

Who was Jesus Christ? – Part 4

Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is, “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.

Jesus Christ was sinless.

Jesus Christ was the ultimate sin-bearer for all of mankind.

1. There is a word that the Bible uses in regards to Christ’s death on the cross, and it is the word “*propitiation*.” Paul tells us that Christ was “*set forth to be a propitiation*.” Romans 3:25
 - “*Propitiation*” is a great word. It carries the idea of appeasing one that is offended, and gaining his favor.
 - **Illustration:** Rich owes \$1,000 in taxes on his house and has no way to pay. His mortgage company is about to foreclose on his house. I go to them and pay the \$1000. I have appeased their wrath, and allowed Rich to gain favor again with them. I propitiated for Rich.
2. All of us in this world have offended God because of our sin. God gave His righteous law, and we have all broken it. The law declares us all, “*guilty!*” Romans 3:19, 20, 23
 - Where does this leave us? We are left to incur the wrath and judgment of Almighty God. Romans 1:18, 29-32, 2:5-6
3. We all desperately needed a propitiator – someone who could appease God (the offended party) on our behalf, and place us in His favor.
4. Praise God, the One person qualified to do this for us did it! 1 Timothy 2:5-6; cf. 1 John 2:2, 4:10
5. Our sin created a debt that we had no possible way of paying. Jesus satisfied the demands of a holy God by keeping the law. He never sinned one time. Christ then willingly paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross. He satisfied the demands, and then paid our debt in full. Romans 5:6, 8
6. Christ took the full wrath of God against sin so that we would not have to incur it. When we fully deserved the wrath of God for our sin, Christ propitiated that wrath on the cross. Romans 5:9-10
7. A great illustration of this is found in the Old Testament when, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest of Israel would enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a bullock.

- There, in front of him, was the ark of the covenant (a chest that looked like a coffin). In it were the tables of the law which Israel had broken over and over again.
 - Above the ark were the covering cherubim, and God's glory was said to dwell between them. You have a holy God, a broken law, and, in between, a mercy seat (same word as propitiation). There, the high priest would sprinkle the blood. Now the blood stood between a holy God and the broken law. The blood was an atonement - a propitiation - for the sins of Israel.
 - God's offended justice could only be propitiated by the blood that was sprinkled.
8. All of this was a shadow of the final, once for all, sacrifice of the Lamb of God - Jesus Christ. Christ not only died for sin, He took His precious blood and sprinkled it on the mercy seat of heaven. Hebrews 9:11-12, 12:24
9. The blood in heaven proves that what Christ did is enough and is accepted of the Father. He successfully propitiated for your sins and mine. We can now have eternal redemption. Christ's eternal blood on that mercy seat secures my eternal redemption.
- Jesus doesn't have to keep dying over and over again. He can point to His blood on that mercy seat and say, "*It is finished.*" Hebrews 9:24-26; cf. Romans 6:9-10
 - Hebrews 12:24 – Abel's blood cried out to God that Cain was a murderer. Christ's blood on the mercy seat cries out to the Father, "The debt has been paid in full. He's redeemed. He's free. His sins are washed away."
 - As the old hymn says, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunge beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."
10. But how do we take what Christ did for us on the cross and apply it, personally, to our own sin debt, to our hearts, and lives? Look at Romans 3:25, 28, 5:1.
11. The Bible is clear – you apply it to your heart by faith in Jesus Christ. The moment you believe and trust that His sacrifice was for your sins, God fully forgives you of all sin, and brings you into a place of peace with Himself.
- It isn't done on the basis of your good works, or religious rituals, or self-effort. It happens on the basis of the fact that you have a Propitiator who made a propitiation for your sin.
12. God is fully satisfied with the sacrifice Christ made for sin. When you rest in Him, and trust Him, and believe that what Christ did was fully sufficient, you and God end up in full agreement, and He saves and forgives you based on what Christ did on the cross.
13. Have you trusted Christ? Have you simply believed totally on Him to save you from the wrath of God, and make you at peace with God? If not, you need desperately to trust Him today.
14. Illustration of two people that are seeking to be restored to God because they know they have sinned:

- The first person says, “I’ll go to church, get baptized, give money, do religious rituals, do good to others every chance I get, etc. Surely this will appease God’s wrath and propitiate for my sins.”
- The second person says, “I will humble myself before God and tell Him that I know that I don’t deserve His favor and never will. But I believe that Christ made a full payment for my sin, and I believe that what Christ did is enough. I am fully trusting Christ.”
- Which person is justified before God? Romans 3:28, “*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*”