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KNOWING CHRIST

PRETORIA NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ's Declaration!

John 17:3

Preparing your Heart:

- What do you think makes people **TRULY HAPPY** in life?
- What would make **YOUR** life a **TRULY HAPPY** life?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that He came that we may have “**LIFE... ABUNDANTLY**”? (cf. **Joh 10:10**)
- Read **Phil 3:7-8**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- I wonder what was some of your answers to those first two questions...
- Something that is true of **ALL** people is that they **DESIRE** to be **HAPPY** – me too!
- So people **PURSUE HAPPINESS** by **PURSUING THINGS** or **PEOPLE** that they think would make them **HAPPY**.
- People pursue: *Money; Stuff; People; Fame; Food; Hobbies; Vacations; etc...*
- All these things are **AMAZING** and **GOOD THINGS** in its place, but people tend to make **THIS** the **REASON** and **PURPOSE** of their **LIVES** – these things becomes their gods, it becomes their **IDOLS!**
- All these things are **GOOD GIFTS** of God, but they were never given to us to **SATISFY** us... they will never make us **TRULY HAPPY!**
- I want to start with this **TRUTH STATEMENT** in this study that I then want to show you from the **BIBLE**:

***“TRUE HAPPINESS is found in a LOVE RELATIONSHIP with JESUS CHRIST
that is REAL and PERSONAL!”***

- Our focus in this study series will be on “**KNOWING CHRIST**” because **THIS** is what God has designed us for and what brings **TRUE HAPPINES, TRUE JOY, TRUE FULFILMENT** in our lives.
- In this study we will look at “*Christ's Declaration*” in **Joh 17:3**
- Please read **Joh 17:1-5** a few times before you continue.

Study Points:

1. THREE CLARIFYING QUESTIONS:

1.1 What is meant by “ETERNAL LIFE”?

- When we think of “**eternal life**” most of us think of an **UNLIMITED AMOUNT** of **TIME**.
- It is true, it is about that, but **MUCH MORE** than that.
- **ALL** people will exist for **ALL ETERNITY**...! (cf. **Joh 5:28-29**)
- Eternal life refers to a **QUALITY** of life and not just a **QUANTITY** of life.
- It is about **LIFE** as **GOD** intended it to be!
- It is a **LIFE** that is **AVAILABLE NOW** and will **KEEP ON** for **ALL ETERNITY** – it is not just something that will happen in the future.
- **Joh 10:10** – Jesus came to give us life and that abundantly. At the very least this refers to:
 - It is a life of **TRUE** and **LASTING PEACE** – **Joh 14:27**
 - It is a life of **TRUE** and **LASTING LOVE** – **Joh 15:9**
 - It is a life of **TRUE** and **LASTING JOY** – **Joh 15:11**
- *It is a LIFE that is COMPLETELY SATISFIED – the PERFECT LIFE, an AMAZING LIFE; the life of TRUE HAPPINESS!*

1.2 What is meant by “KNOWING” God?

- This is not just to know that there is **A** God... many people **KNOW** there is **A** God and yet they do not **KNOW** this God **AS THEIR** God...
- It is the same as to **KNOW** that South Africa has a president – it doesn't mean that **YOU KNOW** him.
- You can **KNOW** there is **A** God your **WHOLE LIFE** and yet never **KNOW** God...!
- It is to know there is **A** God and to know Him **AS** God, as **YOUR** God!
- To **FEAR** Him and **REVERE** Him; to **WORSHIP** Him by bowing your will in **OBEDIENCE** to Him; to **PLEASE** Him.

- It is to **UNDERSTAND** who God is **INTELECTUALLY** and to **EXPERIENCE HIM PRACTICALLY** in your daily life!
- It refers to nothing less than to **HAVING** a **DEEP, INTIMATE LOVE RELATIONSHIP** with God!
- To be **PERSONALLY AQUAINTED** with Him!
- Moses is an **AMAZING EXAMPLE** – **Exo 33:9-11**
- The apostle Paul was clear that it is this **RELATIONSHIP** that was worth more to Him the **ANYTHING** else that He could achieve OR that he can have in this life – **Phil 3:7-11; 1:21-23**
- *The life of **TRUE HAPPINESS** is a life of **INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP** with God – the **TRUE** God that can **REALLY** satisfy us and make us **HAPPY!** (cf. **Ps 16:2, 5-6, 11**)*

1.3 How is it **POSSIBLE** that we can “**KNOW**” God?

- We are **SINNERS** and God is a **HOLY GOD** that **CANNOT TOLERATE SIN** or leave sin **UNPUNISHED...!**
- How then is it possible for **WICKED SINNERS** like us to know this **HOLY** and **PERFECT** God so **INTIMATELY...?**
- It is because of the last part of **Joh 17:3** namely, “...and **JESUS CHRIST** whom You have sent.”
- **JESUS CHRIST** is the One who **BRINGS** us to the Father - **Joh 14:6; 1 Pet 3:18; Col 1:21-23**
- It is only as we stand in a **LOVE RELATIONSHIP** with **JESUS CHRIST** that is **REAL** and **PERSONAL** that we can **TRULY KNOW GOD!**
- This relationship is built upon **TRUST** – trusting in **CHRIST ALONE** to **SAVE** you from the **WRATH** that you deserve!
- This relationship is **INITIATED** by God...!
- ***GOD** is the One who **PURSUES** this **LOVE RELATIONSHIP** that is **REAL** and **PERSONAL** – **HE SENT JESUS** in order that He could bring us to **HIM!** (cf. **1 Joh 4:9-10, 19**)*

2. **THREE THOUGHTS** concerning a **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus:

2.1 The **PRIVILEGE** of Knowing Jesus...

- The **ONLY WAY** someone can **KNOW JESUS** is if He **REVEALS** Himself to them... He reveals Himself to **THOSE WHOM HE CHOOSES...!** (cf. **Matt 11:27; 16:15-17**)
- When He does so, it is **ALL OF GRACE!** It is **ALL** because of His **SOVEREIGN, UNMERITED FAVOUR!**
- It is a **PRIVILEGE** you and I can **NEVER DESERVE!** (cf. **Eph 2:4-9**)
- *To be **LOVED** by Jesus and to **KNOW HIM** is the **HIGHEST RELATIONSHIP**, the **HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT** and the **HIGHEST POSITION** in **LIFE!***

2.2 The **PRIORITY** of Knowing Jesus...

- A **LOVE RELATIONSHIP** with **JESUS CHRIST** is more **IMPORTANT** than **ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR** in your life!
- Paul got it and lived it! (cf. **Phil 3:7-8**)
- This is what the Bible teaches us in **Luk 10:41-42** is the **ONE THING NECESSARY!**
- It is when we **REALIZE** what a **GREAT PRIVILEGE** it is to be **SAVED** by **JESUS** that it brings about living out my relationship with Jesus as my **PRIORITY!**
- Mark Jones says it very well: *“Put all the pleasures of life such as family, job, recreation, music, sports, entertainment, cuisine and technology in one. Oh, what excellent joys they are! Yet, such joys pale in comparison with the delight of knowing Jesus and basking in communion with His person, not just His works!”*
- *Christianity, being a Christian, is about **KNOWING** and having a **RELATIONSHIP** with a **PERSON: JESUS CHRIST!** It is about making this **RELATIONSHIP** the **PRIORITY** of your **LIFE!***

2.3 The **PRACTISE** of Knowing Jesus...

- **Joh 14:15; 15:10** – we are to **ABIDE** in Jesus and His **LOVE** by simply **OBEYING** His commandments. By this we also proof that we love Jesus!
- *What is His commandments?*
- In **Mark 12:38-30** we find the **GREATEST** command namely that we are to **LOVE** Jesus with everything that we **ARE** and **HAVE!**
- We are to love Him with **ALL** of our:
 - *“Heart”* – referring to our **WILL**. Every day we must **CHOOSE** to do what He desires! (cf. **Gal 5:16-18**)

- “*Soul*” – referring to **AFFECTIONS** and **EMOTIONS**. As we **CHOOSE** to do what He desires, we must **ENJOY** doing what He desires because it **PLEASES** Him and that should bring us great **JOY**...! (cf. **Phil 1:18; 2 Cor 5:9**)
- “*Mind*” – referring to our **THOUGHTS** and **INTELLECT**. We are to **STUDY** and **THINK** about what He has **REVEALED** about Himself to us and to **SUBMIT** our thoughts to what pleases Him! (cf. **Ps 19:14**)
- “*Strength*” – referring to our **WHOLE BEING**. We are to use our **BODIES** and **ENERGY** to do what pleases Him! (cf. **1 Cor 6:19-20**)
- The **PRACTISE** of knowing Christ is therefore something that needs to include the **WHOLE** of our **EXISTENCE**, where we strive to **GROW** in making **JESUS** the **REASON** and **AIM** for everything we are doing!
- **Col 3:17** is what we are to strive for...!
- Let’s close this study with one more thought...

