

FACTS THAT EVERY PERSON NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS**THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE**

A great number of people consider themselves to be Christians. In all honesty, many of them are not really sure just what they believe or why they think they want to serve Jesus. To follow Jesus is a serious undertaking. To make a decision to be His disciple requires that a person know some things about Him. Please seriously consider five great Bible truths about the Lord Jesus that every person needs to know.

Jesus created us—He is our Creator. This is a fact that many Bible readers have never noticed. John 1:14 identifies “the Word” as being Jesus, the only begotten of the Father. Earlier in that same chapter it is written, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3). Colossians 1:16,17 declares, “For by him [Jesus, rdc] were all things created...all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” No amount of tampering with the Bible text can change the truth that God’s Son created all things.

Jesus died for us—He is our Savior. Jesus came into the world for a purpose. What does the Bible tell us about that purpose? “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15). Again, we read, “...the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). Jesus did not come just to make the world a better place. He did not come just to raise the standard of mankind’s moral concepts. He came to save people from sin and from the horrible punishment of hell! Thanks be to God “that Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3), and “...we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

He rose from the dead for us—He is the risen Lord. Just as Jesus had predicted, after He was buried “...he arose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4). And just what does His resurrection have to do with you and me? In reference to the Christ, the Bible says, “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25). Jesus died once, never to die again. He arose victorious over death to live ever more! “Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him” (Romans 6:9). Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Mark 16:19). Those that serve Jesus serve a risen, living Lord!

He had authority over us—He is King. After He rose from the dead, Jesus told His apostles, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:18,20). Jesus has all authority. He is the head of His church (Ephesians 1:22,23), so in all things the church is to be in subjection to Him (Ephesians 5:24). To put it another way, Jesus is now King over His kingdom, which is simply another designation for His church (Colossians 1:13).

He will judge us—He is judge. Jesus said, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22). “...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10) because He “was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick [“living,” ASV] and dead” (Acts 10:42). What an humbling thought: the One that created us, died for us, rose from the dead for us, and rules over us, will one day judge us!

A person might deny Jesus and try to live his life as if Jesus means nothing. Yet, certain facts remain. Jesus gives life to every person, Jesus died for every person’s sal-

“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)

**WHAT DOES IT TRULY
MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?
OBEYING FROM THE HEART**

Text: _____

I. Our Obedience is to be _____

Notes:

II. Our Obedience is to be _____

Notes:

III. Our Obedience is to be _____

Notes:

THE GOD WE SERVE IS...

Text: _____

I. A _____ God

Notes:

II. A _____ God

Notes:

III. A _____ God

Notes:

vation, and He will one day judge every person. There is no getting around these plain Bible truths. May God help each of us to be willing to surrender our hearts to faithfully serve His Son all the days of our lives.

-Roger D. Campbell

WHO'S GONNA DO IT?

- 450 total membership
- 30 "too old to work:"
- 420 left to work...BUT,
- 45 too young to assume responsibility
- 375 left to do the work, BUT,
- 30 work out of town or are away at school
- 345 left to do the work...BUT,
- 60 work long hours, 6 or 7 days a week
- 285 left to work...BUT,
- 30 tied down with small children
- 255 left to work,...BUT,
- 51 handicapped by aches and pains
- 204 left to work...BUT
- 48 hindered by unbelieving companions
- 156 left to do the work...BUT
- 88 are indifferent—do not attend
- 68 left to do the work...BUT
- 48 attend but refuse to work
- 20 left to work...BUT
- 18 are tired and ask to be relieved
- 2 left to do the work—YOU and I...BUT I am too busy with other things, so YOU DO THE WORK! The question we are now faced with is –WHO IS YOU?

I DON'T WORRY

"I have a mountain of credit card debt," one man told another.

"I have lost my job. My car is being repossessed and our house is in foreclosure, but I am not worried about it," exclaimed his friend. "I've hired a professional worrier. He does all of my worrying for me, and that way I don't have to think about it."

