

# SALT AND LIGHT TELEVISION

## Series 1 CHRIST LIVES IN ME

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## Jesus Lover of Righteousness

Vines definition: it is the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled 'rightwiseness', which clearly expresses the meaning.

### **Four expressions of righteousness:**

#### **1. The righteousness of God**

- God is holy and just. Justice demands the sentence be carried out. All of us are damned because all of us have sinned and all our righteousness is as filthy rags.
- God is also full of love and compassion. God sent His Son to receive the full punishment for our sins at Calvary's cross. In so doing He bore the punishment for sins not His own and we wear His righteousness not our own. John Stott, an outstanding biblical scholar, put it this way: "All the sin Jesus ever had was ours and all the righteousness we ever have is His."
- Rom 3:25-26 "For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from His wrath. In this way He was being entirely fair, even though He did not punish those who sinned in former times. For He was looking forward to the time when Christ would come and take away those sins. And now in these days also He can receive sinners in this same way because Jesus took away their sins. But isn't this unfair for God to let criminals go free, and say that they are innocent? No, for He does it on the basis of their trust in Jesus who took away their sins." (TLB)

#### **2. Righteous behaviour of man exemplified in the 'man' Christ Jesus**

- Matthew 3:13-14 "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied,

'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented."

- Matt 14:13-16. "When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' "
- John 8:28-29 "I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."
- Matt 4:23-25 "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him."
- Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

### 3. Righteous behaviour by Christians as well as non-Christians

This is not doing good things in order to gain God's salvation. If this was a possibility then Jesus never would have needed to die for our sins. This righteousness has to do with our good behaviour. It has to do with doing our duty.

- It is right to pay our taxes.
- It is right to declare purchased goods when crossing the border.
- It is right to clear the snow for our elderly neighbour.
- It is right to own up when we are wrong.

Many times in the New Testament through dreams, visions and gifts of the Spirit, God revealed important information to His servants.

Acts 11:27-28. "During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)"

And then in 1 Cor 12:8 "to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit..."

Ex 17:14 "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.' "

1 Sam 15:2-3 "Then Samuel said to Saul ...This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them as well as every Amalekite.' " Here we have a sad example of King Saul, who was given clear and strict instructions to destroy the Amalekites for what they did to Israel as they came up out of Egypt but he knew better!

1 Sam 15:8-9 "But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs - everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed." Samuel goes out to meet Saul, who immediately claims that he has done everything the Lord commanded. So Samuel asks about the sheep bleating. Saul replies that he had brought them back to make a sacrifice to the Lord.

1 Sam 15:22-24 "But Samuel replied: 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.' Then Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions.' "

There are many examples of disobedience by God's leaders in the Old Testament, who out of fear for their lives failed to obey God's instructions.

However, there are far more accounts of the Lord revealing his plans to His leaders and prophets. Regarding Moses the Psalmist said, "He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel"

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."

- It is right to honour our parents.
- It is right to be gracious when being served by a new shop assistant who is a bit slow.
- It is right to be considerate to other drivers.
- It is right to help an elderly person cross a busy road.
- It is right to give up our seat for an elderly person.
- It is right to resist sounding off at the airline assistant when the flight has been cancelled.

#### 4. Righteous government

Prov 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (KJV)

##### Business ethics

- False advertising.
- Taking advantage, of immigrants.
- Paying exorbitant high wages to company chairmen.
- Companies insuring employees against their possible death without their employee's knowledge and the company receiving the insurance money at the demise of the employee.
- Oil companies gouging.

##### Politics

- Telling the truth.
- Taking the responsibility for government mistakes.
- Making the opposition look good when they are right.
- Not misusing what the opposing MPs have said, a modern use of the word "spin".
- Not using the Commons or Congress' time simply to score points. Instead, asking questions that really have to do with genuine concerns. Ill: Frank Field asking genuine questions.
- The government granting permits for casinos and other gaming facilities and taxing a sizeable portion of the profits, knowing full well that much of the profit gained is at the expense of those vulnerable, disadvantaged and addicted to gambling.

- The simple reason why a slot machine is so addictive is that the screen displays "near misses", which are extremely disproportionate to the true mathematical odds. These machines are 12 times more addictive than other forms of gambling (poker/racetracks/bingo) where the odds are set.
- From the BC Lotto Website: Lotto 2005-2006 the grand total of citizen losses amounted to 2.26 billion.
- The BC Lottery Corporation has an 18-person marketing department for lotteries alone, and a hot ad agency. It spends more than \$10 million a year to persuade people to buy all those scratch-and-win tickets and play Keno while they drink beer. There are separate marketing efforts for casinos and bingo.
- The BC Lottery Corporation has a monopoly on legal gambling. So when the corporation spends money on advertising, it's to persuade new people to start gambling, or current betters to spend more.
- It's working. The Crown Corporation just posted its 28th straight record year. We pumped \$3.2 billion into slot machines last year -- \$1,000 for every adult. That wasn't enough for government, though. This year about 1.9 million of us, 59 per cent of adults, gambled with the lottery corporation in an average month.
- The Crown Corporation's business plan calls for increasing that to 65 per cent over the next four years, thanks to clever marketing and seductive games. That's another 190,000 people persuaded that gambling is a smart, fun thing to do.
- These machines, because of their easy access, are creating the most harm of any gambling activity available today. As many as 90% of people showing up for treatment are VLT (video lottery terminal) players.
- The profits from government gaming operations are almost \$13 billion nationally, but the costs of gambling addiction are not known. Some of these could be quantified, including medical care, policing, courts, prisons, social assistance and business losses. However, no simple dollar figure can measure the devastation to the lives of those affected by pathological gambling.
- A Nova Scotia study released in October 2004 names problem-gambling as a factor in 6.3 percent of suicides. In that province, officials investigating a suicide must ask specifically about gambling.