3. A MIND BLOWING TRUTH:

- As you know, in **John 17** we find the “*High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.*” Jesus is praying for the glory of His Father (**v1-5**), for His eleven apostles (**v6-19**) and for all of His disciples (**v20-26**) respectively.
- In **Joh 17:24** we then find one of the most **ASTOUNDING** requests of Jesus concerning **ALL** of His disciples and followers!
- Please read this verse a few times, focusing on what Jesus **DESIRES**...!
- Mark Jones makes this **MIND BLOWING OBSERVATION** about Jesus’ request in this verse: “*Of all the human desires that He retained as He entered His glorified state in heaven, few exceed His desire to know His people. Jesus, the Lord of glory, supremely satisfied in the love of the Father, Holy Spirit, and the elect angels, remains unsatisfied if He cannot know, love, and ultimately be with His people... In His heavenly glory, Christ meditates upon His people. He desires not only to know us, but to be with us. We must always remember that when He calls one of His beloved ones home to Himself, He has gained more than we have lost in the death of our loved one. He desires to be with us because He knows us, and that demands that one day He will call us home to be with Him. Ultimately, this happens not because of something such as disease or fatal accident, but rather because the Father has answered the prayer of His Son.*”
- Jesus **DESIRES** that those whom the Father has given Him would **KNOW** Him and **BE** with Him...!
- *May that MOTIVATE US to PURSUE HIM with EVERYTHING that we have, just as He PURSUED US!*

Conclusion:

- What do **YOU** need to do to **KNOW JESUS**?
- **REPENT** from all your **SELFISH**, **SINFUL** and **EMPTY PURSUITS** and **TURN TO HIM!** Seek His forgiveness for **WASTING YOUR LIFE** on these empty things...!
- Place your **TRUST** in **HIM ALONE** to **SAVE** you from your **SIN** and the **PENALTY** it deserves and to **GIVE TO YOU** the **TRUE LIFE IN HIM** that alone can **SATISFY** the deepest longings of your soul!
- Jesus **DECLARED** that this is **ETERNAL LIFE: to KNOW GOD and JESUS CHRIST whom You have sent...!**

Christ’s Dignity John 20:30-31

Preparing your Heart:

- Have you ever felt **USED** in a “*friendship*”? (Someone just being your “*friend*” because of what they can **BENEFIT** from you...)
- Have **YOU** ever just used someone in a “*friendship*”? (Be honest...)
- What do you **KNOW** about **JESUS**, His **PERSON**? (**NOT** what He has done...)
- Read **John 21:15-17**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- Many “**friendships**” and “**acquaintances**” in these days are shaped around what people can **DO** for one another.
- That is sometimes the **ONLY REASON** why people get to “**know**” one another...

- **Example:** Your parents are away... have a few friends over to watch the game... you get carried away and in imitating a goal just scored and you boot the ball in the house shattering the window which, in your mind, was a good candidate for being the goal – you didn't actually think you were going to be accurate...!
- At that moment you are looking for someone who can help you **FIX** it... very **CHEAPLY!** You try and find someone who knows someone.
- At that **POINT** you don't really care **WHO** this other person is, as long as he or she can just **HELP** you with your dilemma...!
- Stuff like that happens and its fine to find people who can help you with certain things and problems in life, **BUT** another tendency with some people is that all their “friendships” is just about what other people can **DO** for them... how they can **BENEFIT** from them.
- Most if not all of us have experienced being **USED** in a “friendship” and it **STINKS**...!
- Most if not all of us have also used other people in “friendships” and it is a **SHAME**...!
- That is then also unfortunately true when it comes to people “knowing” Jesus as well.
- People only want to “know” Jesus for what He can **DO** for them.
- The **TRUTH** is that Jesus **DID** come and **DO** everything needed to **SAVE** sinners like us and we **DO** need Him to **SAVE** us!
- The meaning of the **NAME** “**JESUS**” is exactly that – “**the LORD saves**” ... this is the **NAME** which the angel commanded Joseph to give the baby that would be born from Mary – **Matt 1:21**
- But there is **MORE** to knowing Jesus just for what He can **DO** for you...
- One writer said it like this: “...*there is something more excellent and comely than Jesus being our Saviour; the greatness of His person is more excellent than the salvation He achieved by His death... the glory of His person outweighs even the glory of His work on our behalf... We praise Him first for who He is and then for what He accomplished.*”
- This is Jesus' concern first and foremost – that we would **KNOW** Him for **WHO HE IS!**
- **Matt 16:13-15; Joh 21:15-17**
- Christianity, being a Christian, is about **KNOWING** a **PERSON** – **JESUS!**
- It is **NOT** just a **LIST** of **DOING** things and **NOT** doing things, but rather **KNOWING JESUS** and **LOVING** Him and therefore **WANTING** to obey and please Him!
- May **AIM** in this study is to just again **INTRODUCE** you to **WHO JESUS IS** and my **HOPE** is that it would **DRAW** you to Him more and that you would **DESIRE** Him and **LOVE** Him more...!
- We will just look at **TWO VERSES** – **Joh 12:30-31** and **FOCUS** on **TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS** of Jesus' **PERSON** – **WHO HE IS**...
- Please read **Joh 12:30-31**

Study Points:

- These verses are the **PURPOSE STATEMENT** of **WHY** John wrote His Gospel.
- “**Signs**” refers to the **MIRACLES** of Jesus – the **SUPERNATURAL** things that He did.
- John only tell of **SEVEN** of His miracles while he says that Jesus “**did many other signs**”, and He calls them “**signs**”.
- Signs are something that **POINT** to **SOMETHING ELSE**.
- John's **FOCUS** and **DESIRE** was not to tell us everything that Jesus **DID** – it would not be possible to write everything down! (cf. **Joh 21:25**) But rather His **FOCUS** and **DESIRE** is that we would **KNOW WHO JESUS IS** and **BELIEVE** in Him!
- This is exactly what the Disciples believed about Him, cf. **Matt 16:16**, and Martha declared the same thing about Jesus in **Joh 11:27**.
- And so, let's look at **TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS** of Jesus' **PERSON** – **WHO HE IS**...

1. He is **THE CHRIST!**

- “**Christ**” is the **GREEK** word for the Hebrew word “**MESSIAH**”.
- It means the “**Anointed One**” – the chosen One.
- This is **NOT** Jesus' surname, but rather His **TITLE** – like you would say that someone is a **DOCTOR** and **VET**, etc...
- It refers to the One that was **PROMISED** by God that He would **SENT** to come and **SAVE** His people!
- **Gen 3:15; 12:3; Deut 18:18; 2 Sam 7:16** (cf. **Luk 1:31-33**)
- He is the **HERO** that the people were waiting for!
- He is **NOT** one of many – He is **THE** Christ – there is **ONLY ONE!**
- He was **THE ONE** that would **SAVE** and **DELIVER** His people!

- Like in most **SUPERHERO** movies, you wait for the first appearance of the movie that usually comes in very dramatic style... and some even have a theme song coming with them...!
- And so the people **WAITED** for this **HERO**, the **MESSIAH**, the **ANOINTED ONE FROM GOD** that would come...!
- In **Joh 1:29** – He was announced!
- Andrew followed Him and called His brother with the following words – **Joh 1:40-41**
- He is the **SAVIOUR** that is sent to save His people!

2. He is the SON OF GOD!

- He is the **SECOND PERSON** of the **TRINITY** – God the **FATHER**, **SON** and **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- We need to note the **RELATIONSHIP** there is between the **FATHER** and the **SON**...
- The Father has **ALWAYS**, from **ETERNITY**, loved the son – **Isa 42:1; Joh 17:24**
- The Father also **DECLARED** it while Jesus was here on earth – **Matt 3:17; 17:5**
- The **SON** also loves the **FATHER** and that is **WHY** He wanted to obey His Father in everything
- **Joh 14:31**
- Being the **SON** of **GOD**, we also need to understand the **IDENTITY** of Jesus.
- This teaches us that Jesus is of the same **ESSENCE** of the **FATHER** – He is **LIKE** the Father in His **CHARACTER** and therefore He is the **UNIQUE** Son of God – He is the **ONLY** and **ETERNAL SON** who is **EXACTLY** like the **FATHER**. (cf. **Joh 1:18; Col 1:19; Heb 1:3**)
- When Jesus calls Himself the **SON** of **GOD**, He is claiming to be **EQUAL** to God! (cf. **Joh 1:1; Phil 2:6**)
- That is **EXACTLY** why the Pharisees wanted to stone Him – **Joh 5:18**
- This would have been a **GREAT SIN** if it weren't true... but it **IS** true... **Joh 14:7-11**
- Jesus **IS GOD**!
- **Joh 1:1** – He is God **ETERNAL**; He is God **DESTINCT**; He is God **EQUAL**...!
- That is **WHY** He could have done what He has done...!
- **THAT** is what the “**signs**”, the miracles, pointed to!
- **THIS** is **WHO JESUS IS**!
- He is **THE ONE** that was **SENT** and **ANOINTED** by God to come and **SAVE** His people; He is **GOD** who became **MAN** – He is the **GOD-MAN**...!

Conclusion:

- **WHY** is it important to **KNOW** who Jesus is and to **BELIEVE** in Him?
- It is the only way to have **LIFE**!
- **1 Joh 5:12; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5**
- If you **DON'T** know Jesus, you **DON'T** have life and you will spend eternity in hell...
- If you **KNOW** Him, you have **LIFE**, **REAL** life, **ETERNAL** life...!
- May we strive to **KNOW** Jesus and to **WORSHIP** and **LOVE** Him for **WHO HE IS**...!
- He is **WORTHY** of **ALL** our **HONOUR**, **GLORY**, **ADORATION** and **AWE**!

