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HCCL
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Anchors for the storm #4

Knowing Jesus Christ

Anchors for the storm: Key truths that anchor us to Christ, help us navigate life and enable us to glorify the Lord.

Good morning! Welcome to Harvest! I greet you in the name of the Lord and from His word to the churches at Galatia, by the apostle Paul “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever.” [Galatians 1:3-5 (ESV)] Amen. Thank you for being here!

Let’s pray!

Introduction:

To begin this morning I want to ask you to dig deep. I want you to think about greatest questions in life! What would they be. Please take a moment and ask yourself “What is the most important thing in all of life to know, to think about, to have an answer to?”

Jesus was not only a master story teller, he was a master at asking questions and generating questions in the heart of those who observed his life/ministry. **For example:** In **Luke 5:17-26**. Please open you Bibles and follow along as I read the text to you. The pivotal verse in this passage is Luke 5:21 (ESV) “And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, **“Who is this** who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

In another place, Jesus asked one of the most penetrating questions of his disciples in **Mark 8:27-28 “Who do people say that I am?”** and their response was **“(some say)...John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”** Then in **8:29** ‘And he asked them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Peter answered him, **“You are the Christ.”**

The entirety of John’s Gospel was written to answer this question: **“But who do you say that I am?”** John says, **“30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”** [John 20:30-31 (ESV)]

Knowing the answer to this question is the key to possessing life!

John says there are at least four things we need to know in order to believe in Jesus:

1. Knowing what it means to **believe** in Jesus?
2. Knowing Jesus is **“the Christ”**?
3. Knowing Jesus is **“the Son of God”**?
4. Knowing these truths lead to the promise of possessing eternal **“life”**?

What we are discovering or learning is that God has provided “truth” anchors that keep our lives from crashing on the shores of a culture that is opposed to God, in a world that is filled with strife, dysfunction and deception.

Pastor Alistair Begg in a recent sermon pointed his congregation to an old hymn he used to sing, it goes like this:

v1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

Refrain:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

Maybe one day Michele Seiffert will put these ancient words to modern music, so that we too can use these ideas to help us hold on to Christ.

What things must we know about Jesus Christ in order to believe that “...Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing we may have life in his name?”

The EFCA and Harvest Community Church Litchfield members believe:

Jesus Christ

“We believe Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

1. What does it mean to **believe** in Jesus?

The necessity of belief and understanding what it means to “believe” was foundational in the preaching ministry of Jesus. For example in **Mark 1:14-15** (ESV) 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and **believe** in the gospel.” The reader of Mark’s gospel did not need an explanation of what it meant to believe, they understood that Jesus was not only calling them to hear, and observe in the written word the historical account of what Jesus did, but that he was calling them to “trust” what they read as “the truth” about who Jesus was!

A “**Belief**,” is a noun that describes action (verb) of “**Believing**”. In the case of the gospels, especially in John’s gospel, “...to believe, is to put one's faith in, to trust,” the passive element of this idea is to “entrust”.

In the most well known verse in the book of John, Jesus says to the religious leader Nicodemus, **John 3:16** (ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.” And two verses later Jesus says something shocking, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not **believe** is condemned already, because he has not **believed** in the name of the only Son of God. [**John 3:18** (ESV)]

What is it that we are to believe about Jesus?

2. Jesus is “**the Christ**”?

“**Christ**” is the English translation of the Greek word **Χριστός (Christos)**. “**Christos means “Messiah, anointed one, Christ.”** Its root is the verb *chriō*, which in Greek meant “to smear, rub, spread.” In the LXX (Septuagint), because of the connection with “rubbing or smearing oil,” the term was associated with “one who had been anointed, or set apart, for a special task.””¹ [see Paul’s use of this idea in Rom. 5:6; 1 Cor. 1:6, 13, 17; Eph. 2:5; Phil. 1:15; 2 Thess. 3:5; 1 Tim. 5:11]

The Bible expects that whoever believes in Jesus, is believing that he is the “Messiah”, or the “Christ” - both mean “one who is anointed and specifically sent from God”. [The term “Messiah” is derived from Hebrew and means “Anointed One,” while in Greek, it is translated as “Christ.”] {See Gen. 49:10; Num. 24:17; Dt 18:5-30; Isa. 11:1; 52-53; Jer. 23:5–6; 33:14–17, additional study texts: Gen. 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; 2 Sam. 7:11b-16; Matt. 1:1, 17; Lk. 4:16-22; 24:25-27; Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Rom. 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9}

¹ Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

His role is as the “deliverer, restorer of God’s kingdom purposes and is the Savior of God’s people”.

Q = Jesus is the “Deliverer and Savior” from what?

A = Any form of evil and as it is known as “sin”.

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV) 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (Matt. 9:13; John 3:17; Rom. 4:25)

God expects those who believe in Jesus as “the Christ” to also believe that Jesus is:

3. Jesus is “the Son of God”?

“Son of” infers progeny, meaning he comes from the same essence as his Father. Thus, to say Jesus is the “Son of God” is equivalent to saying “Jesus is God!” {Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1,14,18; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; 1 Jn. 4:2}

1 John 4:2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist,

Evidence for this claim is made in John’s gospel by 7 eventual miraculous works of Jesus:

- **Turning Water into Wine:** At a wedding in Cana, Jesus transformed water into wine (John 2:1-11).
- **Healing the Nobleman's Son:** Jesus healed a nobleman's son who was near death, without physically being present (John 4:46-54).
- **Healing the Paralytic at Bethesda:** Jesus healed a man who had been unable to walk for 38 years at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15).
- **Feeding the Five Thousand:** Jesus miraculously multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed a crowd of over five thousand people (John 6:5-14).
- **Walking on Water:** Jesus walked on water to meet his disciples on the Sea of Galilee (John 6:16-21).
- **Healing the Man Blind from Birth:** Jesus healed a man who had been born blind (John 9:1-7).
- **Raising Lazarus from the Dead:** Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days (John 11:1-45).

As a reminder:

“We believe Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the

Who we believe Jesus is leads to an anchor of hope!

dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Since Jesus is the Son of God, and he is God, he is able to save all who trust in him and his promise of eternal life can be believed and trusted.

John point is that belief in Jesus Christ, will lead to the reward and the possession of eternal life.

4. What does it mean to possess “life” because of believing in Jesus?

John 3:15-18 (ESV) 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 10:10 (ESV) 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

In the same way that rejection of Jesus is the rejection of eternal life:

John 5:39-40 (ESV) 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

See also Acts 10:43; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

What is anchoring you to an unmovable source today?