is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

### **The third is found in reading and meditating in the Holy Scriptures.**

Ps 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

*Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,  
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I see Thee Lord;  
My spirit longs for Thee O Living word!*

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,  
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage, all fetters fall;  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.*

*Thou art the bread of life, O Lord to me;  
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;  
Give me to eat and live with Thee above;  
Teach me to love Thy truth, For thou art love.*

*Spirit and life are they, Words thou dost speak;  
I hasten to obey, But I am weak;  
Thou art my only help, Thou art my life;  
Heeding Thy holy Word I win the strife  
(Mary A. Lathbury)*

### **The fourth is human or self knowledge.**

This is where it all went wrong. Adam and Eve were instructed by God that they could eat of all the trees in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Self knowledge, independent of God knowledge! Good ideas, disobedience to God's commands. It is called rebellion!

John 1:12-13 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Rom 8:14-17 "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ."

### **The second is contemplating on the person of Christ.**

This is done by reading the Bible and meditating on those scriptures that specifically speak of Him, what He said about Himself and what others said about Him.

This is what we are seeking to do in these programmes. Are aim is to centre all our teachings "In Christ". Christ is made to us:

Wisdom – Righteousness – Sanctification – Redemption – Saviour – Lamb of God - Bread of life – True Vine – Good/Chief/Great Shepherd – Rock - Chief Corner Stone - Fortress – Strong Tower – Captain of the Lord's Armies – King of Kings – Lord of Lords – The Lion of the tribe of Judah – Blessed and only Potentate – Captain of our Salvation – Righteous Judge – The only wise God – The sure Foundation – Creator and Sustainer of the Universe – The Way, Truth, Life – The Resurrection and the Life – The Door – Wonderful – Counselor – Mighty God – Everlasting Father – Prince of Peace – Bright and Morning Star – Rose of Sharon – Lily of the Valley – Altogether Lovely – Chiefest of Ten Thousand - Man of Sorrows – Friend of Sinners – Nearest Kinsman – Elder Brother – The Apostle – Great High Priest – Head of the Body – The Firstborn of a New Creation – Unspeakable Gift – Heir of All Things – Our Hope – I AM – The Only Wise God – Prophet – Servant – Righteous Branch.

Col 3:1-4 "Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For, you died, and your life

RIGHTEOUSNESS = making right choices

- Spending time with your children.
- Switching TV channels when programs are ungodly, Phil 4:8 "...whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."
- Employers paying a fair wage.
- Encouraging employees.
- Being patient, compassionate, humble, gentle, forgiving.

When we do the right thing, it produces an inward sense of fulfillment and satisfaction!

Gen 4:5-7 "But on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.' "

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love,  
And do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly thine,  
Till all this earthly part of me  
Glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with thee the perfect life  
Of thine eternity.  
(Edwin Hatch)*

## Jesus Hater of Iniquity

Festival of Light March in Basingstoke:

Back in the late 60s I was the pastor of Basingstoke Baptist Church in the UK. The national press was abuzz with reports on a newsagent in Basingstoke who was charged with selling a pornographic children's magazine called "Oz". The subsequent court case was nicknamed "The Oz Trial". Unfortunately, the case was thrown out on a technicality.

By 1969 there came from the Christian community a response to the moral downward trend of the UK. Peter Hill (now living in Vernon, BC), Malcolm Muggeridge and others pioneered an organization entitled "Festival of Light". People began to gather together in crowds all over the nation. Christians started to organize protest marches in many towns and cities. Basingstoke was no exception.

One Saturday about 600 people marched through our town singing "Light up the fire, let the flame grow", a theme song for the festival. They shouted slogans such as "Moral pollution needs a solution!" It so happened that our march took us past the infamous newsagent's shop. All of a sudden my shouting ceased as I felt God speak to my heart with the question, "Do you really love righteousness? Do you really hate iniquity?" Tears ran down my cheeks as I whispered, "No Lord, but I want to. Please help me."

The newsagent's shop was relocated to a larger facility in the same street. The owner had promised me that the pornographic publications would be placed in a more discreet part of the shop and away from sweets and children's comics.

One day Janette and I went shopping and dropped in to this newsagent to buy a newspaper. To my horror, there, placed right alongside the children's comics, was a disgusting display of pornographic magazine. I was stunned! An anger rose up inside me which I believe was the anger of God. I turned to Janette and said, "Honey, I'm sorry, you'll have to continue shopping on your own, I'm going to the police station." At the station I asked to speak to the superintendent but was told he was out. "Then I'd like to speak to the chief inspector," I said. I met the chief inspector immediately. When I told him my complaint, he started treating

## All the Treasures of Knowledge are Hidden in Christ

Quote by Derek Kidner in his commentary on proverbs, "The fear of the Lord is the first and controlling principle of all knowledge."