*Christianity, being a Christian, is about **KNOWING** a **PERSON** – **JESUS**!*

Christ's Divinity

John 8:58

Preparing your Heart:

- What is the most **EXTREME THING** you ever did?
- What would you say is your **GREATEST TALENT**?
- **JESUS'** claimed to be **GOD** – do you believe Him? **WHY** or **WHY NOT**?
- Read **John 1:1-5**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- If you can, please watch the video that was shared “*Something more – Who is Jesus.*”
- The video ends with this great question regarding Jesus: “*But was He just a man or... something more...?*”
- Jesus made some **AMAZING CLAIMS** about Himself...!

- All of us have made some or other claims about ourselves as well. Many times we tend to **EXAGGERATE** things that we **HAVE DONE** of things that we **CAN DO**...
- *Some Illustrations:* That big fish that you caught that just happened to get away... again! That record you “broke” in athletics but unfortunately the stopwatch stopped working... How much you can bench-press or leg-press... How amazing that desert or soup or dish is that you can make... etc, etc. You catch my drift...!
- This is **NOT SO** with Jesus... Jesus can **NEVER EXAGGERATE** Himself!
- Jesus can never claim to be **BIGGER** than He really is...!
- **EVERY CLAIM** Jesus made about Himself... is **ABSOLUTELY TRUE!**
- When we consider all these claims of Jesus about Himself, it should cause us to ask the same question that the disciples asked when they saw how Jesus calmed the storm in **Matt 8:27** namely *“What sort of man is this...?”*

Study Points:

1. The **CLAIMS** of Jesus about Himself...

- In the Gospel of John, we find the most amazing claims that Jesus made about Himself in the well-known “**I AM**” statements of Jesus.
- This is what Jesus ultimately claimed through every one of those statements:
 - **Joh 6:35** – He will **COMPLETELY SATISFY** the **DEEPEST NEEDS** and **DESIRES** of those who **KNOW** Him...
 - **Joh 8:12** – He will **REVEAL** and **SHOW** to those who **FOLLOW** Him what **LIFE** is truly all about...
 - **Joh 10:9** – He is the **ONLY ONE** who can **SAVE** people from the **JUDGEMENT** of God...
 - **Joh 10:11** – He will **GIVE HIMSELF** in the place of those who deserve to **DIE**...
 - **Joh 11:25** – He will **TAKE AWAY** the **FEAR** of **DEATH** and will **CONQUER DEATH**...
 - **Joh 14:6** – He is the **ONLY WAY** that people can **KNOW** God and **GET TO** God – **HEAVEN**...!
 - **Joh 15:5** – We can do **NOTHING GOOD** apart from Him... He is the **ONE** we **NEED** to live a life that will **GLORIFY** God...

2. His **CLAIMS** are **TRUE** because of **WHO HE IS**...!

- Who **IS** this **JESUS**, this **MAN** that **CLAIMS** all these things about Himself...?
- Take some time and read **John 8:12-59** as we want to see what we can learn about Jesus from His conversation with some Jews and Pharisees...
- In **John 8**, Jesus had the Jews **BAFFLED** and **FRUSTRATED** over who He is.
- In **Joh 8:25a**, they asked Him... *“Who are you?”*
- In **Joh 8:53b**, again they asked... *“Who do you make yourself out to be?”*
- They were asking these questions because Jesus was busy making some **VERY RADICAL CLAIMS** about Himself and He were **FORCING** these Jews to **DO** something with Him... to make a **CHOICE** regarding Him...!
- *What claims was He busy making about Himself in this passage?*
- **Joh 8:23-24:** *“Believe in me or **DIE** in your sins...!”* He claimed that He was **NOT FROM THIS WORLD** and that they must **BELIEVE** in Him or they would **DIE** in their **SINS**...
- **Joh 8:31-32:** *“Do what I say and you will be **FREE**...!”* If they would **FOLLOW** Him and **OBEY** everything that he says, they will know the **TRUTH** and they would be **FREE**... free from the **POWER** of sin!
- **Joh 8:51:** *“Obey me and you will never see death...!”* If they would obey Jesus, they will be **FREE** from the **JUDGEMENT** of God – they will not see **ETERNAL** death or **HELL**... they will pass from this life to **ETERNAL** life. Those who do **NOT** obey Him will pass from death to **DEATH**...
- Along with these **CLAIMS** He said some **HARD** things to these Jews, things that got them worked up...!
 - In **Joh 8:34**, He told them that they were **SLAVES** to sin... some of the Jews who were there were **PHARISEES** and they thought themselves to be good and righteous people...!
 - In **Joh 8:44**, Jesus calls these Jews **CHILDREN** of the **DEVIL**...! They were convinced that because Abraham was their father, they were all children of God. But Jesus tells them otherwise, because of how they were responding to Him and His claims.
 - In **Joh 8:55** Jesus again implied as He did in **verse 44** that they are all **LIARS**...!
- Jesus was forcing these Jews to see the **TRUTH** of who they were so that they may embrace the **TRUTH** of who He is...!
- All the claims Jesus was busy making about Himself then leads up to the **ULTIMATE CLAIM** that Jesus makes about Himself...!

- **Joh 8:56-57** – They were calling themselves children of Abraham (cf. **v53**) and Jesus then says that Abraham was **EXCITED** to see His day, the day that He would come.
- How would Jesus be able to **KNOW** what **ABRAHAM** was excited about...?
- The **LOGICAL CONCLUSION** is that Jesus then claims that He must have **MET** Abraham...
- There is only **ONE LITTLE PROBLEM... ABRAHAM DIED** more than a **THOUSAND NINEHUNDRED YEARS** before Jesus lived on earth...!
- That would make Jesus **OLDER** than **1900** years...! That's just **CRAZY!**
- But then Jesus makes **THIS** claim – **Joh 8:58...!**
- They **IMMEDIATELY** got what Jesus was claiming... Jesus was claiming that **HE IS GOD!**
- They would immediately connect Jesus' claim of **"I AM"**, with **Exo 3:13-14**
- With every **"I AM"** statement of Jesus, He was claiming the very same thing...!
- Jesus is simply claiming that He is the **GREAT "I AM"** – that He is **GOD!**
- That is what we learn about Jesus from the very beginning of the Gospel of John...
- **John 1:1** – He is God **ETERNAL** – existing from before the beginning; God **DESTINCT** – the second person of the Trinity who is in an intimate relationship with the Father; **HE IS GOD** – God **EQUAL!**
- Since He is God, we need to understand that Jesus is **ETERNAL, UNCHANGEABLE** (cf. **Heb 13:8**), **EVERYWHERE, He KNOWS EVERYTHING, CAN DO ANYTHING** and **CONTROLS EVERYTHING...!**
- **HE IS FULLY** and **COMPLETELY GOD!**
- Jesus was **FORCING** these Jews to make a **CHOICE** regarding Him – are they going to **BELIEVE** Him or **NOT...?**
- They didn't... instead of **RESPONDING** to Jesus in the proper way, they wanted to **STONE** Him... they wanted to **STONE** and **KILL GOD...!**
- Many people today, and maybe even **YOU**, don't want to **RESPOND** to **JESUS** in a way that is proper and by doing this, you are **REJECTING** Jesus as **GOD** and saying by your actions that you do **NOT** really believe that **JESUS IS GOD...!**
- **What SHOULD our RESPONSE to JESUS be, since He is GOD?**
 - 1) **BELIEVE in Him...** trust that He is the **ONLY ONE** who can save you...! (**Joh 10:9; 14:6**)
 - 2) **SUBMIT to Him...** live in **OBEDIENCE** to Him... (**Joh 14:15**)
 - 3) **Live in DEPENDENCE upon Him...** spend as much **TIME** as possible with Him through the Bible and in prayer... (**Joh 15:5**)
 - 4) **Be THANKFUL towards Him...** know that **EVERYTHING** that you are and have is because of His **GRACE... (Joh 1:16)**
 - 5) **WORSHIP Him...** in everything you do make **HIM** your focus...! (**Joh 20:28**)
- **What WILL EVERYONE'S response be one day...?**
- **Phil 2:9-11** is very **CLEAR** about this...!
- We know how it all will **END** one day – with **EVERYONE**, Satan and all the demons included, bowing the knee before Jesus and **PROCLAIMING** what Jesus **CLAIMED** – that He is **LORD...!**

Conclusion:

- CS Lewis very famously wrote: **"Jesus was either a LUNATIC or a LIAR or He is LORD...!"**
- When you weigh up the evidence of the Bible and what **JESUS CLAIMED** about Himself, what is your verdict...? What is your conclusion...? **Was He just a man, or something more...?**
- Will you **WILLINGLY** bow before Jesus as **LORD, OR** will he have to **MAKE** you bow...?
- What is **YOUR** response to Jesus...?

