understanding of your Lord and Saviour.

DAY 2

Read

6 A man came, sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that everyone might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 9 The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. 11 He

came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who have received him– those who believe in his name– he has given the right to become God's children 13 – children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God. (Jn. 1:6-13 NET)

Reflect

John (the apostle and writer of the gospel) reflects on the testimony of John the Baptist to Jesus as the light. Light refers both to truth and goodness.

1. What possible responses to Jesus does John tell us about?
2. What consequence of responding with belief does John tell us about?

Pray

Give thanks to God for being able to be his child and call him Father. Pray for those you know who seem to prefer darkness, that they would receive Jesus and believe in his name.

DAY 3

Read

14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory– the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father. 15 John testified about him and shouted out, "This one was the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than I am, because he existed before me.'" 16 For we have all received from his fullness one gracious gift after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in closest fellowship with the Father, has made God known. (Jn. 1:14-18 NET)

Reflect

1. How does this passage and the earlier part of this passage helped you to understand that Jesus is both fully God and fully man?
2. How does Jesus, both God and man, reveal God to us (v.18)?

Pray

Pray that as you would know God better by knowing Jesus better.

DAY 4

Read

9 For people everywhere report how you welcomed us and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath. (1 Thess. 1:9-10 NET)

Reflect

1. How does Paul describe the repentance and faith of the Thessalonian Christians? How is that similar to your own experience?

2. What does faith in Jesus mean for the future of believers in v.10?

Pray

Give thanks for God's work in turning you from false religion to himself and for the certain hope of salvation from judgment. Pray opportunities to share Jesus with people who don't know him so they can turn to him.

DAY 5

Read

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 24 But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed. 26 This was also to demonstrate his righteousness in the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Jesus' faithfulness. 27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded! By what principle? Of works? No, but by the principle of faith! 28 For we consider that a person is declared righteous by faith apart from the works of the law. (Rom. 3:23-28 NET)

Reflect

1. How are we justified?

2. Why can't we boast about it?

Pray

Give thanks for God's grace in justifying us in Christ.