

STUDY PACK 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Napoleon expressed the following thoughts while he was exiled on the rock of St. Helena. There, the conqueror of civilized Europe had time to reflect on the measure of his accomplishments. Here called General Bertrand (Count Montholon) to his side and asked him, “Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?” The General declined to respond. Napoleon said:

“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religions _____.”

“The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it.”

“Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ.”

“If you do not perceive that Jesus Christ is God, very well, then I did wrong to make you a general.”

You cannot study the life of Christ _____. If you study His words and works, you cannot help but be drawn to love and appreciate Him more.

Jesus came to present Himself as the Messiah of the nation of Israel. But they rejected Him. Their rejection led to His death on the cross, which provided salvation for sinful men. This offer of salvation through His death was proven to be real and enough by His resurrection.

A lot of people like to study about and preach about doctrine, but the Bible is really about a person – Jesus Christ. He invites us to have a relationship with Him. Not just learn about Him, but learn of Him, from Him, and to learn Him – the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world!

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The _____ who ever lived is Jesus. He did not seem noticeable or do the things people usually associate with greatness. He did not travel far from home. He did not become a politician. He was not rich – he was a simple carpenter.
- B. His last three years of his life were spent largely _____, travelling around the land of His birth while he preached, healed the sick, and comforted the _____. Eventually public opinion turned against Him. He was betrayed by a _____ for upsetting the nation’s way of life. He was put on _____ for blasphemy because he claimed to be the Son of God. His own people condemned him, but

the nervous Roman governor was hesitant to convict him. The Roman governor shouted a challenge to the mob – “Behold _____!” The mob would not listen but demanded He be crucified.

- C. He was beaten, a crown of thorns placed on his head, and then His hands and feet were nailed to _____. He _____ without any earthly possessions and having not reached 40 years old.
- D. But the story does not end there. Three days later what happened changed the course of entire human history. He _____ from the dead in power and glory. His perfection and greatness has _____ been matched since. His life has been called the hinge on which the world turns – His birth literally divided history in half (BC/AD).
- E. In only three years of ministry, He completely changed the world. He still stands as the highest example of moral _____. Divine _____ in man. There are no armies or navies, nations or kings, who have ever influenced the world as powerfully as this one man.
- F. Not only did Jesus start a movement which changed history, He also displayed God the Father to mankind. God knew the best way to communicate Himself to man was to become _____. God knew the only way to redeem man was to become man so that he could die for man. Jesus lived the perfect life for man because He knew that man could not.

II. WHY STUDY THE LIFE OF CHRIST?

- A. To learn what God is really _____. It is hard to imagine God because He is spirit. Christ was God manifest in the flesh – Christ was the God-man.
- B. To learn how the events, places, parables, miracles, and teachings in the Gospels all fit together.
- C. To learn how to make _____. Christ made the best disciples. He taught them for only three years, but they stayed with Him for the rest of their lives – even to point of martyrdom.
- D. To study the _____ ever lived.

III. WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST AND WHY DID HE COME INTO THE WORLD?

- A. He is called the _____ – a word is a way to communicate from one person to another.
- B. Jesus Christ came to reveal the _____ to man.
 - 1. He is God, He is eternal, He is a separate person from the Father; He is the Creator.

2. He became flesh so He might reveal God by both His _____ and His _____. John 1:18: *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

C. Jesus Christ came to _____.

1. He revealed the Father by His life; He provided redemption by His death.

IV. HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT CHRIST?

A. The Gospels give us the only inspired account of the life of Christ.

1. Matthew and John were apostles who fellowshiped with Christ during His earthly ministry and were able to record what they had heard and seen.
2. Luke and Mark were not apostles but spoke to those who were eyewitnesses and consulted the many written records about Christ.
Luke 1:2, 4: *Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; ⁴ That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*

B. The Gospels are not written as history. Rather they are teaching truths to believers.

1. They present the life of Christ thematically (they chose which events to include and how they arranged them based on the picture of Christ they wished to show).
2. They are to be viewed as complementary and supplementary rather than contradictory.

C. Who were the 4 Gospels written to?

1. The gospel first went to the Jews, so _____ was written to the Jews.
2. The gospel then reached the Greeks through Paul, so _____ wrote to the Greeks.
3. The gospel was also brought to the Romans through Paul, so _____ wrote to the Romans.
4. _____ wrote much later from a different perspective, writing to introduce the rest of the world to the Savior and persuade them to believe in Him.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The apostle John, having recorded a portion of the words and works of Jesus Christ, ended his Gospel by saying, *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.* (John 21:25)
- B. John was overwhelmed at the enormous task of presenting the important truths about Christ that would lead men to faith in Him. How much more should you and I be with three additional Gospels and the entire New Testament to source from?

VI. THE PLAN FOR THIS COURSE

- A. We will walk through the life of Christ in _____ following a “Luke plus” formula. (See Luke 1:1-4)

Luke 1:1-4: *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, ² Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; ³ It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.”*
- B. The word “in order” in verse 1 means in an orderly manner, _____.
- C. The word “in order” in verse 3 means in subsequent order, in chronological order.
- D. Since Luke was written in a chronological order, we will follow it.
- E. We will add to the class portions from the other Gospels that are not included in Luke.