Christ's Humanity! John 1:14-18

Preparing your Heart:

- What is the most **AMAZING GIFT** that you have ever **RECEIVED**?
- What is one of the most **IMPORTANT THING** that you have ever **LEARNED**?
- Why did **JESUS** become a **MAN**? Why did He **COME**?
- Read **John 1:14-18**

- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- ***Here is a question to quickly think about:*** I wonder what was the most **EMBARRISING** and **HUMBLING** thing that has ever happened to you?
- ***Illustration:*** **ONE** of my most embarrassing moments (***and yes there is quite a few...***) happened when I was in Gr 4. We were in Geography class and nature decided to call... let me rephrase, nature decided to demand that I had to go to the bathroom. Unfortunately, my Geography teacher decided he had a better understanding of nature and declined my request to go to the bathroom. After he declined my request a second time, nature decided to show him, and me, who is boss... I wet my pants in front of the whole class and especially before the girl that I really liked at that stage, who were providentially sitting right in front of the class and had a front row seat to my moment of **NOT** so glory... Needless to say, my teacher's eyes became to size of the moon and he very willingly released me to run to the bathroom to go and dry my face, for it was too late to do anything about my pants... It was a very **HUMBLING** and **HUMILIATING** experience for me...!
- This **HAPPENED** to me without me **CHOOSING** that it should happen to me.
- **BUT**, when it comes to **JESUS**, He **WILLINGLY HUMBLING** Himself by **CHOOSING** to **BECOME FLESH** – to become a **HUMAN**, to become part of His **CREATION**...
- **Joh 1:14; Phil 2:6-7**
- In this study we will focus on this **TRUTH** that ***“The WORD became FLESH...!”***
- We will look at the **REALITY** of Jesus being **FULLY MAN** and also at the **THREE REASONS WHY** Jesus became **MAN**...

Study Points:

1. The REALITY of Jesus being FULLY MAN...

- **Joh 1:14a**
- In **BECOMING HUMAN**, Jesus **WILLINGLY LIMITED** the **PRIVILEGES** and **RIGHTS** that He had.
- In His **HUMANITY**, He is **LIMITED** to everything that you and I are limited to...
- Here are some **EVIDENCES** that Jesus was **FULLY** man and that He experienced the same **LIMITATIONS** and **NEEDS** that we experience:
 - **Luk 2:40, 52** – He had to **GROW** up just like us and, in the process, He gained **STRENGTH** and **WISDOM**...
 - **Luk 4:2** – After not eating for **FORTY DAYS**, Jesus became **HUNGRY**...
 - **Mark 4:38** – Jesus **SLEPT** because He was tired...
 - **Joh 4:6** – When they **TRAVELED**, He became **TIRED** just like us...
 - **Joh 11:35** – He **CRIED** when He was sad...
 - **Joh 19:30, 33** – When He was **CRUCIFIED**, He **DIED**...
- Jesus was a **HUMAN** just like us and He experienced **ALL** the limitations that comes from being human.
- He even experienced **TEMPTATION** like we do, the only difference being that He **NEVER** sinned...
- **Heb 2:18; 4:15** is **SO** encouraging for us and part of the reason why **JESUS** is the **PERFECT MEDIATOR** between us and the Father... (cf. **1 Tim 2:5-6**)
- **Heb 2:14** then help us to see the **GREAT IMPORTANCE** of Jesus becoming **“flesh”** – if Jesus **DIDN'T** become flesh, **FULLY** Man just like us, He would not be able to **DIE** in our place and **SAVE** us from the **DEATH** that we deserve...!

2. THREE REASONS why Jesus became MAN...

• Joh 1:14b-18

2.1. He came to REVEAL GRACE...!

- Grace refers to ***“God’s unmerited favour”***.
- It is to get what you **DID** not and can **NEVER** deserve.
- We **SINNED** against **GOD** and we **DESERVE** to be **PUNISHED** by Him. If God would send the **WHOLE WORLD** to **HELL**, He would be **RIGHT** and **JUST** in doing it... **ALL OF US** deserve it...
- God is **ALREADY** showing His **COMMON GRACE** to **ALL PEOPLE** by letting them experience His **GOODNESS** in enjoying **FRIENDSHIP, FOOD, FUN THINGS**... (cf. **Jam 1:17**)
- **EVEN MORE**, instead of God sending everyone to **HELL**, He decided to reveal His **SAVING GRACE** in that He entered into this world to come and **SAVE** sinners from what they **DESERVE** and give them what they can **NEVER** deserve – **HEAVEN**... **ETERNAL LIFE** with **HIM!** (cf. **Rom 6:23**)
- Jesus came to **REVEAL** the **SALVATION** of God - **Joh 1:16; Tit 2:11**

- Jesus became a **MAN** in order to **SAVE MAN** from the **PUNISHMENT** he deserves...! (cf. **1 Tim 1:15**)
- Jesus came to **REVEAL** the **SAVING GRACE** of God... the **PLAN** that God had made from the **VERY BEGINNING**...!

2.2. He came to REVEAL TRUTH...!

- **Joh 1:17**
- **TRUTH** has **ALWAYS** been and **STILL IS** a **BIG ISSUE**...!
- Especially in the day that we are living in where truth has become **RELATIVE** meaning that whatever is true for you is right and whatever is true for me is also right... we can be in **COMPLETE** disagreement, but it is fine – **AS LONG AS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE**...!
- **BUT** we all **KNOW** there must be something like **ABSOLUTE TRUTHS** – somethings that are **TRUE**, no matter what you or I say about it...
- That is **WHY JESUS** came – He came to make known the **ULTIMATE TRUTH** namely what **GOD** says is the truth.
- **Joh 18:37-38** = **NB!**
- Jesus came to **REVEAL** truth and if you want to **KNOW** the **TRUTH** about **MAN** and this **WORLD**, about **SIN** and **SALVATION** you need to look to **JESUS** and what He has revealed...!
- It is only through **KNOWING THE TRUTH** that you can be **FREE!**
- **Joh 8:31-32**
- Ultimately, Jesus came to reveal the **TRUTH** about **GOD!**

2.3. He came to REVEAL GOD...!

- **Joh 1:18**
- **JESUS** is ultimately the answer to **MOSES'** request in **Exo 33:18**...
- Jesus came so that we can have **ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE** of **GOD!**
- In **Joh 14:6-9**, Jesus makes the following statement about Himself: *If you have SEEN ME, you have SEEN THE FATHER...*!
- Jesus came so that we can have **ACCES** to God and have **ACCURATE** knowledge about God.
- He came to **EXPLAIN** God through what He **TAUGHT**, how He **LIVED** and through what He **DID**.
- To **REJECT JESUS** is to **REJECT** the **ONLY WAY** by which someone can come to know God...!
- Jesus **REVEALED GOD** because He **IS GOD!**
- **Col 1:19; 2:9; Heb 1:3**
- To **KNOW JESUS** is to **KNOW GOD!**
- This is what **LIFE** and **ETERNAL LIFE** is all about – about **KNOWING GOD!** (cf. **Joh 17:3**)
- **Jer 9:23-24; Phil 3:7-11** – this is **TRUE SUCCES** in life!
- The only way to have this success is in **KNOWING CHRIST**...!

Conclusion:

- Jesus became **FLESH**, a **REAL HUMAN** in the **FULLEST SENSE** in order to **REVEAL GRACE** and **TRUTH** and **GOD HIMSELF**.
- To **KNOW JESUS** is to:
 - 1) *Have CERTAINTY about what the TRUTH is... Who GOD is... Who WE are... Who the SAVIOUR is...!*
 - 2) *Be FREED from SIN and its PENALTY... in CHRIST ALONE can we be JUSTIFIED before God, namely have a RIGHT STANDING with God where we are DECLARED forgiven and perfect in God's sight because of the SACRIFICE and RIGHTEOUSNESS of JESUS CHRIST...!*
 - 3) *Be FULFILLED in your DEEPEST NEEDS... FORGIVENESS... LOVE... ACCEPTANCE... JOY... PEACE... which are all BENEFITS that flows from being JUSTIFIED...!*
 - 4) **KNOW GOD!**
- If you **DON'T** know Jesus, you **CANNOT** and **WILL** not go to heaven...!
- **Acts 4:12; 1 Joh 5:12; Joh 3:36**
- Look to Jesus and know that he became **FULLY MAN** in order to bring us to God, Him being our **PERFECT MEDIATOR**...! Trust in **HIM ALONE**...!

Christ's Perfection John 8:29

Preparing your Heart:

- Was is the **WORST** and the **BEST GRADE** you ever got on your **REPORT CARD**?
- In what ways do people often **DISOBEY** God? (Do what is **WRONG**...)
- In what ways do people often **FAIL** to **OBEY** God? (Don't do what is **RIGHT**...)
- What is God's **STANDARD** ("PASS RATE") for who may go to heaven? (What must someone do and be to **DESERVE** to go to heaven...?)
- Read **Matt 5:20, 48**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- It would be very interesting to hear what were some of your **WORST** and **BEST** grades... especially those of us who are **PARENTS** and how our grades match up to what our children **ARE** getting and what we **EXPECT** them to get...!
- My one friend in High School had "technical drawings" and in Grade 11 he got 1% for his third term on his report card...! Shocking...!
- It **SCARES** me to think that the **PASS** requirements for matric are stated as follows: "*As a matric student, you need to take at least 7 subjects and at the least, you need to pass your home language at a minimum of 40%, two other subjects at 40% as well and three others at 30%, in order to obtain a higher certificate pass.*"
- You can be **BELOW AVERAGE**, below 50%, and still make it! And yet there are **STILL** children who don't pas...! Again... shocking...!
- I wonder what was your **INITIAL** answer regarding God's **STANDARD** or then "**PASS RATE**" for who may go to heaven...?
- Below average **DEFINITELY** won't cut it...!
- Most people will at least have the opinion that you must be **ABOVE** average – that your **GOOD** must outweigh your **BAD**... many people will even say that that is why they **THINK** they are **SAVED** and why God should **ALLOW** them in to heaven.
- But that is **NOT** the **PASS RATE** that God requires... He requires... **PERFECTION! 100%!**
- Read **Matt 5:20, 48** again...
- Only **PERFECT** people **DESERVE** to go to heaven.
- To be **PERFECT** means that you must **COMPLETELY** and **ALWAYS OBEY ALL** of what God requires and commands.
- There are **TWO SIDES** to the commands and requirements of God – **DO's** and **DON'Ts**...
- To **OBEY GOD** perfectly implies that you **DON'T** do the things He says you **SHOULDN'T** do (all the time) **AND** that you **DO** the things He says you **SHOULD** do (all the time)...
- **Illustration:** Some of your house rules may include: **DON'T** watch TV, eat sweets, put your feet on the couch, etc... **DO** the dishes, mop the floor, give the dog food, etc...
- To obey would mean to **NOT** do what you are not allowed to do **AND** then to actually **DO** what is required of you... by just sitting on the couch and **NOT** doing of the **FORBIDDEN** things, you are still **NOT OBEYING** because you are not busy **DOING** what is required of you.
- When it comes to obeying God, you can sit in a room and **NOT DO ANYTHING** and **BE SINNING** because you are **SUPPOSED** to **BE DOING SOMETHING**...!
- Our problem with **DESERVING** to go to heaven is that we **TRANSGRESS** and we **SIN**...
- We **BREAK** God's **RULES** in doing what He says we **SHOULDN'T** do (called sins of commission) **AND** we **MISS** the **MARK** by **NOT** doing what He says we should do (called sins of omission)...
- We are therefore **KEPT** out of heaven by **TWO THINGS**:
 - 1) **Our GUILT**...
 - 2) **Our IMPERFECTION**...
- **BUT... JESUS** is **DIFFERENT!**
- Read **John 8:29** and just think for a moment what is the extent of what Jesus is declaring about Himself in this verse...
- Let's then further study this truth namely *Christ's Sinlessness & Obedience* in that He **FULLY** pleased God...!

Study Points:

- Let's focus on **TWO TRUTHS** about Jesus' life here on earth:

1. He NEVER sinned...!

- Jesus **NEVER** did anything **WRONG**...! Not at **ANY** point in His life here on earth, not even as a baby or toddler...! He was the **PERFECT** baby, the **PERFECT** toddler, even the **PERFECT TEENAGER**...!
- Jesus was the **PERFECT MAN** who **NEVER** in **ANY WAY**, be it in His thoughts, words or actions, **SINNED**...!
- Mark Jones says: *"The salvation of the church, and even the order on the entire universe, depends on the sinless life of Jesus... We sin as naturally as we breathe, since we are born in sin. We sin against ourselves, others, and ultimately God. Sinning does evil to all, under any and every circumstance, and there is no such thing as an innocent or a harmless sin. There are not enough words to describe its heinousness. God, who is full of love and compassion, hates sin. Yet, in all this we know that Jesus appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin... That truth is our hope... Our predicament is real, but so is the solution!"*
- Consider the testimony of Scripture concerning the **SINLESSNESS** of Jesus:
 - **Jesus** – **Joh 8:46** – Jesus' own testimony of Himself was that there was **NO SIN** in Him and that no one would be able to accuse and convict Him of sin, because there wasn't any. When He was on trial, they had to bring in **FALSE** accusations against Him (cf. **Matt 26:59-60**) so that even Pilate declared *"I find no guilt in this man."* (**Luk 23:4**)
 - **Peter** – **1 Pet 1:18-19; 2:21-23** – Being a close disciple of Jesus and even seeing how Jesus was led to be crucified, Peter can testify that Jesus was the *"lamb without blemish or spot"* and that *"He committed no sin"*, not even when He was reviled and suffered...!
 - **John** – **1 Joh 3:5** – John states it as clearly as he can that there was **NO SIN** in Him...!
 - **The Hebrews writer** – **Heb 7:26** – The Hebrews writer helps us to understand that it was Jesus' sinlessness, that He was *"holy, innocent, unstained"* that made Him the Perfect High Priest to represent us and plead our case before God, the Father...!
- This then is the **CLEAR** testimony of Scripture: **Jesus NEVER transgressed ANY of His Father's LAWS and COMMANDS...!**
- But **JESUS' PERFECTION** doesn't just include **NOT** doing sins of commission... it stretches further to include His **ACTIVE, PERFECT OBEDIENCE** to his Father...

2. He PERFECTLY obeyed God the Father...!

- Jesus **ALWAYS** did what was **RIGHT**...! **NEVER** did Jesus **MISS** to **DO** the things that the Father has given Him to do and what would **PLEASE** Him...!
- Let's again consider the testimony of Scripture concerning His **PERFECT OBEDIENCE**:
 - **Jesus** – **Joh 8:29** (Cf. **John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 14:30-31; 15:10; 17:4**) – What a testimony of Jesus that He *"always do the things that are pleasing to Him (His Father)..."* In all of His life, His focus was to do the will of His Father because He loved His Father and wanted the world to see how much He loved His Father so that He even died on the cross because that was what the Father willed...! Jesus obeyed the greatest commandment namely to love the Lord your God with **ALL** of your heart, soul, mind and strength! That is why He could pray, *"I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave me to do."*
 - **The Hebrews writer** – **Heb 5:8-9** – Jesus walk of obedience was **NOT** an easy walk... it entailed great suffering and yet He stayed the course so that He was *"made perfect"* and so become the source of our salvation, our right standing before the Father!
 - **God the Father** – **Matt 3:17; 17:5** – No other testimony is so **BEAUTIFUL** and so **POWERFUL** as the testimony of God the Father over Jesus, His Perfect Son...! What great words to hear the Father say about Jesus: *"This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased..."* That is the Father's *"report card"* to His Son testifying to us that He, Jesus, scored a **PERFECT 100%...!**

Conclusion:

- **JESUS** is the **ONLY PERSON** who **NEVER SINNED** – He didn't **DESERVE** to die...!
- **JESUS** is the **ONLY PERSON** who **PERFECTLY OBEYED** the Father – He **DESERVE** to be in heaven...!

- That is what make **2 Cor 5:21** such an **AMAZING** verse that teaches us such an **IMPORTANT TRUTH** about the **GOSPEL** – the **GOOD NEWS** that there is for **US...!**
- Mark Jones comments on this verse: *“At the cross, Jesus Christ became the ‘greatest sinner who ever was’ by imputation. Imputation was an act of God through which He credited our sins to Christ on the cross. In this ‘glorious exchange’ of imputation, God then makes an effectual grant and donation of a real and perfect righteousness to His children. He credits – or accounts – to us the righteousness of Christ. Our sins were therefore imputed to Christ on the cross so that His perfect righteousness could be imputed to us when we receive Christ through faith... Here the mystery of the Gospel and God’s wisdom fly right in the face of human understanding. The only one who did not deserve to die ended up dying a death more spiritually brutal than any other conceivable death. God made the sinless one to ‘be sin’. Nothing is more shocking and glorious. Nothing should provide us with more awe and delight.”*
- He then makes the following statement that you and I need to hear and take to heart: *“Nothing should keep our minds busier on earth than this great reality: the Holy one of God was declared unholy, so that unholy sinners might stand unblemished before a holy God.”*
- **WOW...!**
- Left to **OURSELVES**, **ALL** of us **MUST** go to hell and **NO ONE** will be able to get into **HEAVEN... ALL** of us have sinned and we therefore fall **SHORT** of the glory of God...! (cf. **Rom 3:23**)
- **YOU NEED** to:
 - 1) Be **FREED** from the **PENALTY** of sin... (cf. **Rom 6:23**) to be **FORGIVEN...!** (cf. **Ps 32:1-5**)
 - 2) Be made **PERFECT** before God... (cf. **Phil 3:7-9**) to be made **ACCEPTABLE** before God...!
- Through **FAITH** in Jesus **ALONE**, you need to **TRUST** that **JESUS FULLY PAID** the **PRICE** you can **NEVER PAY** and **PERFECTLY LIVED** the life you can **NEVER** live...!
- You need to **KEEP ON TRUSTING** and **BELIEVING** this through **ALL** of your life – your moments of **DISOBEDIENCE** and even your moments of **OBEDIENCE...!**
- **THIS** is the **ONLY WAY** to be **SAVE** before God when you stand before Him one day...!
- *“Our life meant His death; His death meant our life...!”*
- Those who truly **“GET THIS”**, will **NOT** be able to or want to live a life of **CONTINUING** in **SIN** (cf. **1 John 1:6**), **BUT** they will live a life where they **STRIVE** to be obedient to God, **JUST LIKE JESUS WAS...!** (cf. **1 Joh 2:6**)

Christ’s Death Ephesians 5:12

Preparing your Heart:

- What is the most **LOVING** thing that someone has ever done for **YOU**?
- What is the most **LOVING** thing that you have ever done for **SOMEONE**?
- What words would you use to describe the **LOVE** of God in **CHRIST** for sinners like us?
- Read **Rom 5:6-8**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- For this study series our **THEME** is **KNOWING CHRIST...!**
- The **REASON** for this theme is that **Joh 17:3** says this is what **ETERNAL LIFE** is all about – **KNOWING CHRIST...!**
- The apostle Paul said in **Phil 3:7-8** that nothing else **COMPARES** to **KNOWING CHRIST JESUS as LORD**.
- God Himself says in **Jer 9:23-24** that if we want to boast in anything, **THIS** is what we should boast in – **KNOWING HIM...!**
- And so in order to **KNOW** Jesus, we must **STUDY** Him as He is revealed and explained to us in the Bible.
- It is to **KNOW** certain **TRUTHS** about Him and then to **KNOW** Him through a **REAL, INTIMATE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP...!**
- It is to **KNOW** Him **INTELECTUALLY** and then **EXPERIENTIALLY**.
- Jesus is a **PERSON** and we need to pursue Him for **WHO** He is in the light of **WHAT** He has done for us...!
- So, in this study, I want us to focus on the **DEATH** of Christ under the following heading:
*“The **ULTIMATE EXAMPLE** of **LOVE... our ULTIMATE IDEAL...!**”*

- We will look at **Eph 5:1-2**. Please read it and spend a few moments just meditating on what these verses says.

