

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 1

‘Jesus loves me! this I know
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong.’
[Anna Bartlett Warner (1820 - 1915)]

But as Christians do we realise the wonder of this fact?

Any Christian resembles a little child: trusts; is weak; needs to be loved.

Jesus the Christ has **loved us** from all eternity.

God in Jesus the Christ loves all mankind [cf. Proverb 8:31] but he has special love for those he has chosen, from eternity, to enter his kingdom.

[cf. Ephesians 1:4 - 5;

Jeremiah 1:5]

As we saw during our studies in Romans, God’s choices are sovereign acts. **“Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”** [cf. Romans 9:13; Malachi 1:2 - 3] His choice of you and me, of all Christians is not based on our merits. By nature we are no better than anyone else. He has predestined us to be members of his family, to be his children, and co-heirs with Christ in his kingdom.

[cf. John 1:12 - 13; Ephesians 2:8 - 10; Romans

8:17]

You might feel that God is being unfair. BUT the true wonder is not why does the One who is love not show this special love to everyone. The true wonder is that he loves *anyone* in such a manner! Just think of your own sin, then multiply it billions of time, and you are only getting close to the sin of the whole human race that God in Jesus the Christ bore on that cross at Calvary! So shamefully sinful are we that it is amazing that God in Jesus the Christ should love *any* of us!

Paul referred to himself as the **‘worst of sinners’** [cf. 1 Timothy 1:16], and if you and I are honest we would agree that at times we share that designation. Yet we can still say, with awe, wonder and gratitude, “Jesus loves me! this I know.” We are loved along with the Samaritan woman [cf. John 4:1 - 42]; Zaccheus [cf. Luke 19:1 - 10]; and the thief on the cross [cf. Luke 23:38 - 43].

‘And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! how can it be

that Thou, my God shouldst die for me!’

[Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)]

Yours in Christ,
Douglas

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 2

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

Do we realise the wonder of what Jesus **suffered for us?**

John’s ascription of praise [see above] to God in Jesus the Christ speaks of the great work that God in Jesus the Christ accomplished for us, while he was on earth in fully human form.

We know that he:

- left the glory of heaven to be born in fully human form;
- came to save his people from their sins;
- taught and called people to God through himself;
- showed through many signs that he is God Incarnate;
- was crucified, dead, buried, raised back to life and ascended back to glory.

BUT is this just head knowledge. Has it dropped 18 inches into our hearts?

Can we, dare we, place ourselves in the shoes of Peter, James and John?

What do we see? What do we discover?

We see not just a great teacher, a great Rabbi.

We see Jesus deliberately and steadfastly choose to head to Jerusalem, where he has told us the religious authorities will put him to death. [cf. Luke 9:51].

We listen during the Passover meal in the upper room as he again speaks about his impending death.

We head for Gethsemane, see him in travail in prayer, even sweating drops of blood.

We see another disciple betray him : he is arrested, manhandled, spat upon, and punched.

We are aware of the farce of a trial that finally condemns him to death.

Then we deny him! Betray him! Make our excuses and leave!

In front of Pilate we see him falsely accused, sent to Herod, returned from Herod.

We hear him being sentenced to be flogged.

Later we see that the Roman soldiers did a ‘right good job’ on him!

We see the blood drip from his head where the crown of thorns sits.

We hear the cries of “Crucify him!” eventually winning over Pilate.

He is condemned in place of a murderer and insurrectionist!

We see him struggle with the crossbeam for his cross on the way to Calvary.

We can only watch, and hear, as the nails are hammered into him, and the cross is lifted into place.

We see the sheer agony on his face.

We are stunned as darkness falls at midday!

Later we hear him say, **“It is finished.”** [cf. John 19:30]

We feel an earthquake shake the ground and learn that the great curtain in the temple has been torn from top to bottom.

We ask ourselves, “What was all that about?”

The teaching; the drawing others to God; the brutal treatment; the shame of his death; the opening up of the Holy of Holies!

Then, by the grace of God, the penny drops:
he bore all that because **he loves us!**

‘He left His Father’s throne above -
so free, so infinite His grace -
emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam’s helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found it me!’

[Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)]

Yours in Christ,
Douglas

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 3

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

Do we realise the wonder of the fact that Jesus has **sought us and found us?**

“You did not choose me, but I chose you . . .” [John 15:16a)]

We have already seen that Christians have been chosen by God in Jesus the Christ from eternity. The second part of John 15:16 refers to the purpose why he chose us. We shall come back to that later in our studies.

The point here is that, if you are a Christian, God in Jesus the Christ has tracked you down throughout your life, even when you were in your sin rebelling against him.

It may have taken a long time for you to assent to him having Lordship in your life, and being prepared for him to fulfil his predestined plan for your life.

He may have drawn you to himself by various routes: a major event in your life; the preaching of sermons by God’s servants; a family member or friend inviting you to attend an event, or to reassess the priorities in your life; or through you seeing a colleague witnessing for Christ by simply the way he, or she, lives his, or her, life.

From living a life cut off from God by your sin, you entered a new life, eternal life, in Jesus the Christ. The guilt, the despair, the humiliation, the depth of your sin that was destroying your life and leading you toward eternal death, has, in Christ and in Christ alone, been removed.

How was it removed? Only by one method: it was washed away by the blood of Jesus the Christ that was shed on the cross at Calvary!

**‘For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.’**

[Romans 6:23]

This gift of new life in Christ - eternal life - has brought you a new perspective for life on earth and for your continued life in eternity. Furthermore, as Jesus said, you now have life in all its fulness! [cf. John 10:10b)]

As the hymnist William Cowper (1731 - 1800) put it:

‘There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty sins.’ [Praise 444, v. 1]

Oh, how he loves us!