T.S. Eliot bemoaned the loss of transcendence:

Where is the life we have lost in living?  
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?  
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

Sir John Eccles, himself a Nobel Laureate in medicine and physiology, said:

"We need to discredit the belief held by many scientists that science will ultimately deliver the final truth....Unfortunately, many scientists and interpreters of science don't understand the limits of the discipline. They claim much more for it than they should. They argue that someday science will explain values, beauty, love, friendship, aesthetics and literary quality. They say: 'All of these will eventually be explicable in terms of brain performance. We only have to know more about the brain.' That view is nothing more than a superstition that confuses both the public and many scientists."

2 Cor 10:4-6 "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

### **FOUR TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE:**

**The first is coming to know God as my Heavenly Father.**

This happens when I open my heart to the Lord Jesus and receive Him as my Lord and Saviour. Jesus is the only way to God the Father! John 14:6

a million times more complex than the universe. More than a trillion of these atoms are replaced every one-millionth of a second. In the last hour, one trillion, trillion of your atoms have been replaced." ("More Than Meets the Eye", NavPress)

Quoting other physicists, Swenson writes:

"Life is a wave, which in no two consecutive moments of its existence is composed of the same particles."

"The fundamental particles that comprise us have been floating around since the beginning. They roost within us for a while and then move on down the road to inhabit our neighbour. Some of the atoms that resided within our childhood frames are now probably doing their similar work within a body in Mongolia."

Doesn't that send shivers up and down your spine! Who is the one within whom all these treasures of wisdom reside? Christ Jesus!

I have served the Lord for over 50 years. Every time I have leaned not on my own understanding but instead have asked the Lord for wisdom. He has always answered my prayer. Never once has he failed me! And why won't He fail? Because He has made this promise to us: James 1:5-8 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

Do you have something that is worrying you? Family, finances, job situation, health, stress of any kind, then cast your problem on the Lord! Ask for His wisdom and believe He is going to answer your request.

So we ask the question:

Where does this one within whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom live? Answer: In me and in you, if you have received and owned Jesus Christ as your Lord and master!

me like I was his long lost brother. He told me that he was the officer in charge of the Oz trial and that he was patiently waiting for a member of the public to come and make a formal complaint.

He then introduced me to an inspector and I was asked to make a statement. After the chief inspector left the room, the inspector said to me, "Barney, we have two things in common. You were in the police force and I still am, and we both love the Lord Jesus." I could hardly believe my ears. He explained that they were not going to charge the shopkeeper under the criminal code, which required the police proving the magazines were pornographic, but they would seize the material and give him a summons to appear in court to prove that these magazines were not offensive. In other words the onus was on him, not the police.

A few months later Janette and I were in the home of Vic and Jenny Gledhill in Katmandu, Nepal and two British "Daily Telegraph" newspapers had just arrived. The first copy contained a full report on both middle pages regarding police raids on warehouses right across the southern part of England, where many tons of pornographic publications valued at millions of pounds had been confiscated and would subsequently be destroyed by fire. The next edition carried a follow-up report.

### **Iniquities Jesus Hates:**

#### **Causing a little child to sin**

Matt 18:6 "But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Even people in prison despise child molesters!

### **Hypocrites**

Matt 23:5-7 "Everything they do is done for men to see: they make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'"

Matt 23:13 Seven times Jesus says: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!"

Matt 23:27-28 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside, but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."

Matt 23:33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?" OUCH! Obviously, Jesus had never read the book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People".

Prov 6:16-19 "There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

1. "haughty eyes" - a proud look, snooty, looking down on people, lifting eyes in disgust;
2. "a lying tongue" - giving false impressions, exaggerations;
3. "hands that shed innocent blood" ;
4. "a heart that devises wicked schemes" - malice, revengeful thoughts, getting my own back, tax evasion;
5. "feet that are quick to rush into evil" - joining in gossip, many pastors have been vilified by church members engaged in a feeding frenzy;
6. "a false witness who pours out lies"; and
7. "a man who stirs up dissension among brothers" - this one is an abomination!

Paul wrote this: Rom 16:17-18 "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

Titus 3:10-11 "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."

9. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her.
10. Those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

Prov 4:5-9 "Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them..." Further blessings:

1. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you.
2. Love her, and she will watch over you.
3. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.
4. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
5. Esteem her, and she will exalt you.
6. Embrace her, and she will honor you.
7. She will set a garland of grace on your head.
8. She will present you with a crown of splendor.

There are two other ways by which wisdom comes. The first example is found in Deut 34:9 "Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses."

The second is found in 1 Cor 12:7-8. "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom."

### **The Wisdom of the Lord Jesus in Creation**

Proverbs 3:19-20. "By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew."

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

Richard Swenson writes:

"The human body is composed of ten thousand trillion, trillion atoms. This is greater than all the stars in the universe. In light of such comparisons, I teach young doctors that the human body is

- sincere.

### Story of King Solomon's request

1 Kings 3:5 "At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'

1 Kings 3:8-9 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?'

1 Kings 3:10-13 "The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for - both riches and honour - so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.' " i.e. the tale of two prostitutes and the baby.

1 Kings 4:34 "Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom."

Listen to what wise King Solomon wrote to his son: Prov 3:5-7 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. "

Prov 3:13-20 "Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding..." Ten blessings follow:

1. She is more profitable than silver.
2. She yields better returns than gold.
3. She is more precious than rubies.
4. Nothing you desire can compare with her.
5. Long life is in her right hand.
6. In her left hand are riches and honour.
7. Her ways are pleasant ways.
8. All her paths are peace.

