

Light, Water, Sun, Noah's Ark, Jacob's Ladder, Brazen Serpent,  
Stone, Rock, Aaron's Rod, Old Corn, Nail, Manna, Corn, etc.

#### Places

Cities of Refuge (Num. 35), Jordan River, Bethlehem, etc.

#### Events

Sabbath (rest He would provide through His finished redemptive work).

Seven Feast Days (Lev. 23):

Passover (death of Christ as the Passover Lamb);

Unleavened Bread (burial of Christ wherein He saw no corruption);

Firstfruits (resurrection of Christ);

Weeks (ascension of Christ - accepted on high for us);

Trumpets (2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ);

Atonement (recognition of Jesus as Christ - Messiah);

Tabernacles (coronation of Christ).

Jubilee (ultimate release of sinner from all his sin debt - Lev. 25).

### *Sources for Contemplating Christ*

**Initial Scriptures to Study:** Genesis 15, 22; Exodus 12-14; Leviticus 16; Ruth 2; I Samuel 17; Psalm 22, 23, 69; Isaiah 53; Four Gospels; Romans 3; I Corinthians 15; Galatians 3; Colossians 2; Hebrews (esp. 8-10); Revelation 1. *Read over several times. Look up definitions for words with which you are not familiar. Read commentaries and make notes from such.*

**Ten Terms that Describe Aspects of the Gospel:** Ransom, Redemption, Remission, Reconciliation, Propitiation, Justification, Imputation, Atonement, Regeneration, and Adoption.

**Eighteen Attributes of God:** Spiritual, Transcendent, Immanent, Independent, Personal, Triune, Eternal, Immutable, Glorious, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, True, Holy, Just, Loving, Merciful, and Gracious.

**Christ-centered Daily Devotionals:** Spurgeon's *Day By Day and Evening By Evening* - available for purchase in VBC Bookstore and are readily available on the internet from various sources.

**Sermons on Christ:** Charles Spurgeon's are very Christ-centered and freely available on the internet from various sources.

**Theology Books:** *Mood's Handbook to Theology* by Paul Enns (pp. 215-244), *Lectures in Systematic Theology* by H.L. Thiessen (pp. 199-300), are a good start.

**Warning!** Watch out for articles or books that you come across that diminish the deity of Christ by over emphasizing his humanity - as in misapplying the temptation in the wilderness (Mt. 4:1-11 - which was actually a demonstration of His inability to even be allured into sin - James 1:13) or the taking away from His all-knowingness (omniscience) by misunderstanding Luke's description of His bodily maturation and display of his developing manhood that men were able to observe (Lk. 2:52); His prophetic analogies that have in view Jewish culture (Mt. 26:36 with Mk. 12:32 - wedding analogy); His Gethsemane prayers (whereby He refused the cup of devils as Satan tried, in ignorance, one last time, to get Him to succumb (I Cor. 10:21) but gladly accepted His Father's cup (Jn. 18:11); cries from the cross (whereby He claimed all of Ps. 22:1 by citing the first sentence of it); His self-emptying - which was not the laying aside of His attributes or the use of them - rather the holding back of the constant display of His glory (Phil. 2:7). *Remember: II John 9.*

# Contemplating Christ!

"grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord  
and Savior Jesus Christ" II Peter 3:18

## Information! Transformation! Confirmation!

What we lost in Adam we got back in Christ (Rom. 5:19-22 with I Cor. 15:22, 45)! However, it must first be duly APPRECIATED (sufficiently valued), then APPROPRIATED (claimed as one's own and make use of it accordingly) and then ASSIMILATED (blended into, integrated, made a part of your thinking). This is what Peter had in view, with the last words he gave us before departing this life! SEE: II Peter 1:14 with 3:17-18.

### *On Contemplating Christ, Begin with the Law*

The Ten Commandments are an exemplary presentation of the law. That is, they are ten ideal and different ways in which you can truly perceive God's righteous nature.

The law is not just God's rule because He is in charge by right of creation and by the very essence of His being, but it is HIS MORAL NATURE revealed on our level. Sin is defined as the "transgression of the law," and so, when we sin we are going against His very nature.

The first four of the Ten Commandments have to do with how we relate to God, the next six, how we relate to our fellow man. The tenth one even shows us that we are sinners not just in deed, but also in desire - in our thought life.

Moses shared in Deuteronomy 6:5ff that, rightly the Ten Commandments could be reduced to two points - loving God and our fellow man as ourselves. Christ even reduced them down to one. It is often referred to as the Golden Rule: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." SEE: Matt. 22:34-40; Rom. 13:8b-10; James 2:8-10.

Even though the sixth Commandment speaks directly of stealing, amazingly, all ten are actually examples of stealing. We can steal the honor due God, or the respect our fellow man is due, in that they are created in His image (James 3:9). Adultery is the taking of someone that does not belong to you.; coveting, is the very essence of stealing.

The entire life of Christ was the loving of others as Himself! The cross is the greatest display of righteousness - love in thought and deed - ever demonstrated! SEE: Jn 3:16, 15:13; Rom. 1:17, 5:8; I Jn. 3:16.