Yours in Christ,

Douglas

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 4

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

Do we realise the wonder of the fact that Jesus has **washed us?**

We ended last time by referring to these lines by William Cowper (1731 - 1800):

‘There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty sins.’ [Praise 444, v. 1]

You may have seen pictures of people jumping in and out of the fountains in London: sometimes to cool down; sometimes just as part of some high jinx; and some of you may be old enough to remember kilted Scottish football fans doing this before and after matches against England at Wembley!

They have one thing in common: the fountain would not make them wet if they did not go into the fountain!

It is the same with Jesus the Christ.

Unless you come to God through Jesus the Christ, only through Jesus the Christ, then you shall not be washed of your sin.

BUT if you do come you will be thoroughly washed!

You cannot wash yourself of your sin.

You cannot mourn over your sin.

You cannot turn over a new leaf.

You cannot strive to be clean in your own power.

The Israelites in Egypt were told by God to mark their doors with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death would pass over their homes. They were to be covered by the blood. [cf. Exodus 12:1 - 30]

If we wish to live, live life to the full, live in eternal life with God, we must be washed by the blood of Christ - the Lamb of God - so that our sin is removed and paid for, and we must live covered by that precious blood. [cf. Hebrews 9:22b)]

Remember God’s gift of eternal life in Christ is like any human present.

For it to be of any worthwhile use to us we have to **accept it and then use it!**

Only in Christ is it effective. We have to ensure that we have come to God by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and Lord.

Otherwise the gift of God, the work of Christ is of no use to us!

Yours in Christ,

Douglas

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 5

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

Do we realise the wonder of the fact that Jesus has
‘made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father’ ?

Prior to coming to God in Jesus the Christ everyone is a slave to sin, and a priest to Satan. [cf. Romans 6:15 - 23; Ephesians 2:1 - 3]

BUT having been washed by the blood of Christ, he makes us kings and priests to God his Father!

King and priest are two of the greatest offices in the world.

They are united in a Christian.

In OT we learn that these offices were united in Melchizedek who was **‘king of Salem’** and **‘priest of God Most High’**. [Genesis 14:18]

They are also united in Jesus the Christ, the **“king of righteousness”**, and **“king of peace”**. [cf. Revelation 17:14; 19:16; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:1 - 10; 6:19 - 20; 7:1 - 17]

In and through this glorious High Priest, Jesus the Christ, Christians can enter into the **‘Most Holy Place’**, with confidence. [Hebrews 4:14 - 16; 10:19 - 22; 13:11 - 16]

In Jesus the Christ we are kings and priests for God!

Like kings of old, the Christian has great possessions. BUT unlike the kings of Old, the Christian’s treasures are not material. They consist of the pearl of great value [cf. Matthew 13:45]; God’s loving-kindness; being a son of God the Creator.

The Christian may have nothing by human standards, yet he has everything.

[cf. 1 Corinthians 3:21 - 23; 2 Corinthians 10b)]

As a king of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, whom the Father and the Son sent to indwell the Christian, he has power:

- to *overcome* sin, rather than be its slave;
- to be *in* the world, but *no longer of* the world, and its ways;
- to be free from the grasp of Satan.

And one day he will receive the crown of righteousness. [cf. 2 Timothy 4:7 - 8]

As a priest to serve God the Christian has throne off the yoke of Satan’s slavery, and now he:

- has *access* to the throne of God;
- offers up *not animal* sacrifices *but* the sacrifice of his own heart [cf. Psalm 51:17];
- offers up *praise* and *prayers* to heaven [cf. Revelation 5:6 - 14].

Another important task of a priest is to intercede for the people and lead them to the Lord.

Are you a true king and a priest serving God?

Am I?

If we are then we can declare that God in Jesus the Christ loves us, has washed us clean in the blood of Christ, and made us kings and priests to serve him!

And we can rejoice before God, and be happy and joyful [cf. Psalm 68:3].

To God be all the glory and honour!

Yours in Christ,
Douglas

What Jesus the Christ has done for us 6

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

If we have realised the wonder of what Jesus the Christ has done for us
then surely we are led to ask what must we do for him!

Two general but vital thoughts spring to mind.

We must:

- give Jesus the Christ all the glory;
- give Jesus the Christ full dominion over our lives.

“To him be the glory!”

A Christian when reflecting on the way Christ led him (or her) to himself; considers Christ’s great love for him - how he awakened in him his need of Christ; how he was drawn to Christ; washed by the blood of Christ; renewed by Christ; made to be a king and priest in Christ - responds by declaring, *“To him be the glory!”*

Paul writes in 2 Timothy about **‘the crown of righteousness’** that Christ will give to him and **‘to all who have longed for his appearing.’** [2 Timothy 4:8]

Such a ‘crown’ can be laid at the feet of only one person, Jesus the Christ.

God’s first Commandment states, **“You shall have no other gods before me.”**

[Exodus 20:2]

Neither in this life, nor in the life to come will a Christian lay his crown at the feet of any created being or thing; nor will he give the glory to any but Christ!

[cf. Revelation 5:6 - 14]

“To him be dominion for ever!”

The old saying is valid: “Unless he is Lord of all, he is not Lord at all.”

Christians are called to give their all to Christ.

Imagine yourself to be a house with many rooms.

There are some rooms you will happily let people in, and others you will wish to keep private.

We must give Christ access to all rooms if he is to be truly our Lord.

It may take a bit of time for us to truly open up all rooms to Christ but this is essential. After all he knows all things about us, but by willingly throwing open the doors to all our rooms we show our trust and faith in him!

The more closed doors there are the less you are trusting him, the less you can truly say, *“To him be dominion for ever!”*

Yours in Christ,
Douglas