"That's fantastic! How much does your professional worrier charge for his services?"

"\$50,000 a year," he replied.

"\$50,000 a year! Where are you going to get that kind of money?"

"I don't know," came the reply. "That's his worry."

-KneEmail

Mike Benson, editor

THE RIVER THAT FLOWS TWO WAYS

Rivers are mighty bodies of water. They flow swiftly, powerfully, and thoroughly on their given courses. They are major assets in areas of commerce, recreation, and transportation. Yes, we stand in awe of these amazing natural resources. But picture in your mind, if you can, a river whose flow travels in both directions. Could you imagine seeing such a wonder? It truly would be a sight to behold; one that people from all around the world would travel at great expense to witness and experience. They would take pictures. They would buy souvenirs. They would relish the opportunity to tell everyone they know about what they have seen. However, as for the one river that truly does flow two ways, few would even walk across the road to hear about it.

A common illustration that exists in Scripture is the picture of Jesus' blood as a river that, when contacted, washes away the world's sins. To the Samaritan woman (John 4), Jesus offered living water (vs. 10). This living water is that which John was shown: "a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1). This river supplies the fountain of the water of life, from which we can drink freely if we are athirst (Revelation 21:6). These verses use that illustrative language to help us picture the power and purpose of Jesus' blood as our source for the soul's salvation. But something the Hebrews' writer says about that blood really stands out when applied with this metaphor.

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood" (Hebrews 9:15-18).

Did you catch that? If Jesus blood is pictured as a river of life, this passage points out the fact that it is, in fact, a river that really does flow two ways. It is a river that flows forward, as expected, to cover the sins of all penitent and obedient people who have lived, are living, and will live since its initiation at the cross. This fulfills the covenant promise God has made to His faithful children through Jesus (Mark 16:16). But the Hebrews' writer went even further and pointed out that by means of Jesus' death (i.e., His blood), the transgressions of those who were under the "first testament" are redeemed as well. This means that all of those souls who lived in obedience to God's law who lived and died prior to Christ have been redeemed as well. Therefore, those great men and women of faith, such as are mentioned in Hebrews 11, as well as others, have also been saved. No the blood of bulls and goats did not take away their sins (Hebrews 10:4), but their submission to God's commands to offer those bulls and goats signified their love for God and His word, and so when Christ shed His blood, it was shed for those who would come, but also for those who had come. It truly was an offering made once "for all" (Hebrews 10:10).

Are you interested in learning more about the river that flows two ways? Seek to learn more about Jesus and His sacrificial love for you, because He is that river!

-Andy Brewer
www.andybrewer.blogspot.com

"COMFORTABLE"

Jake drove over to the next county to buy a new bull for the farm. It cost more than expected, and he was left with only one dollar. This was a problem since he needed to let his wife know that he'd bought the bull so she could come get it with the truck—and telegrams coast a dollar a word. He thought for a while and said, "Go ahead and just make it this one word: comfortable." "How's that going to get your point across?" asked the clerk. "Don't worry," said Jake. "Sue's not the greatest reader. She'll say it real slow" (via The Furrow, March 2010, p. 28).

How is your communication in marriage? Do you know you mate well enough to know how best to give and receive messages? Sometimes we get so comfortable that we begin to make assumptions about what our spouse knows and understands. How can we dwell together in knowledge without making the investment in one another, an investment that includes time, talking, and attention (cf. 1 Peter 3:7)? Such biblical mandates as "love" (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4) and "submission" (Ephesians 5:22-24) cannot be properly obeyed without knowing one another and communicating.

We should be comfortable with each other, at ease and not pins and needles in a marriage. How miserable that must be! Yet, when comfortable means presumption and assumption we may be in more trouble than a man with a bull and no way to get him home! Let's become comfortable with communicating.

-Neal Pollard, via preacherpollard.wordpress.com