

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Peter's Confession of Christ

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 16:13-28; Mark 8:27-9:1; Luke 9:18-27

Jesus engaged His disciples in a conversation concerning who He was. He was showing His followers that the world has not yet understood who He was. When the disciples disclosed what the people were saying, He turned the question back to them by asking, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

These men had been following Jesus for almost three years. They had witnessed time and time again the majesty He held. They now confess Him from their mouths that He is Lord. But, as we read on, we discover they didn't really grasp the whole concept of who He was.

This is no different in today's world. Many people have confessed Jesus as Lord, but Matthew 7:21 says, “Not everyone who says to me lord, lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Jesus will tell many that confessed Him, “I never knew you, away from me, you evil doers.”

I don't know about you, but that hit me straight in the heart. A vivid picture came as I was watching the movie *LEFT BEHIND*. One person that was left behind from the rapture was a pastor. A pastor! Can you imagine? Someone that confessed it, preached it, and taught it, yet still did not really get it. I want you to know that it was in that moment of time that I finally cried out to Jesus to save me. I had to know without a doubt in my mind that I would be ushered into His eternal kingdom. From that moment on, I began diligently searching scriptures and allowing God to transform my life. This transformation is what I want to share with you, as a confessed child of God. I want you to understand there is more to this life of Christ than saying “I believe” and going to church. That is the whole heartbeat of this study: unlocking and understanding the mystery of Christ, then living out that understanding with integrity.

This is an eight week study of Jesus and is written for those that are looking for a deeper study of and desiring a deeper relationship with our Lord. The study has two tracks. For those of you wanting to spend extra time in your Bible, the **DIGGING DEEPER** section with the additional reading portions is for you. For those of you that are limited with time, you can choose just the **SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES** portion.

Each week's lesson will have three areas of focus: Unlocking the Mystery, Understanding the Word, and Living with Integrity.



Unlocking the Mystery

First, I will identify a specific area of Christ's life that may seem to be a mystery in the eyes of those getting to know Him. This section will be a brief commentary of the mystery and knowledge to unlock the mystery.



Understanding the Word

Second, we use the key to unlocking the mystery of Christ, better known as the Scriptures. In this section, we will dig into the Word of God to bring understanding of what was being taught or said about the particular mystery mentioned in section one. This is the area in which you will use your Bible to answer questions or fill in blanks. The NIV with copyright 1984 has been used unless otherwise indicated.



Living with Integrity

Third, there is a section of explanation or response. Our walk with Christ requires us to be active. This section brings application to our lives, so the knowledge of the lesson taught brings us into a life more pleasing unto God.

Let's learn about Integrity. According to Merriam-Webster.com dictionary:

1. A firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values: **INCORRUPTABILITY** (incapable of corruption; not subject to decay or dissolution)
2. An unimpaired condition: **SOUNDNESS** (free from flaw, defect, or decay; solid, firm, stable; free from error, fallacy, or misapprehension; thorough; showing good judgment)
3. The quality or state of being complete or undivided: **COMPLETENESS** (having all necessary parts, elements, or steps brought to an end/concluded; highly proficient; fully carried out; total absolute)

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Let's learn about Integrity. According to our Holy Scriptures:

***Psalms 7:8** Judge me according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High.*

***Psalms 25:20-21** Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in You. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You.*

***Psalms 41:12** In my integrity You up hold me and set me in Your presence forever.*

***Proverbs 10:9** A man of integrity walks securely; but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

***Proverbs 11:3** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*

***Matthew 22:16** Teacher, we know You are a man of integrity and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You are not swayed by men because You pay no attention to who they are.*

***Titus 2:7-8** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.*

Living with Integrity according to these definitions is impossible, but don't be discouraged. Integrity is our goal. God gives us the perfection to measure up or to shoot for that Integrity. As long as we are in our fleshly bodies, we will never measure up. That is what keeps us separated from God, and that is what Jesus came to fix for us. When we come into a relationship with Jesus Christ, by grace we enter a life of trying to reach perfection... with God's help. The rules/guidelines for living are the Scriptures, and the power to do so is from the Holy Spirit. God gives us the expectation (commands). He then walks with us as we live according to those expectation. When we mess up, the Holy Spirit will make it known to us, and then we get to try again to get it right. When we are willing and submissive to His way, it is a fairly smooth walk, but when we are prideful or stubborn and think our way is best, the walk becomes harder to endure. Sometimes, God will even have to discipline us to teach us and to help us understand more. However, keep in mind, once we are part of His family, He will never let us walk alone. He will always walk with us and guide us into a life filled with Integrity.

Scriptures to help you get the frame of mind of the perfection I just mentioned.

HOLINESS:

Hebrews 10:10

1 Peter 1:13-16

HOLY SPIRIT:

John 14:16-17

John 14:23-26

DIGGING DEEPER: 2 Peter 1:3-11

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:3, 4, 8-9, & 10-11

V. 3 His divine power has given us _____ we need for _____ and _____ through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

**V. 4 Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in what? _____
And escape what? _____
_____**

V. 5-7 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

V. 8-9 If you possess the listed qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being what? _____ and _____ in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been _____ from his past _____

**V. 10-11 If you make your calling and election sure, you will receive? _____
_____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

DIGGING DEEPER: Ephesians 4:17-5:21

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE: 4:22-24

**V. 22 What was wrong with the former way of life? _____
_____**

**V. 24 What was the “new self” created to be like? _____
_____**

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE: 5:1-2

Be _____ of God.

Live a life of _____ just as Christ _____ us.

What did Christ do for us out of that love? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE: 1:13-15

Therefore, prepare your minds for _____, be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the _____ to be given you when _____ is _____.
As _____ children, do not _____ to the _____ desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is _____, so be _____ in all you do; for it is written: "Be _____ because _____."

YOUR THOUGHTS: _____

Overall, there are two commands to uphold and strive for. When these commands truly are your greatest desire, you will know you are in relationship with God.

DIGGING DEEPER: Mark 12:28-34

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE: 12:30-31

What is the Greatest Commandment from God?

What is the Second Greatest Commandment from God?



To bring us back to where we started, we notice if we confess with our mouths and truly believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord, we will be saved. In other words, when we enter into the family of God we are destined to spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven. When your heart is truly transformed, changed, and renewed, you will be different. You will want to draw closer to God and learn more about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You'll start to take on characteristics of Christ, and you will allow yourself to constantly measure up to the perfection of Christ. As you measure up in places and fall short in other places, the desire to walk with integrity will constantly be in your heart and on your mind.

Maybe you are there... maybe you are not quite there yet. One thing is for sure, in taking part in this Bible study you will have more understanding of who Jesus is, and you should have an answer when He asks you, "Who do you say that I am?"

Confess with your mouth, believe in your heart and know that Jesus Christ is LORD!

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