Reconciliation is more important than making an offering. Matt 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

### Uncaring behaviour towards those members of Christ's body who are disadvantaged

1 Cor 11:29-34 "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment."

### Immoral behaviour

"The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?" This and the following are taken from 1 Cor 6:13-20.

- Cheating on your spouse: 1 Cor 6:18 "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body."
- Looking and lusting: Matt 5:27-29 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
- Engaging with prostitutes: 1 Cor 6:15-17,19 "Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.' But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit." "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

God has called us to live to the praise of His glory. He has sent us to be lights in a dark world filled with iniquity.

Ephesians 5:1-11 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.....For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."

It may be that someone watching this programme is considering having an affair. Or you may already be involved. Maybe you are addicted to pornography. If you are part of a bible believing church, I urge you to go to your pastor or one of the other leaders and get some help.

Prov 28:13 "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

At our universities, our young people may accumulate a lot of knowledge but do they receive much wise counsel?

### **Two types of wisdom: The key is, where does it come from?**

1. The wisdom which comes from man, without a wonder and awe in his heart towards God, is earthly, unspiritual and of the devil.

James 3:15-18: "Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." i.e. a little child in play room surrounded by toys, she is all alone playing with one toy. Another child enters the room. What toy does she want? You've guessed it! The one the other little child is playing with. I watched one-year-old twins trying to grab a toy from each other.

- envy,
- selfish ambition
- disorder
- every evil practice

Coveting another person's spouse; envious of a neighbour's new Mercedes; fights breaking out when the doors are opened at the New Year Sales; Cain and Abel; Jacob and Esau.

2. The wisdom that does come down from God, into a worshipping heart, filled with awe and wonder.

James 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James 3:18 "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

- pure,
- peace-loving,
- considerate (open to reason),
- submissive,
- full of mercy,
- good fruit,
- impartial,

## All the Treasures of Wisdom are Hidden in Christ

"The brain is the realm of data, information, and knowledge. The spirit, however, is the realm of understanding, wisdom, and truth. The brain and the spirit need to register for classes together in the halls of education, and their togetherness needs to be fixed. Harvard University, for example, had in its original charter this statement: 'Let every student well consider.....that the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ.' Somewhere in the process of gaining prestige they lost eternity. And such a loss can never be compensated by piling up Nobel Laureates, for it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' " Richard A. Swenson, M.D. ("More Than Meets the Eye", NavPress)

Definition: God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, good fruit, impartial, and sincere! It is received in answer to the prayer of faith and is found by meditating in God's word and listening to the Holy Spirit. It is only discovered by a reverent, awe and wonder filled heart toward Almighty God. It is what the Holy Scriptures term "The fear of the Lord" It is not limited to man's intelligence nor restricted by one's lack of formal education.

Quote: Derek Kidner, in his excellent commentary on the book of Proverbs, says, "The fear of the Lord is the first and controlling principle of all wisdom."

Col 2:2-3 "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Isa 11:1-4 "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him -- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth."

## Jesus Full of Grace

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Definition of grace: "God's unmerited favour to the undeserving and the ill deserving."

### A. GRACE THAT FLOWS IN

Eph 2:8-10 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

#### 1. God's grace toward us in salvation

I want you to notice 10 things:

1. By grace you have been saved, "delivered out of Satan's domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son" Col 1:13. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. We were by nature children of wrath.
2. But God who was rich in mercy loved us so much that He sent His son Jesus to bear the punishment for our sins, at Calvary's cross.
3. Through faith. This salvation comes to us through handing our lives over to Jesus and owning Him as our Lord, and believing that He is alive, that he rose again from the dead. Rom 10:9-10 "For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (TLB)
4. Not from yourselves, even the faith that we exercise is not from our own ability!
5. It is the gift of God i.e. a rich man giving you a brand new Mercedes and you wanting to give \$50 towards the cost.
6. Not by works, you cannot earn it nor buy it, i.e. the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee trusted in fasting twice a week and

giving tithes of all he possessed. Surely he would be accepted by God. Whereas, the Publican stood at a distance, beat upon his chest and cried out: "God, God, oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

7. So that no one can boast.
8. We are God's workmanship, Phil 2:13 "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."
9. Created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
10. Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## 2. God's strength and ability in us to cope with Satan's attacks

2 Cor 12:7-10 "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Here are five things to consider:

1. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations,
2. there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
3. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
4. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
5. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The grace and faith that brought us salvation is the same grace and faith that keeps us!

*Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home  
(John Newton's Amazing Grace)*

- Acts 1:8 "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- Matt 28:18-20 "Then, Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' "
- Mark's account adds this in chapter 16:15-18 "He said to them, 'Go into all, the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.' "

Finally, we are in partnership with Jesus in revealing the manifold wisdom of God to rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

Eph 3:10-21 "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.... For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

- He ministered in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14).
- He drove out demons by the Spirit (Matt 12:28).
- He made decisions through the wisdom and knowledge of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 9:1).
- He was full of Joy through the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21).
- God gave Him the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).
- It was through the Eternal Spirit that Jesus offered himself to God as an unblemished sacrifice (Heb 9:14).
- It was also through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was raised from the dead (Romans 8:11).

Before Jesus left this earth he made four big promises to His disciples:

- "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).
- "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John 14:3).
- "He who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also" (John 14:12).
- "I am with you always, even until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus gives them one supreme, royal command:

- John 15:12-13 "My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."