Study Points:

- Note the following **THREE OBSERVATIONS** from these verses:

1. Our AIM is to IMITATE the GOD OF LOVE...

- The ultimate **AIM** and **GOAL** of a Christian is to **BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE GOD...** meaning to be **CONFORMED** to His **CHARACTER** of **HOLINESS...**! (cf. **1 Pet 1:15-16**)
- In **Eph 4:20, 21-24** Paul taught us that if we have *“learned Christ”* at all, it will become visible in that we will put off the old man, be renewed in our minds and then put on the new man who is *“created after the likeness of GOD in true righteousness and holiness.”*
- In **Eph 5:1**, Paul is then basically giving a **SUMMARY** of what he has just said about putting off the old man and putting on the new man by giving **THIS** as our ultimate **AIM...** **“IMITATE GOD...”**
- *Q: Who is the “our” that I am talking about when I say this should be “our ultimate aim”?*
- Those who are **CHILDREN** of God – **NOT** everyone are children of God. It is only those who have been **BORN AGAIN**, who have come to **FAITH** in Jesus and **ACCEPTED** Him as their Lord and Saviour
- **Joh 1:12-13**
- Paul calls them God’s **BELOVED** children – the children whom He **LOVES...**!
- This is an **AMAZING** thought – to be called **GOD’S BELOVED CHILDREN**. (cf. **1 Thess 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13**)
- He is our **FATHER** who **LOVES** us and **ADOPTED** us as His children and now His desire is that we will **BECOME LIKE HIM!**
- His **LOVE** for us is the **MOTIVATION** for **WHY** we would **WANT** to become like Him...
- **REALIZING** that we **DESERVE DEATH** and **HELL** and **YET**, God chose to **LOVE** us and make it possible for us to **KNOW** Him and become His **CHILDREN**, His **BELOVED** children. **THAT** should motivate us to **WANT** to become like **HIM...**!
- Who **DON’T** want to follow in the footsteps of a such a **LOVING FATHER...**?
- He wants us to **FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE**, to **IMITATE** Him in the most **IMPORTANT** of **WAYS**, namely, to imitate Him in the **EXAMPLE** of **LOVE** that He has given us...
- *Q: What is the EXAMPLE of LOVE that He has given us that we must IMITATE...?*

2. Our EXAMPLE is JESUS’ LOVE...

- Jesus **LOVED** us and **WILLINGLY SACRIFICED HIMSELF** in **OUR PLACE**.
- Jesus **WILLINGLY** gave Himself – He wasn’t **FORCED** to come and die on the cross but He **CHOSE** to do it out of **LOVE** for His **FATHER** and for **US...**!
- **Joh 10:17-18; 14:30-31; 15:13; Gal 1:3; 2:20**
- Jesus gave **HIMSELF** – it was the **GREATEST** sacrifice He could make...!
- He **COULD** have given **MONEY** and **GOLD** and **STUFF**, but He **GAVE HIMSELF!**
- **1 Pet 1:18-19** – He gave His **BLOOD...** His **LIFE!**
- There is **NO ONE** in the **HISTORY OF THE WORLD** who sacrificed **MORE THAN JESUS** when He became a **MAN**, **WALKED** on this earth, and **DIED** on the cross!
- He gave Himself in **OUR PLACE** – He took **OUR** place that we **DESERVED** on the cross. (cf. **Joh 10:11; 15:13** – note the use of the word “for” that means *“in place of”* or *“on behalf of”*)
- **HE DIED** because **WE SINNED...**!
- It is **OUR SIN** that put Him on the cross – it is **ME** it is **YOU** who sinned and made it **NECESSARY** for Him to **DIE** in **OUR PLACE** if we would become God’s beloved children...!
- God saw the **WILLING** and **SACRIFICIAL LOVE** of **JESUS** in **OUR PLACE** and He was **PLEASED** with it – it was a **FRAGRANT OFFERING** to Him.
- It Made Him **GLAD** to **SEE** the **LOVE** of His Son for those that he has given Him, those whom He wanted to **ADOPT** as his beloved children, and He **ACCEPTED** the death of Jesus in their place.
- We can be **RECEIVED** as the **BELOVED CHILDREN** of **GOD** because **JESUS GAVE...** He gave **HIMSELF** in our place...!
- *Look at the CROSS and DEATH of Jesus and NEVER become COMPLACENT with the LOVE OF JESUS... never see it as COMMONPLACE... but ALWAYS let it CAPTURE YOUR HEART that He LOVED us and therefore GAVE HIMSELF FOR US...!*
- The **AIM** and the **EXAMPLE** leads then to...

3. Our CALL is to WALK IN LOVE...

- To **IMITATE** the God of Love is to **FOLLOW** the **EXAMPLE** of **JESUS'** love and to **WALK** in this same kind of love...!
- To **WALK** in love means that our **DAILY LIVES** must be **CHARACTERIZED** by this **SAME KIND OF LOVE** that **JESUS** showed...!
- **1 Joh 4:19** – We cannot **KNOW** the **LOVE OF GOD** and not **BECOME** like the **LOVE OF GOD**...!
- This is what is **CHARACTERISTIC** of a **TRUE DISCIPLE** of Jesus, of **BELOVED CHILDREN** of **GOD**... they will **LOVE** as they have been **LOVED**...!
- **Joh 13:34-35**
- When you were **BORN AGAIN**, God poured out His love in your heart – **Rom 5:5**
- You will then start to **SHOW** this love that has been poured into you.
- The **LOVE** of **GOD** is what has **DRAWN** you to God and it is as you **IMITATE** that love that other people will be drawn to Jesus as well! (cf. **1 Joh 4:11-12**)
- We must **IMITATE** His love by **WILLINGLY SACRIFICING OURSELVES** for **GOD** and **OTHER PEOPLE**!
- Willingly sacrificing our: *Time, money, houses, comfort, plans, hobbies, vacations, ambitions* – **EVERYTHING that we are and have... for GOD and OTHERS!**
- **THIS** is what Jesus has done for **US**, what our **FATHER** has done for **US**...!
- That is why He calls us to **LOVE** Him with all that we are – **Mark 12:30**, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves – **Mark 12:31**...
- This is the kind of **LIFE** that **PLEASES** the **FATHER** – when His **BELOVED CHILDREN LOVES** Him and others as **HE** has loved them...!
- The **DEATH** of Jesus is the **ULTIMATE EXAMPLE** of **LOVE** and therefore also our **ULTIMATE IDEAL** that we should be striving for – to **LOVE** as **HE LOVED US**...!

Conclusion:

“As God’s beloved children, we are to imitate Him in loving one another, just as Christ sacrificially loved us.”

- The question is: **HOW** can you show this kind of love even this **WEEKEND** or **COMING WEEK**?
- What are you willing to **DO** and to **SACRIFICE** in order to **SHOW** that you love **GOD** and **OTHER PEOPLE**...? Whom would you **VISIT**? Whom would you **INVITE**? Whose **NEED** can you help out with? Whose **DAY** can you **BRIGHTEN UP**? Whom could you **REACH OUT** to?
- You will **ONLY** love like this **IF** you have this love in you... if you **KNOW** this God of love...!
- If you know this God of love, you will **LOVE CHRIST**, you will **LOVE** His **WORD** and you will **LOVE HIS PEOPLE**...!
- Hear then the **GOOD NEWS** today that **JESUS GAVE HIMSELF** for **EVERYONE** who would come to Him and place their **FAITH** in **HIM**!
- If you then **REALIZE** today that **YOU DESERVE** to **DIE** and go to **HELL** and you have a **DESIRE** to be **SAVED** from that, **LOOK TO JESUS** who have **SHOWED** you His love by coming to **DIE** in the place of **SINNERS** like **YOU** and **ME**, come to Him and ask **HIM** to **FORGIVE** and **CHANGE** you, to **SAVE** you.
- Let Him pour out His **LOVE** in your **HEART** and you will **NEVER** be the same...!
- **YOU WILL THEN DESIRE TO LOVE LIKE HE LOVED YOU**...!
- The **ULTIMATE EXAMPLE** of **LOVE** will become your **ULTIMATE IDEAL**...!

Christ’s Resurrection!

