

Checkin' Out My Walk
#38 The Road To Glory

Jesus Christ is TRUTH.

1. He is all we need to know about God. He is all we need to know about man. Quote: He could be thirsty because he was fully man. He could walk on water because He was fully God.

2. When Jesus Christ came to earth, He became man as God intended man to be.

3. He behaved as God intended man to behave. He walked day by day in the relationship to the Father which God intended should exist between man and God.

Phil. 2:6-8 Who, although being essentially one with God *and* in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped *or* retained, ⁷ But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men *and* was born a human being. ⁸ And after He had appeared in human form, He abased *and* humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

Note: In all His activities, His reactions, in every step He took, in every word He said, and in every decision he made, he did so as MAN, even though He was God.

1. Jesus knew that in His perfection as MAN, God had vested in Him ALL that God intended to vest in man.

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing (fully aware) that the Father had put everything into His hands, and that He had come from God and was [now] returning to God,

2. Man in perfection has an unlimited call upon the inexhaustible supplies of deity.

3. Jesus Christ was man in perfection. He was totally, unrelentingly, unquestioningly available to God. Therefore, all things from God were available to Him.

4. Jesus knew His divine origin was from God and His divine destination was going to God.

John 16:27-28 For the Father Himself [tenderly] loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came out from the Father. ²⁸ I came out from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

Note: He was in the beginning with God in the past > OF the Father.

He was to be eternally with God in the future > TO the Father.

In the interim of 33 years, He must play the role of MAN In PERFECTION. He knew God had given all things into His hands. With all the illimitable resource of God, Jesus...

John 13:4-5 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded.

Note: Jesus was demonstrating a principle: It is not the NATURE of what you are doing that determines its spirituality. It is the ORIGIN of what you are doing.

Truth: Jesus was available to the Father for 33 years on earth as Man so the Father in and through Him might implement the program that had been established and agreed on between the Father and the Son.

1. God gave all things to the Son because He was completely man and He was completely available to the Father.

2. For the 1st time since Adam fell, there was on earth a Man as God intended man to be!

Question: Which activity was the more spiritual?

His Sermon on the Mount, raising of Lazarus from the dead or washing the disciples' feet?

Answer: ALL were spiritual because they had their origin in the Father who acted through the Son.

John 8:29b I always do those things that please Him.

3. Spirituality in man is his availability to God for His divine action in man and through him. The form of the activity is irrelevant.

Consider the following 2 passages: Heb. 2:9-10

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb. 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Note: In chapter 2, it was necessary for God the Father to make Him, God the Son, perfect through suffering.

In chapter 5, it says that "being made perfect" He "became the author of eternal salvation."

Note: His "becoming" the author of our eternal salvation appears to have been dependent upon the successful conclusion of a process whereby He was "made" perfect.

Ponder: He was "made perfect" in order to "become."

Was the Lord Jesus not perfect, that He needed to be made perfect?

Consider: The perfection of the Lord Jesus Christ was twofold.

1. There is absolutely NO DOUBT about the absolute perfection of His person.

II Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. Although He was perfect in person, He had to be made perfect in VOCATION - by the process of obedience through time.

3. As MAN, perfect in person, He could only be perfect in vocation by the fulfillment of the PURPOSE for which He had been incarnate.

4. The fulfillment of His vocation would be in an attitude of total dependence upon the Father and total obedience to the Father.

Question: Was He perfect in VOCATION [the purpose for which He was incarnate and came into the world] as a baby at Bethlehem? Could He have said, "It is finished?"

What about a boy of 12 when He was teaching in the Temple? When He preached the Sermon

on the Mount? When He raised Lazarus? When He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, sweating as it were great drops of blood > Was He perfect in His vocation at any of these times?

Remember His words to Peter in the presence of Judas and those who arrested Him?
Matt. 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

Consider: Would He have been perfect in His vocation - His purpose - if the Father had sent the 12 legions of angels and Jesus had bypassed the cross?

Note: Jesus set His face like a flint; He turned neither to the right hand nor to the left.

Luke 9:51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face [like flint] to go to Jerusalem,

Phil. 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Truth: Jesus Christ was completely submissive to the Father's purpose for Him.

Consider: As He hung upon the cross, the heavens were darkened as though in anguish for the Son of God for 3 hours. Just before He died, He cried with a voice that reverberated in victory across the city of Jerusalem - "IT IS FINISHED!"

Note: In that moment of time He was "made perfect" in His VOCATION.

He had always been perfect in His person.

NOW He "became the author of eternal salvation to them that obey him."

Consider: The nature of His victory > As Man, He positively implemented the purpose for which He was incarnate. His absolute availability to the Father for every moment of 33 years enabled the Father in His deity to do in and through the Son in His humanity all that had been agreed upon between the Father and Son before the foundation of the world.

That is the nature of ALL Christian victory!

The positive fulfillment of the divine end through a man who is wholly available to God!