Jesus deputizes his disciples and gives them authority to act on His behalf:

- John 20:21-23 Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." (That means we are under the authority of Jesus. He is our Lord and King! It also means that we are to be under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit! And it means we are to Love one another as Jesus has loved us and finally we are to stand under the authority of the Holy Scriptures) "And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' "

## B. GRACE THAT FLOWS OUT

John 7:37-39 "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " But this He spoke of the Spirit.

A fresh water lake is formed by fresh water flowing into it. But if water doesn't flow out, then we end up with a smelly, stagnant bog, littered with dead trees. It is absolutely essential for the Christian to release God's grace to others.

Many people watching this program will have heard of the 'Sermon on the Mount'. It is a unique training manual for the newly recruited disciples of Jesus.

It is so important that Jesus said: If you do what I'm instructing you to do, then you will be like a man who built his house upon a rock. When the storms came the house stood firm. But, if you don't obey my instructions, you will be like a man who built his house upon the sand. When the storms came the house collapsed.

Some of Christ's instructions:

- Matt 5:38-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person." Don't fight back. This is grace!
- If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. Grace!
- And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. Grace!
- If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles, i.e. Roman soldier. Sunday lunch, knock at the door. Grace!
- Give to the one who asks you. Grace!
- Do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Grace!
- "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies." Grace!
- And pray for those who persecute you. Grace!

- Luke 6:28 "Bless those who curse you." i.e. In Exeter, preaching on dealing with curses. A woman present whose mother's sister had cursed her, "You will come to a terrible end." As a result she had lived in dread wondering what awful death she would experience. The daughter went home, told her elderly mother what she had heard. She then invited her mother to pray a blessing on her sister. She agreed and prayed a whole list of blessings. When she finished praying she smiled, leaned back into her armchair, sighed, and was gone. A beautiful, smiling death!
- Matt 6:14. "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Grace!
- Matt 7:12. "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." That sounds almost impossible! Actually, it is impossible, especially when the standard set is God's perfection. Matt 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
- Matt 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.' "
- Where does Christ live? He lives in me, He is full of grace!

morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting."

John 5:19 "Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.' "

John 5:30 "By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."

John 14:24 "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

#### **4. Jesus stood under the authority of the Scriptures.**

John 19:28-29 "Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips."

He used the authority of the Scriptures to deal with Satan's temptations!

Matthew Henry said: "Divine revelation as it now stands in the written word is not only pure truth without mixture, but entire truth without deficiency."

#### **5. Jesus stood under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit**

From conception to resurrection, Jesus' life on earth was lived in the enabling, guiding and empowering hands of the Holy Spirit:

- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit ( Matt 1:20).
- The Spirit descended on Him like a dove at His baptism (Matt 3:16).
- Jesus was led by the Spirit (Matt 4:1).

on them and a helmet with a badge on the front that also said "ER 11".

I vividly recall my first experience of authority as a police officer. It was customary for police officers to be asked by children, the elderly and the physically disabled for assistance in crossing busy roads. That day I was walking the beat and a little girl requested my help in seeing her across Holloway Road, a major artery into Central London. I took one step into the road and I pointed my finger at this fearsome-sized juggernaut careering towards me. I lifted my hand signaling for the driver to stop. Fortunately, it did. The rush of adrenaline through my nervous system was simply gorgeous!

When I raised my hand, I wasn't just representing myself. Behind that hand stood the entire Metropolitan Police Force, and ultimately the British Army, Navy and Air Force, the Prime Minister and his cabinet, the whole of Parliament, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth sitting on her throne with the crown on her head and the scepter in her hand.

Matt 8:5-10 "When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 'Lord,' he said, 'my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.' Jesus said to him, 'I will go and heal him.' The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, "Go," and he goes; and that one, "Come," and he comes. I say to my servant, "Do this," and he does it.' When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, 'I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.' "

### 3. Jesus, under the delegated authority of His Father.

The Roman Centurion understood that Jesus was a man under authority. But the fact was; Jesus was under the authority of His Father. He was completely dependent on His Father.

Isa 50:4-6 "The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by

## Jesus Full of Truth

The word "truth" in human terms would convey the idea of the absence of lies, deceit, hidden agendas - transparency, i.e. the police oath: "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." But that doesn't mean you will get the whole truth and nothing but the truth. One famous politician in the British Parliament when challenged as to whether he was lying, replied, "Mr. Speaker, it could be said that I'm simply being economic with the truth."

What about the engaged-to-be-married couple and over-the-top valiant, extravagant promises of devotion, i.e. "I would swim the widest ocean and climb the highest mountain, I would run a thousand miles just to hold your hand. Signed, your sweetheart, Clint. P.S. I'll drop round to see you this evening if it stops raining."

i.e. "When we are married I will treat you like a queen." Poetic license, worse still, poetic lies! After we had been married a few months Janette said, "I didn't realize you were talking about Anne Boleyn."

Jesus said in John 14:6: "I am the truth" (reality). Jesus is saying "everything outside of me is less than true."

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (NKJV)

People talk about the new reality and it usually refers to a change of values!

Jer 6:16: "This is what the LORD says: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.' " (NKJV)

I want to talk about four unchanging realities, truths. Let God be true and every man a liar!

