

## What Missionary Baptists Believe About...

### The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

John 14:6 -- The study of Christ is probably the most vital truths that one can study.

1. When Christ said, "I am the way," he established that anything less than himself would not be sufficient to come before the Father.
2. When Christ said, "I am the truth," he makes it known that it is vital for men to know the truth.
  - a. The truth that is centered in and around Christ.
  - b. His importance to us is seen in the truth that our relationship to him affects our eternal destiny.
3. When Christ said, "I am the life," he revealed that men only live when they come into a personal relationship with him.
4. What does the Bible teach about Jesus?
  - a. To study about Jesus is to study about God. John 14:1,7; 10:30.
  - b. To study Christ is to see what God intends for man to do, since Jesus is the perfect example.
  - c. To study Christ is to learn of the Savior. Matt 1:21

#### I. THE PERSON OF CHRIST

1. The scriptures clearly and distinctly teach that, as the second person of the Trinity, he existed before his physical birth here on earth. John 1:1-5; 8:58; 17:5,24; Col 1:13-17; Heb 1:2; 2:10
  - a. Christ did not have a beginning like other men, he is eternal. John 1:1,2,14 (Jesus is the Word); John 10:30 (the Father & Son are one); I John 5:7 (these three make up the Godhead); Rom 1:20 (the Godhead is eternal).
  - b. The Bible attributes to Christ:
    1. The creation of the universe. John 1:3; Col 1:16
    2. The preservation of all created things. Col 1:17; Heb 1:3
  - c. Christ frequently came before OT brethren.
    1. Gen 3:8 – In the Garden
    2. Gen 4:4,5,16 – This is who Cain & Abel brought their offerings
    3. Gen 17:1 - To Abram

- d. The scriptures declare, “God was manifest in the flesh.” I Tim 3:16; Heb 2:14; Rom 8:3,4; John 1:14
  - e. The purpose of his incarnation (becoming flesh) was redemption. Gen 3:15; Is 53:4-6, 10,11; Matt 1:21; John 3:16; Gal 4:4,5; I Tim 1:15; I John 3:8; 4:10
2. The Bible teaches that Christ had two natures: His Deity & His Humanity.
- a. His humanity is attested by:
    - 1. His birth. Matt 2:1; Luke 2:7,21
    - 2. He was called “man.” John 8:40; Acts 2:22; Rom 5:15
    - 3. He exercised the “powers” which belong to a normal & developed person. (hunger, weariness, sleep, love, compassion, anger, fear, groaning, weeping and prayer.) Matt 4:2; John 19:28; John 4:6; Matt 4:1; Heb 2:9; 4:15
    - 4. He went through the same development that a person goes through from childhood to an adult. Luke 2:40, 46-49; Heb 2:10,18; 5:8
    - 5. He suffered and died. Luke 22:44; John 19:30-34
  - b. His Deity is attested by:
    - 1. Prophecy. Is 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2
    - 2. He is called God. John 1:1; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8
    - 3. Christ possessed the attributes of God.
      - a. Life – John 1:4
      - b. Immutable – Heb 13:8
      - c. Omnipotence – Luke 7:14
      - d. Omniscience – Mark 11:2
      - e. Holy – Acts 4:27; I Pet 1:16
    - 4. The works of God are attributed to him. John 1:3; Col 1:16,17
      - a. The creation of the world, the upholding of all things, the raising of the dead, and the judging of all men, these are powers that are characteristic of omnipotence.
    - 5. He receives honor and worship due only to God. John 5:23; I Cor 11:24,25; Heb 1:6; Phil 1:9-11; Rev 5:12-14; II Tim 4:18; Rev 4:10,11

## II. THE WORK OF CHRIST

1. The work of Christ can be divided into three divisions. The first, His Ministry.
  - a. His ministry was a teaching, preaching and healing ministry. Mt 4:23.
  - b. Christ fulfilled his prophetic office in the following ways:
    1. By his gracious words: Mt 5:2; 7:28,29; John 6:63
    2. By his wondrous deeds: John 5:36; 10:25; 15:24; Acts 2:22
    3. By his matchless example: I Pet 2:21-23
    4. By his unparalleled silence: Mt 27:13; I Pet 2:23
    5. By his gift of the Spirit: John 14:26; 15:26; I Pet 1:10,11
2. The second division of the work of Christ, his death.
  - a. His death was a predetermined death. Rev 13:8; I Pet 1:18-20; Acts 2:23
  - b. The scriptures teach that Christ suffered in our place to pardon the guilty. Is 53:4-6
    1. His death was voluntary. John 10:11,17,18; Gal 1:4
    2. His death was a substitutionary death. I Pet 3:18; Heb 2:9; I Tim 2:5,6; Rom 5:6,8,10
    3. His death was sacrificial. II Cor 5:21
    4. His death was according to the scriptures. I Cor 15:3
3. The third division of the work of Christ, his resurrection.
  - a. We believe in the literal resurrection of the body of Christ. John 20:26,27
    1. The open tomb. John 20:1-8
    2. Many witnesses saw the resurrected Christ. I Cor 15:5-8
  - b. Christ is now seated on the right hand of God in Heaven. Eph 1:19-20
  - c. As a resurrected Christ:
    1. He is preparing our future home. John 14:2
    2. He appears in the presence of God for us. Heb 9:24
    3. He is the head over all things to his church. Eph 1:22,23
    4. He is an effective High priest. Heb 4:14-16

#### Conclusion:

We believe that Jesus is the atonement for our sins. We believe the proof of that atonement is declared in his death, burial & resurrection. We believe that his love prompted him to die for man, his love manifests his own righteousness and is the basis of our reconciliation with God.

We believe that through this atoning work of Christ, he became the Savior of all men, Matt 1:21.

Faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour brings:

- Justification – Acts 13:39
- Cleansing – I John 1:7
- Sanctification – Heb 13:12