John 20:28-29

Preparing your Heart:

- We all know the saying: “**SEEING** is **BELIEVING**.” What is the most **UNBELIEVEABLE THING** you have ever seen?
- Many people are **HOPELESS** today. What gives you **HOPE** for the **FUTURE**?
- Do you **BELIEVE** that Jesus **REALLY** rose from the dead? **WHY**?
- Read **1 Cor 15:1-4**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- “**Hope**” can be defined as *“a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.”*
- We **HOPE** for things that would bring us **JOY** and **PEACE** and **HAPPINESS**.
- We **SET** our hope on **THINGS** or **PEOPLE** and **TRUST** that when we have that **THINGS** or gain that **RELATIONSHIP**, our **PEACE** and **JOY** would be **REALIZED**...!
- And many times when get that **THING** or gain that **RELATIONSHIP**, we **DO** experience **JOY** and **PEACE**! We are **EXCITED** because we **GOT** what we **HOPED** for...!
- But then, many times that **THING BREAKS**, get **LOST**, is **STOLEN** or is **NOT** what we **HOPED** for... that **RELATIONSHIP** falls **APART** and that **PERSON** disappoints us... and we **LOSE** our **PEACE** and **JOY**...
- We very often place our **HOPE** on **TEMPORARY THINGS**, the **THINGS OF THIS WORLD** that is **NOT** meant to bring us **LASTING JOY** or **PEACE**...
- The **REALITY** is, the **BIBLICAL TRUTH** is, that if you do **NOT** know **JESUS**, if you do not **HAVE GOD** in your life, you **ARE** and **WILL BE** without **TRUE HOPE**...
- **Eph 2:12** talks about when people **DO NOT** know God.
- **KNOWING CHRIST** is what brings **TRUE HOPE**, a **HOPE** that **THIS LIFE** is **NOT IT**...!
- A **CHRISTIAN’S HOPE** for the **FUTURE** is that a **NEW** heaven and a **NEW** earth is coming where there will be **NO MORE SIN** and **DEATH**!
- **HOPE** is that there is **SOMETHING BETTER COMING**...!
- They have **HOPE** in a **HOPELESS** world because of who Jesus is and what He has done...
- Specifically, they have **HOPE** because **JESUS** came to **DIE** for their sins and then He **ROSE FROM THE DEAD**...!
- **HOPE** does **NOT COME** by looking at **OURSELVES** or this **WORLD**...
- It is **JESUS’ RESURRECTION** that brings Christians **HOPE** in a **HOPELESS WORLD**...!
- Take some time and read **Joh 20:1-29**...

Study Points:

- **THREE THOUGHTS** about the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus...

1. The **FACT** of the Resurrection...

- Many people today **STRUGGLE** to believe that Jesus **REALLY** did rise from the dead.
- There are many people who will **FLATLY** say they **DON’T** believe that Jesus rose from the dead.
- They are **NOT** the first **SCEPTICS** about the resurrection.
- In fact, one of the **FIRST** sceptics about the **REALITY** of Jesus actually rising from the dead is one of His **DISCIPLES**.
- We just read about him in **Joh 20**...
- In **Joh 20:1-10** we read about Mary Magdalene going to the tomb of Jesus and finding it **OPEN** and **EMPTY**. She tells Peter and John and they **SPRINT** to the tomb to find it as she said...
- Then Jesus appears to Mary in **verses 11-18** and Jesus sends her to go and tell the disciples that **HE HAS RISEN** from the dead and that He is **ASCENDING**, going back, to His Father...
- In **verses 19-23** we then read where the disciples were locked inside a room because they were **SCARED** of what the Jews were going to do to them now that Jesus’ body was **GONE**...!
- As they were standing there, Jesus all of a sudden **APPEARED** and came and stood **AMONG THEM**...!
- They were **SEEING** Jesus **ALIVE** and **WELL**...!
- **BUT** one of the disciples wasn’t there – **THOMAS**... we often call him **DOUBTING** Thomas, because he **REACTS** as most if not all of us would have reacted when the other disciples tell him that they have seen Jesus...(cf. **Joh 20:25**)
- And then we read this – **verse 26-29**...
- Thomas went from **DOUBTING** to **SHOUTING**...!
- Thomas is the first disciple to unashamedly calls Jesus **GOD**...!
- He helps us **DOUBTERS** to believe as well that Jesus **REALLY** did rise from the dead...!
- Read what **1 Cor 15:3-9** says...
- There were **MANY WITNESSES** who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead – at one stage there were **500** of them together...
- **EVERYTHING** in the Christian faith **DEPENDS** on the **HISTORICAL FACT** of the **RESURRECTION**.
- **WHY?**

2. The IMPORTANCE of the Resurrection...

- There are at least **TWO REASONS** why the resurrection is of **GREAT IMPORTANCE**.
- Jesus made some **RADICAL CLAIMS** about Himself!
- Maybe **THE** most radical claim that he made was concerning what would **HAPPEN** to him.
- In the Gospel according to Mark, we read that Jesus made the following **CLAIM THREE TIMES...**
- **Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34**
- This claim, with all the other claims Jesus made about Himself, leaves us with what CS Lewis called the **TRILEMMA**.
- *Either Jesus was a **LIAR**; or He was a **LUNATIC**; or He is exactly who He said He was namely **LORD**...!*
- The resurrection is **IMPORTANT** because by the resurrection:

2.1 Jesus is VINDICATED...!

- **Rom 1:4**
- God **VINDICATED** Jesus when He rose Him from the dead, **DECLARING** and **PROVING** that **JESUS** truly is the **SON OF GOD**, that **HE IS GOD**...
- The **CLAIMS** of Jesus was shown to be the **TRUTH** because of the **RESURRECTION**...!
- *“If He had **REMAINED** in the grave, it had been reasonable to believe Him only an ordinary person, and that His death had been the **JUST PUNISHMENT** of His presumption in calling Himself the **SON OF GOD**.”*

2.2 Our JUSTIFICATION is secured...!

- **Rom 4:25**
- Jesus **OFFERED PAYMENT** for our **SIN** on the cross and when He **ROSE** from the dead, it **SHOWED** us that the **CHEQUE CLEARED** – that God **ACCEPTED** the **PAYMENT** Jesus made on **OUR** behalf...!
- **Joh 19:30**

3. The HOPE of the Resurrection... (1 Pet 1:3-5)

3.1 We have a LIVING SAVIOUR! (v3)

- **Job 19:23-27; Ps 18:29; Heb 13:6; Rom 8:34**
- Jesus is **ALIVE**; He is our **HELPER** and He is **PRAYING** for us...!

3.2 We have an ETERNAL INHERITANCE! (v4)

- **Ps 16:2, 5-6, 11; 73:25-26**
- **GOD** is our inheritance – being **WITH** Him and having Him as our **GOD** and **FATHER**

3.3 We WAIT for the FINAL REALIZATION of our SALVATION! (v5)

- **2 Cor 4:14, 16-18**: Because **JESUS** rose from the dead, our **HOPE** is that He will also raise **US** from the dead.
- That is why we **DO NOT LOSE HEART** - We need to remember that **THIS LIFE** and **EVERYTHING WITH IT** is **TEMPORAL** and is bringing about a **LIFE** that will **OUTWEIGH** and **OUTDO** this life a million times over...!
- **Col 3:1-4**: We **HAVE** been raised with Christ! We **ALREADY** passed from **DEATH** to **LIFE** in Him!
- **Joh 11:25-26**: The **HOPE** of the Christian is that even though he **DIES**, he **LIVES**!
- **Phil 3:20-21**: We are therefore **CITIZENS** of heaven passing as **PILGRIMS** through this world to our **HEAVENLY HOME**... we **BELONG** in **HEAVEN**!
- And **ALL OF THIS** because **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD**...!

Conclusion:

- If Jesus **HAD NOT** been raised, we **WOULDN'T HAVE ANY HOPE**... **1 Cor 15:13-20**
- But **NOW**... Jesus **DID** rise from the dead...!
- He is **ALIVE** and He is **SHOWN** and **PROVEN** to be the **SON OF GOD** who is the One who **FORGIVES** and makes **PERFECT** and **RIGHTEOUS EVERYONE** who **BELIEVES** in Him.
- Those who believe in Him have a **LIVING SAVIOUR** that is **WITH THEM** through **EVERYTHING** that happens in this life and He has **SECURED** an **ETERNAL INHERITANCE** for them that they **WILL** receive.
- They are **WAITING** for His final return were their **FULL SALVATION** will be **REALIZED** and they will **ENTER INTO** the **ETERNAL LIFE** that **OUTSHINES** the **BEST** that **THIS** life can over...!

Are YOU one of those who BELIEVE...?

Christ's exaltation and Return!
John 20:17; Psalm 110:1-7; Matthew 24:36-44

Preparing your Heart:

- Do you **BELIEVE** that Jesus is **REALLY** in control of **EVERYTHING** that is happening in this world...?
- Do you **BELIEVE** that Jesus is **REALLY** coming back to fetch His Church and judge the world...?
- Are you **REALLY** longing for the **RETURN** of Jesus...?
- Read **2 Thess 1:5-10**
- Pray and ask God to prepare your heart for His truth.

