

Bible Study Series: **Taking Christ Seriously**

1/16/24

Bible Study Question: Was Jesus omniscient during His earthly ministry? This person heard that He didn't have this ability until after He went to be with the Father: **Scrip. Ref:** Matt. 24:36 – But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. [**Begin:** Jesus Christ is God of very God: John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God; Phil. 2:5-7 – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men; Jesus possesses two nature in His person: truly God and truly man: As God He possessed on earth all the attributes of deity: omniscience, sovereignty etc..., but in His nature as man He did not possess these qualities, only the quality of humanity, so that there was no mixture of natures, God nature mixing with human nature, or else in His person He would be neither God or man. Therefore, when Jesus speaks about Himself in the gospel accounts, He will often distinguish between His divine nature and the human nature: **Examples:** John 10:30 – I and the Father are one [one in essence/being]; He is speaking about His divine nature: **Scrip. Ref:** John 14:28 – “If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I” – He is speaking about His human nature. Thus, when Jesus speaks about not knowing the day and hour of the Son of Man's return, He is speaking from His human nature not divine. **Scrip. Ref:** Heb. 5:8 – Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Taking Our Relationship with Him Seriously [Rev. 2:1-7]

There is a pressure for me each week to teach and preach to the same people and not take the profound revelation of God and not make it boring. It's a commitment in my own preparation to strive to understand the deep things of God and see its implications in my own life. I believe my responsibility to you all is to stimulate your faith in God through the preaching and teaching of the Word: **Scrip. Ref:** [Paul's statement in relation to his preaching philosophy: 1 Cor. 2:5 – that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.]

So, when we approach a passage, we have studied before, it's important to see it with fresh eyes. Or to be reminded about a familiar truth from a different perspective. Tonight, we will study the topic: Taking Our Relationship with Him Seriously:

Scrip. Ref: 1 John 4:8 – for God is love. [There is love within the Godhead; This love spills over into creating the universe for the display of God's love in redemption]

The basic outline of the Bible: Creation, Fall, Redemption: Redemption is God paying the price to deliver those whom He has chosen to be His people. And His people in gratitude for His gracious love, love Him in return: **Scrip. Ref:** 1 John 4:19 – “We love, because He first loved us.”

Scrip. Ref: Deut. 6:4-5 – “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! [5] And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Everything in us: mind, will and emotion is to love God. And everything we do is to express that love “all your might.” How do we love God with our mind: **Scrip. Ref:** Psa. 1:2 – meditate on His law day and night; Phil. 4:8 – thinking on the things which are true. You can’t love God if you are believing lies; With our heart: How do we love God with our heart [affections]? Thank Him, sing to Him, be sincere in doing everything for Him, whether you eat or drink; Obedience from the heart is how we love Him with our heart, even in our treatment of others. How we treat others reveals the presence or absence of love towards God. With all our might: How do we love God with our might? **Scrip. Ref:** Matt. 5:16 – “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

What weakens our love for God? Sin

Scrip. Ref: Matt. 22:35-40 – the greatest sin is to not love God with our whole being.

What are the chief sins that weaken our love, devotion, and obedience to God?

1. **Pride expressed by forgetting God’s grace in your life:** **Scrip. Ref:** Deut. 8:11-20; Deut. 4:9; 6:6-9; Psa. 103:1-5

2. **Indifference in our worship to God. Simply put, we become tired of serving God. It’s boring, laborious, and time consuming.** Therefore, our worship presentation is lazy and half-hearted: **Scrip. Ref:** Mal. 1:6-14

3. **Hypocrisy!!** We honor God on the outside but inside our hearts are far from Him. We still come to church with our Bibles in hand, but our hearts are elsewhere: **Scrip. Ref:** Isa. 1:10-17; Rev. 2:1-7

4. **Idolatry:** a distant heart is an idolatrous heart. We take what belongs to God and give it to something or someone else: **Scrip. Ref:** Ezek. 16:1-17; Exod. 20:1-6

How to Rekindle a Serious Relationship with Christ:

Scrip. Ref: Rev. 2:5 – “Remember therefore from where you have fallen” – The key to rekindling a devotion to our First Love is by remembering from where we have fallen in our relationship to Him. Notice, Jesus says, “Remember therefore from where you have fallen” not “to where you have fallen.” Jesus is not calling us to remember where we fallen, whether it be in the sin of pride, indifference, hypocrisy, or idolatry. But “from where you have fallen”. In other words, look from where you left. Is there anything more precious, more satisfying, more comforting, more peaceful, more joyful, and worth knowing more than Jesus Christ? The answer is no.

Have we fallen from the One whom accepted you as a love gift from the Father before the foundation of the world? Eph. 1:4-5

Have you fallen from the One who suffered, bled, and died to bring you back to God? Jn. 15:3

Have you fallen from the One who ever lives to make intercession for you? Heb. 7:25

Have you fallen from the One who is coming back to receive you to Himself, so where He is you will be also? Jn. 14:3

Bible Study Series: **Taking His Word Seriously**

1/23/24

The Bible is the revelation of God to man. Therefore, we believe in divine inspiration, from which the Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. The highest form of worship begins with having a high view of Scripture. For Scripture is the voice of God in written form. Therefore, when Scripture speaks, God speaks.

Scripture
God in three Persons
Man
Sin
Salvation
Worship
Christian Living & Witness

From the Scripture alone [divine revelation], we come to know in relationship the God of creation [**Psa. 19**]. This is salvation. And in salvation we grow in relationship to this God who has saved us by the reading, meditating, preaching, and obeying of His Word [**Psa. 1; Matt. 4:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:1-3**]. If there is no commitment to the Word of God, then we are not truly disciples of Christ [**John 8:31**].

The Word saves, sanctifies, comforts, convicts, guides, revives, strengthens, protects, and rejoices the heart: **Scrip. Ref:** Psa. 119:1-16 [the benefits of the Word]; vv. 33-40 [praying the Word]; vv. 49-56 [the keeping power of the Word]; vv. 97-104 [the superior knowledge of the Word]; vv. 161-168 [the peace of the Word]; vv. 169-176 [the delivering power of the Word]