Notice: How did Jesus Christ make Himself available to the Father?

Heb. 10:5-7 Therefore, when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but instead You have made ready a body for Me [to offer]; ⁶ In burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no delight. ⁷ Then I said, Behold, here I am, coming to do Your will, O God—[to fulfill] what is written of Me in the volume of the Book.

The offering of His body involved the offering of His total being as Man - body, soul and spirit - in unreserved yielding of His human personality to the Father.

Question: By what means did the Lord Jesus Christ present His body to the Father for those 33 years so the Father in and through the Son might implement all that had been written in the volume of the Book?

Heb. 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF A SACRIFICE WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Remember: Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane: Agony and exceeding sorrow came over Him. How He prayed! Externally, you can see no sign of the mighty power of the Spirit, but the Spirit of God was there and working.

Consider: Through the eternal Spirit, He walked, moved and had His being. Every step, every word, and all that He was, was an expression of the Father as God, in the Son as Man, through the eternal Spirit.

Application: When you are fighting and trembling, yield to the Holy Spirit. Place your faith in the hidden work of the Holy Spirit. Do not fear! He has promised to work in you!

Jesus Christ's resources are ALL you need!

John 14:10: Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. [The whole activity of the Lord Jesus on earth as man was the Father's activity in the Son, through the eternal Spirit through whom His body was presented to the Father.]

Question: What does the Bible say regarding my relationship to the Lord Jesus?

My relationship to Jesus Christ must be what His relationship to the Father was then.

John 6:57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food *and* is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through *and* because of Me.

Rom. 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

I John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Truth: Jesus Christ = Eternal Life > If you have eternal life, it means you have the son, Jesus Christ - NOW. Eternal life is the quality of life you possess RIGHT NOW!

Question: When was your Bethlehem? The moment Jesus Christ was formed in you.

He came to live in and inhabit you. Your body became "the temple of the living God."

Question: If you die tonight, what happens?

II Cor. 5:8 absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

You would go TO Him. You enjoy His resurrection life imparted to you by His indwelling Spirit.

OR if the rapture occurs, you would also go TO Him. Your eternal life is OF Him and TO Him.

Question: What is in between? Between your Bethlehem and your Mt. of Olives? 33 years? 60 years?

Consider: Whatever period you remain physically on earth, indwelt by Jesus Christ through His Eternal Spirit - This is YOUR VOCATION! The purpose for which as man you live on earth - to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Your humanity is unreservedly available to Him as He was available to His Father.

Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice [just as He did to the Father, you do now to the Son], holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world [do not ape its methods, its techniques, its ways, or its spirit]: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. The good, acceptable and perfect will of God was implemented by the Son through dependence on the Father. In like manner, the good, acceptable and perfect will of God must be implemented by you through dependence on the Son.

Consider: This divine vocation into which you have been redeemed, as "his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that you should walk in them" can only be fulfilled in the energy and power of the One who indwells you now by His Spirit, just as He once walked only in the energy and power of the Father who indwelt Him through the Spirit.

Eph. 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the VOCATION wherewith ye are called,

Note: Paul considers himself a "prisoner of the Lord." Whose prisoner are you? Lord Jesus Christ or your circumstances?

Truth #1: John 5:19 The Son can do nothing of Himself.

Truth #2: John 15:5 for without Me you can do nothing.

Consider: If I can do nothing without Him, what is everything I do without Him? NOTHING! It is amazing how busy I can be doing nothing! Busy Under Satan's Yoke!

John 6:63b The flesh [everything I do apart from Him] profits nothing.

Quote: "There is the awful possibility, if you do not discover this principle, that you may spend a lifetime in the service of Jesus Christ DOING NOTHING! You would not be the first and you will not be the last.

John 17:4-5 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Truth: Christ's death on the cross was the pathway to His glory. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross. His cross was the BIRTHPLACE of His everlasting glory.

Question: Do you love Jesus Christ? Am I IN Christ, but not LIKE Him?

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Truth: It is easy to talk. It is costly to walk.

Admonition: Let death to self be to you the most desirable thing in your life:

Death to self to have fellowship with Christ.

"Anything to bring me to separation, to death, for a life of full fellowship with Jesus Christ."

Jesus said to "take up your cross and follow me." Yield to Him in absolute surrender. Obedience to His command is the BIRTHPLACE of my eternal glory.

II Tim. 4:6-8 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

[No one can touch Paul until the Father ushered him into his eternal home.]

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Paul was faithful to his vocation - his calling. He faced death calmly knowing he would be rewarded by Christ.

Note: He did not make these comments until the end of his race. He did not presume or rely on His past service. Instead he persevered, struggled and served until the end.

Paul understood the eternal potential of a lifetime of faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

Note: Ending well is the consequence of living well.

Are you living life today in light of eternity?

Are you eagerly watching, longing and looking for the return of Jesus Christ?

II Cor. 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

*It Will Be Worth It All
When We See Jesus.*