## 1. The spoken word that brought the universe into existence

Heb 11:3 "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. "

## 2. The loud but silent words of God's creation

Ps 19:1-6 "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun..." (NASV)

Several years ago, I was on holiday at our cabin on the west coast of Canada. One morning I rose before dawn and set off in my boat for Thresher Rock, a famous fishing spot in the Georgia Strait. Having arrived and set my lines, I waited with eager anticipation for that first bite. But something else was about to arrest my attention. The sea was perfectly calm that morning, like a sea of glass. Not another boat or ship was anywhere in sight. I was completely alone. Slowly, even as some of the brighter stars still twinkled over-head, the sky began to lighten. Suddenly as I looked in the direction of the Coast Range Mountains near Vancouver, the sun broke into view from behind the high, snowy peaks, illuminating them in dazzling white and turning the sea to silver and gold – a spectacular sight that would forever be etched in my memory. Instinctively, and totally unabashed, I yelled out at the top of my voice "YES! YES! YES!" Then one long, drawn out "YES...." followed by a hymn of praise sung with total abandon:

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds your hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Your power throughout the universe displayed,*

5. He is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing.
6. He is an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also for conscience sake!
7. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.
8. Give everyone what you owe him:
9. if you owe taxes, pay taxes;
10. if revenue, then revenue;
11. if respect, then respect;
12. if honour, then honour.
13. Let no debt be outstanding

John 19:10-11 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.' "

By what authority was Jesus crucified? Who caused it to happen?

First cause is God, Isaiah 53:4 "...yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted."

Isa 53:6 "The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isa 53:10 "Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer."

Second cause is Satan, Judas Iscariot, Caiaphas the High Priest, the people and Pilot.

## 2. Delegated Authority

Taking the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen "I, Barnabas Richard Coombs, do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> in the office of constable without favour or affection, malice or ill will" etc., etc. I was given a warrant card that gave me authority to carry out my duties and a uniform with buttons that had "ER.11" stamped

## All Authority on Earth

The theme of all our programmes is "Christ our Life". Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

### Five types of authority:

#### 1. Earthly

Rom 13:1-8 "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves, for rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you for he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. Let no debt remain outstanding."

13 things:

1. Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities.
2. There is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. He who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted.
3. Those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
4. Rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

*Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
(Carl Gustav Boberg)*

Gradually, tears began to stream down my face. But I continued singing, then I came to the verse:

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in:  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin*

I could only whisper the words. When I finished, I found myself saying to the Lord, "Yes, that's who you really are: you're the great awesome creator of the universe and at the same time, my wonderful redeemer."

By 2,000AD scientists estimated between 120-200 billion galaxies, with each one containing an average of 100 billion stars. Our local galaxy has a trillion moons. Ps 14:1 "The fool has said in heart there is no God." i.e. the judge who decided in a law case against intelligent design.

#### 3. The written word of the Holy Scriptures

John 17:17 Jesus prays to His Father "Your word is truth."

"All that thou hast spoken -- that is, all that is contained in the Bible, all the commands and promises of God; His representations of His own character and that of man; His account of the mission and death of His Son; of the grave, the resurrection, judgment, and eternity, all tend to represent things as they are, and are thus fitted to sanctify the soul. We have here also the testimony of the Saviour that the revelation which God has given is true. All that God has spoken is true, and the Christian should rejoice and the sinner should tremble."  
(Barnes Notes)

The scriptures are like a many faceted diamond! Described for us in Psalm 19 it says:

Of the "law of the Lord"

- (a) that it is perfect,
- (b) that it converts the soul;

Of the "testimony of the Lord":

- (a) that it is sure,
- (b) that it makes the simple wise;

Of the "statutes of the Lord":

- (a) that they are right,
- (b) that they rejoice the heart;

Of the "commandment of the Lord":

- (a) that it is pure,
- (b) that it enlightens the eyes;

Of the "fear of the Lord":

- (a) that it is clean,
- (b) that it endures forever;

Of the "judgments of the Lord":

- (a) that they are true and righteous,
- (b) that they are more to be desired than gold, and that they are sweeter than honey and the honeycomb; that people are warned by them, and that in keeping them there is great reward. (From Barnes Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright 1997 by BibleSoft)

Jesus treated the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament as supreme authority. He used them to deal with Satan's temptation. Three times He said to Satan "It is written". Jesus deliberately said or did things in order to fulfill an Old Testament prophecy, for instance in John 19:28 "In order for the Scripture to be fulfilled Jesus said 'I am thirsty.'" The Scripture was Psalm 69:21 "They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst", and many times the phrase "according to the scriptures".

In the book of Hebrews the writer quotes Old Testament scripture 42 times.

Divine revelation, as it now stands in the written word, is not only pure truth without mixture, but entire truth without deficiency (Matthew Henry Commentary).

tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.' Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!' The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped." Revelation 6:1 "I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals." The Authority of the Lamb in Heaven!

me." John 16:13-15 "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own (authority), he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

2. All the angelic host - Archangels Cherubim, Seraphim,
3. Angels. Heb 1:14 "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" Ps 103:20-21 "Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will." Rev 1:1 "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John."
4. The opening of the Scroll. Rev 5:1-6:1 "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?' But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every

In the first 400 years of the church no one possessed a Bible of their own and so to expose the congregation to the Scripture pastors would have a two-hour slot in their services when the whole congregation would stand and listen to the public reading of scripture. On one occasion the Emperor Constantine was present and like everyone else stood to honour the Word of God. After some considerable time one of his aides noticed that the Emperor was looking a little tired and said, "Sire, take a seat" – to which Constantine replied, "It is wickedness to listen to the Word with careless ears" and remained standing for the rest of the readings.