Paul tell us in II Corinthians 3:18, in so many words that, "When the child of God looks into the word of God and sees the Son of God he is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the glory of God." More directly, he put it this way: "we all, with open face [direct access to

God] **beholding** as in a glass [as in the word of God being a mirror] the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

The Spirit's work of stabilizing us in our profession of faith is further activated as we are learning more of and dwelling on Christ in all His aspects of being. As He also makes us to become more like Christ (sanctification), the less we will be characterized by a thought life contrary to His. In other words, doubts dissipate, not only when we understand Who Christ is before God for us, and as we develop the mind of Christ; but even more significant, the Spirit imparts unto us the faith to trust even deeper! The result is, our insecurities become increasingly a thing of the past. SEE: Phil. 3:1.

### *An Outline by Which You Can Study Christ*

The divisions that follow are of Christ - who He is and what He has done, and is yet to do. It can serve as a guideline in your future study. Each is briefly defined in order to provide you the sense of the meaning of each role or title.

## THREE PRIMARY ASPECTS TO CHRIST'S BEING

### The PERSON of Christ

#### As God

All three persons in the Godhead are co-existent, co-eternal, co-equal, co-essential and never counter each other.

Christ is the second Person in the Godhead but not in a sense He is lesser in essence but rather secondary in His role to the Father.

Christ is the eternal in His sonship. He's always been the Son of God.

#### As Man

Son of Man in the sense He is the inheritor for all mankind. He is the new Head of the human race - the last Adam.

Christ made several Old Testament preincarnation appearances (Gen. 3:8ff; 18:1ff; 32:24ff; Josh. 5:13-15; Judges 13:2-3ff, etc.).

Was genetically derived from Mary (Mary was a conceiver not merely a receiver - she provided genetic substance - Gen. 3:15; Jer. 31:22; Lk. 1:35-37; Acts 2:30; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4-5, Heb. 2:14-16, etc.).

### The LIFE of Christ

Active Righteousness (His 33 ½-year law-fulling every day life - Matt. 5:17 with Rom. 5:18-19).

Passive Righteousness (His righteous disposition and status as God).

Impeccability (His inability to sin in thought or deed).

### The WORK of Christ

Death was vicariously in a bodily and relational sense.

Burial validated His death and His experiential representation of man.

Resurrection verified His acceptance by God on man's behalf.

Ascension shown by the visibility of the Spirit's New Testament ministry.

Intercession makes use of His virtuous status on our behalf.

Judgeship because of His inviolability (holiness and purity).

Coronation will be His victorious exaltation as a man to what He has always been as the Son of God - Isa. 52:13-15; Phil. 2:9-10; Heb. 1:1-8, Rev. 19:11-16.

## SECONDARY WAYS IN WHICH CHRIST IS REVEALED

### Three Primary Offices (only Christ holds all three offices)

**Prophet** - represents God to men. **Priest** - represents man to God.

**King** - reinforces the law of God to man.

### Roles

**Shepherd** - an analogy used by God to heighten the truths of not only His love for us, but also of our need for His constant watch-care.

**Firstborn** - an actual status Christ has from eternity. That is, He has always been the highest ranking Son and is a Son of God in a wholly unique sense and as the Son of man, He is the believer's elder brother. Other sons of God entered into such either by creation (as in angels and men) and by regeneration (as only in men - Ex. 13:2 w/ Rm. 8:29).

**Advocate** - as a lawyer on our behalf before God the Father (I Jn. 2:1).

### Analogies (the list below is exemplary - not exhaustive)

#### Persons

**Adam** (head of all humankind), **Melchizedek** (a Priest and King of Peace and Righteousness), **Isaac** (miracle firstborn son offered as a sacrifice), **Moses** (lawgiving prophet), **Aaron** (High Priest), **Joshua** (captain of the Lord's earthly host), **Boaz** (kinsman-redeemer in whom is strength and enough wealth to equally care for the Jew and the Gentile without marring his inheritance), **David** (anointed shepherd-king yet to reign), **Solomon** (earthly king of greatest glory), **Jonah** (dead and risen after three days).

#### Animals

**Sparrow, Dove, Pigeon** (gentle natured clean birds of food and sacrifice); **Lamb, Goat and Ram** (clean animals of the flock); **Scapegoat** (remover of all our sins from us and the sight of God); **Ox-Bullock** (burden bearing servant-like animal of sacrifice), **Heifer** (same as ox but also fruitful); **Lion** (majestic and powerful in a kingly sense).

#### Objects

**Altars** (all throughout the Old Testament).

**Tabernacle** (Ex. 25-39)

**Floor Plan** (Outer Court, Holy Place and Most Holy Place),

**Framework** (structure - boards, poles, sockets, pins and cords),

**Furniture** (seven pieces - of wood, brass and gold),

**Fabrications** (structure, hangings, curtains and drapes, uniforms),

**Furnishings** (various utensils),

**Fragrances** (incense and anointing oils),

**Fire** (God's all consuming wrath),

**effulgence** (glory of God as in light in the Most Holy Place),

**Family** (High Priest, Priests, Levites and Nethinims),

**Functions** (as in the five major offerings) - Lev. 1-7.

#### Plants

**Grapevine** (Ps. 80 with John 15, etc.);

**Olive Tree** (Rom. 11); **Various Trees**.

**Myrrh, Frankincense, etc.** (SEE: Tabernacle Fragrance Section).