Introduction:

- Think about this question: **ARE YOU READY...?**
- In this series, we have focused on the theme: **“KNOWING CHRIST!”**
- We looked at the **REALITY** that Jesus, who is **GOD**, became a **MAN**; lived a **PERFECT LIFE**; He **DIED** on the cross and He then **ROSE** from the **DEAD**.
- But that is **NOT** where the story of Jesus **STOPS**...!
- Jesus said something very interesting and important to Mary after He rose from the dead and He appeared to her in **Joh 20:17**...
- In **Acts 1:6-11** we then read the account of the **ASCENSION** of our Lord Jesus Christ to **HEAVEN**.
- What a **MAGNIFICENT SIGHT** it must have been and yet what an **UNCERTAIN** time it must have been for the disciples!
- How they needed the words of the angels as they stood gazing into heaven!
- **Acts 1:10-11**
- In these words of the angels, we find great **ENCOURAGEMENT** but also great **WARNING**...!
- **What are these...?**
- Please read **Psalm 110:1-7** – we find our **ENCOURAGEMENT** in the **POSITION** and **ROLE** that Jesus now has in heaven, namely He is the **RULING KING** and the **GREAT HIGH PRIEST**, and we find the **WARNING** in what He will **COME** to **EXCECUTE**, namely He will come to **JUDGE** the **NATIONS**...!

Study Points:

- **THREE REALITIES** that flows from the **EXALTATION** of Jesus into heaven:

1. Jesus REIGNS! (Ps 110:2-3)

- He is **KING**!
- **Matt 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Dan 7:13-14**
- This is the **POSITION** that Jesus has and it is an **EVERLASTING KINGDOM**!
- If you have come to salvation, He is **YOUR** King under whom you must gladly submit because we know that He reigns as a **GOOD, LOVING, GRACIOUS, RIGHTEOUS** and **HOLY** King!

2. Jesus is INTERCEDING for His PEOPLE! (Ps 110:4)

- He is our **HIGH PRIEST**!
- **Heb 7:25; 4:14-16; Rom 8:34; 1 Joh 2:1-2**
- Jesus is our **MEDIATOR**, our **ADVOCATE**, our **HIGH PRIEST** who is **CONSTANTLY** interceding for us with the Father.
- Because Jesus is **INTERCEDING** for us, we have **CONFIDENCE** to draw near to God, we have an **ADVOCATE** who pleads our case, we have **ETERNAL SECURITY** of our salvation...!
- He is **INTERCEDING** on our behalf for His glory!
- He knows what we **NEED**, and intercede for our needs accordingly.
- He sees our **SHORTCOMINGS**, our **SINS**, and intercedes for our forgiveness.
- If you have come to salvation, Jesus is **YOUR** High Priest who is interceding for you **BY NAME** with God, your Father!

3. Jesus is COMING BACK! (Ps 110:5-7)

- He will come to **FETCH** His followers and **JUDGE** the world!
- **Joh 14:1-3; Joh 5:22; Rev 6:15-17**
- I want you to spend some time on **Matt 24:36-44**. Please read it very carefully...
- **“That day”** refers back to **Matt 24:29-31** namely the coming of the Son of Man...

3.1. No one knows when – IT WILL BE UNEXPECTED...! (v 36)

- “**No one**” – no human or person or natural man.
- **Acts 1:7** – it hasn’t been given to us to know the day or the hour.
- We shouldn’t be **CONSUMED** with trying to **PIN POINT** when Jesus will return.
- No **ANGEL** knows, so we mustn’t give **ANY** attention to someone who says that and angel told them when Jesus will come back.
- Jesus in His **HUMANITY** was limited to what the Father revealed to Him and this is something that Jesus in His **INCARNATION** didn’t have knowledge of.
- No **HUMAN**, no **ANGELS** and even **JESUS** in His incarnation didn’t know when this will be – only the Father knew.
- Jesus as God of course knew and still knows when He will come again, but not in His humanity.
- This is so in order to bring about a great **EXPECTANCY** in our hearts, not knowing **WHEN** it will be, but **THAT** it will happen!
- The bottom line is that God did not choose to reveal to us **WHEN**, what day and hour, Jesus will come back!
- We can know the **SEASON** is drawing near, but **NOT** the **EXACT TIME**...!

3.2. The world will be TOTALLY UNPREPARED – business as usual...! (v 37-39)

- The people of this **WORLD** have **NO EXPECTATION** of Jesus’ return.
- For them it is business as usual.
- In the days of Noah, they saw Noah build the ark for anything between 55 to 75 years...!
(<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/>)
- They heard Him preach about the judgement of God (cf. **2 Pet 2:5**) as He was building the ark for approximately 55 to 75 years...!
- Yet, they **IGNORED** the truth of the coming of God’s **JUDGEMENT**!
- They were caught up in their **PERSONAL ROUTINE** and **FAMILY ROUTINE** – things which aren’t sin, but **BLINDED** them and **DISTRACTED** them to what was coming...
- People **TODAY** also live as if Jesus will **NEVER RETURN** and as if **ETERNITY** will not come.
- They are **CAUGHT UP** in the things of this **WORLD** and the **ROUTINES** of this world, not heeding the preaching of the **GOSPEL** and totally **UNPREPARED** for the **COMING OF JESUS**...
- The attitude of **2 Pet 3:1-7** is characteristic of them... they deliberately **OVERLOOK** the flood and the judgement of God that was revealed there.
- In **2 Pet 3:8-10**, Peter goes on to explain that the **FINAL JUDGEMENT WILL COME**... this time not by water, but through **FIRE**!
- The **WORLD** think that this earth will **EXIST FOREVER** and sometimes even **SOME CHRISTIANS** live in this kind of way as well.
- It will **NOT** always be business as usual, and this will catch the world totally **UNPREPARED**.
- In the days of Noah, the ark were **CLOSED** and despite the **HAMMERING** of many on the door and even **PLEADING** for Noah to open, they **SUFFERED** the **JUDGEMENT OF GOD**.
- In the day of the return of Jesus Christ, many will hammer on the door of His kingdom and they will hear the frightening words: “**I never knew you, depart from me...!**”

3.3. There will be a SEPARATION – two groups of people... (v 40-41)

- Note that these people were all busy **WORKING** – the coming of Jesus should not leave us **LAZY** and **APPATHETIC** as it did the Thessalonian church (cf. **2 Thess 3:6-15**)
- Although they are **BUSY** with the **SAME** things, they **AREN’T** the **SAME** – one is a **CHRISTIAN** and the other one **NOT**.
- There will be a **FINAL** and **ETERNAL SEPARATION**. The **SEPARATION** will be **SUDDEN**, **DEFINITE**, **FINAL**, and **ETERNAL**. There will be no **APPEAL** of the **DECISION**, no **REQUEST** for a **REHEARING**, and no **POSSIBILITY** of **REPENTANCE**.
- This is a **SOBERING TRUTH TO CONSIDER**.
- There is **ULTIMATELY** just **TWO GROUPS** of people in this world – those who **KNOW** Jesus and those who **DON’T**...!
- There will be **NO SECOND CHANCES**...!

3.4. We need to be ALERT and READY – He is coming soon! (v 42-44)

- Jesus can come at **ANY MOMENT** and we need to be **READY**! We need to be **PREPARED** for when He comes!

- I think many Christians have lost this **FOCUS** that Jesus could return **TODAY**, even... **RIGHT NOW!**
- As Wayne Grudem puts it, in light of the “*signs*” that Jesus gave in **Matt 24:3-14**: “*It is improbable, but possible...!*”
- There is this **UNCONSCIOUS MINDSET** that Jesus would return **A BIT LATER** – there is still **LOTS OF TIME...**
- **WE DON’T KNOW...!**
- We need to be ready **EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!**
- We need to live **EVERYDAY** with our eyes to the sky.
- While we are living like this, what **MANNER** of live are we to live?
- To be **EAGER** for the return of Jesus means to **PREPARE** for His return, knowing that **EVERYTHING** in your live leads up to that moment: When you stand **FACE-TO-FACE WITH JESUS!**
- **2 Pet 3:11-12; 1 Joh 2:28-3:3**
- Living lives of **HOLINESS** and **RIGHTEOUSNESS...!**
- Lives that are **SEPARATED** from sin and **DEDICATED** unto God in **DOING** the things that is **RIGHT** before Him, things that are **PLEASING** to Him!
 - (1) *We must give regular attention to our spiritual lives and to the spiritual disciplines.*
 - (2) *Give regular thought to Jesus Christ as Lord and Judge and King.*
 - (3) *Recognize your own weaknesses and the dangers of sin and temptation in your own life.*
 - (4) *Keep up your guard; be alert to those things that especially draw you into spiritual dullness.*
- **Acts 1:8** – lives that are involved in **HELPING OTHER PEOPLE PREPARE** for His coming – lives of **EVANGELISM** where our **DESIRE** and **LONGING** is that the one working with me in the field or the one grinding the mill with me, will go with me!
- Lives longing that my **FAMILY** – father, mother, brothers, sisters – will go with me...
- Lives longing that my **FRIENDS** will go with me...
- Lives longing that my **COLLEAGUES** and even my **BOSS** will go with me...
- Lives longing that total **STRANGERS** that I happen to meet by ‘*chance*’ will go with me...

Conclusion:

- Can I then close with the question again: **ARE YOU READY for the RETURN of CHRIST...?**
- Furthermore, **ARE YOU EXCITED and LONGING for JESUS” RETURN...?**
- Jesus said in **Rev 21:7**: “Behold, I am coming soon...!”
- **LET’S BE READY...!**