This truth was foundational to the Reformation, as we see in this famous statement by Martin Luther: "My conscience is captive to the Word of God: to go against conscience is neither right nor safe; here I stand, there is nothing else I can do; God help me; Amen."

One of the great early Church fathers, Augustine, summarized it in this prayer, "What your scripture says, you say."

Over the centuries, the enemies of God and His word have forbidden its translation into the language of the common people, its reading, its possession, its printing, and its distribution. They have burned the scriptures, and when that failed, they imprisoned those who possessed bibles, they tortured them and finally burned or hanged them.

My Father said to me one day "Son, don't you ever be ashamed of the precious Word of God."

On April 18, 2007 it was announced that three Christian men who were preparing notes for the new Turkish Study Bible in the town of Malatya, Turkey were found bound hand and foot with their throats slit. 46 year old Tilman Geske from Germany was one of those martyred. Tilman left behind his wife Suzanna and three young children. Najata, the team leader and a native of Turkey was also one of those killed. He left behind his wife Shemza and two children. The other brother was single but was soon to be married.

Necati's funeral was a beautiful event. Like a glimpse of heaven, thousands of Turkish Christians and missionaries came to show their

love for Christ, and their honour for this man chosen to die for Christ. Necati's wife Shemza told the world, "His death was full of meaning, because he died for Christ and he lived for Christ... Necati was a gift from God. I feel honoured that he was in my life, I feel crowned with honour. I want to be worthy of that honour."

In an act that hit front pages in the largest newspapers in Turkey, Susanne Tilman in a television interview expressed her forgiveness. She did not want revenge, she told reporters. "Oh God, forgive them for they know not what they do," she said, wholeheartedly agreeing with the words of Christ on Calvary (Luke 23:34).

In a country where blood-for-blood revenge is as normal as breathing, many many reports have come to the attention of the church of how this comment of Susanne Tilman has changed lives. One columnist wrote of her comment, "She said in one sentence what 1000 missionaries in 1000 years could never do."

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church" wrote Tertullian in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century.

#### 4. The living Word

Definition: Reality. John 14:6 "I am the truth" (reality). Notice the definite article. Jesus doesn't say I am the way, truth and life. He says "I am the reality."

Heb 1:1-3 "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by His powerful word."

If you want to know what God is like, just look at his Son. John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." Nestles Greek interlinear New Testament says this "God no man has seen never; (the) only begotten God the (one) being in the bosom of the Father, that one declared Him."

1 Cor 15:24-28 "Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he 'has put everything under his feet.' Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all."

Before we go any further, let us review eight glorious outcomes of the ascension of Christ:

1. God the Father declares Jesus to be His Son, before the whole host of heaven!
2. The Father offers Him the nations of the earth. Japan, Iran, Nepal, Russia, China, America, Canada and the first nations of Canada, Burundi, Kenya, Iceland, and all the rest of them!
3. He invites Jesus to take His place on the throne at His right hand. The son of Man is on the throne. This is not the first man in space. This is the first man in the throne room of heaven, on the throne.
4. He promises to make Christ's enemies a footstool for His feet.
5. He promises that Christ's mighty scepter will be extended out of Zion.
6. He declares that the soldiers of Jesus will be willing in the day of His power.
7. He announces that we, His saints, will participate in government with Jesus. This is consistent with 1 Cor 6:3 where Paul writes: "Do you not know that we will judge angels?"
8. He proclaims that His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom that will never be destroyed.

Let's make one thing very clear. The apostle Paul points out that while Jesus has all authority in heaven, this does not mean that God is under this authority. If Christ has all authority in heaven, what does this entail?

1. The sending of the Holy Spirit. John 15:26-27 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about

everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed... But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever - yes, for ever and ever... Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

Ps 110:1-3 "The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.' The LORD will stretch forth Your strong sceptre from Zion, saying, 'Rule in the midst of Your enemies.' Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power."

Eph 1:19-23 "and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

Eugene Peterson puts it this way in "The Message":

I ask the God of our master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory - to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for His followers. Oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him - endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set Him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to government, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but for ever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the centre of all this, Christ rules the church. The Church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. ("The Message" by Eugene Peterson, NavPress)

In John 14:8-10 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.' "

So once again we ask the question, where does this one who is full of truth live? This one who fully reveals God! He lives in each one who has received Him as their Lord and Saviour.

As the Father sent me (which was "to reveal the Father") so send I you. To do what! For what purpose! Answer = to reveal the Lord Jesus. Could it be possible that one day we could corporately say, like Jesus said to Philip, he who has seen the church has seen the Lord Jesus? I'm not talking about the man-made religious church. I'm talking about the family of the Father, the body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit and bride of Christ. Is it possible? Well Paul certainly thought it was, or else he would not have prayed the following apostolic prayer:

Eph 3:14-21 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (NASV)

## Jesus Gentle in Heart

Matt 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Quote: "Only the truly strong and great can be truly tender. Tenderness is a mark of nobility, not of weakness." James Philip

Definition: Gentleness denotes fairness, moderation, sweet reasonableness, kindness, goodness of heart and gracious.

### **What is the evidence that Jesus really was "Gentle in Heart"?**

Zech 9:9 "See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Isa 42:2-3 "He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out."

- He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.
- A bruised reed he will not break and discard.
- a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

Matt 26:6-13 "While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. 'Why this waste?' they asked 'This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.' Aware of this, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.' "

## All Authority in Heaven

Matt 28:18 "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' "

Question: "If Jesus has all authority, how much authority does Satan have? i.e. 5 year old Rachel asking me "Daddy, how many does 5 naughts added to 3 naughts make?"

So, am I saying that Satan doesn't have any power to do evil things?  
Answer: No! He has power, but he doesn't have any authority.

Christians on the other hand have delegated authority but so often do not have the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise that authority.

On one occasion I arrested a big drunk and disorderly Irishman, who inadvertently stood on my toe and fell on top of me, winding me. I could hardly breathe! I couldn't get up. I had the authority to arrest him but no power to achieve my intent.

Today we want to talk about Jesus having all authority "in Heaven". What does this mean? First of all, it means that when Jesus ascended into heaven after his death and resurrection. He sat down at the right hand of God. Mark records this event in chapter 16:19 "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God."

There are at least 13 other references in the New Testament of Jesus sitting at the right hand of God!

Ps 2:6-8 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.' "

Dan 7:13-14, 18, 27. "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming. And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an

"Christ dwells in that heart most eminently that hath emptied itself of itself. Christ is the humble man's manna, upon which he lives and by which he thrives."

Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### **He washed the disciples' dirty feet.**

John 13:2-5 "The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

### **He cooked them breakfast**

John 21:9-12 "When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught'. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' "

### **And one day will serve a meal to all those who are on the alert waiting for His coming!**

Luke 12:37 "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them." "What would you like to eat?"

So where does this humble Christ live? He lives in you and me!

Aware of this, Jesus said to them,

- "Why are you bothering this woman?"
- She has done a beautiful thing to me.
- The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.
- When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.
- I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Which is what Paul and I, are doing, right now! This event happened in Israel nearly 2,000 years and here we are in Canada, fulfilling this promise. Isn't this remarkable!

Here is another similar story

Luke 7:36-48 "Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.'

### **Parable of Two Debtors**

And Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' And he replied, 'Say it, Teacher.' 'A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?' Simon answered and said, 'I suppose the one whom he forgave more.' And He said to him, 'You have judged correctly.' Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman?'

- 'I entered your house (at your invitation), you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

- You gave me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss my feet.
- You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.' " (NASV)

i.e. I heard a preacher using his imagination tell the following story of a man leaving the house, smelling of a beautiful perfume, and a little while later, a lady walking in the same direction smelling of the same perfume. By anointing Jesus, she was also anointed.

John 8:2-12 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said.

'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.' "

Once again, notice the tender, gentle, gracious, value-giving manner in which he spoke of this adulteress. And how carefully He addressed the matter of her sin!

13. He took the form of a bond slave (no rights of His own). He chose to be a slave! Ear pierced as a mark of His master's ownership.
14. He was made in the likeness of men, Phi 2:7, with all the human limits of a man -- weary, hungry, thirsty, emotionally stressed.
15. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Drank the cup to the full. Sins, sicknesses, curses and separation from His Father.

*Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
for thy holy nativity.*

*Refrain:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.*

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but of lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
and in great humility  
(E. Elliott)*

Thomas Brooks had this to say about a truly humble person:

"A humble soul lives not upon himself, nor upon his actings, but upon the Lord Jesus and His actings."

"The humble soul lives upon the care of Christ, the love of Christ, the promise of Christ, the faithfulness of Christ, the discoveries of Christ. He lives upon Christ for his justification, he lives upon Christ for his consolation, he lives upon Christ for the performance of all his holy actions."

"A humble soul sees in Christ a fullness of abundance and a fullness of redundancy, and here his soul lives and feeds."

If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean."

4. He refused to seek fame. John 7:3-4 "Jesus' brothers said to him, 'You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.' "
5. He was laid in a manger, an animal feeding trough.
6. He was a friend of sinners.
7. He ate and drank with them in their homes.
8. He only did the things that pleased His Father. John 8:29 "I always do what pleases My Father." No small wonder that the Father said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Imagine having children like this!
9. He didn't take credit for what He did. John 5:19 "Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.' "
10. He didn't take credit for what He said. John 14:10-11 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."
11. He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. Phil 2:6 "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped..."
12. He emptied Himself (laid aside His privileges) Phil 2:7 "but made himself nothing..." Peter Lewis says "He had it but He didn't use it."

### **Harsh behaviour instead of gentle response**

2 Sam 18:5 "The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, 'be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake.' And all the troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders."

### **Wise words from the book of Proverbs**

Prov 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Prov 25:15 "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone."

Prov 18:23 "The poor man utters supplications, but the rich man answers roughly." (NASV)

### **Paul's testimony and godly instructions**

Eph 4:1-3 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you:

- to live a life worthy of the calling you have received;
- be completely humble and gentle;
- be patient, bearing with one another in love;
- make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit;
- through the bond of peace."

1 Thess 2:6-9 "As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you."

Qualities of an elder, 1 Tim 3:3 "Not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome."

"The meek man (gentle) is the one who has stood before God's judgement and abdicated all his supposed 'rights'. He has

learned, in gratitude for God's grace, to submit himself to the Lord and to be gentle with sinners." (Sinclair Ferguson)

"Meekness is having a teachable spirit." (Ronald Dunn)

"Meekness is a jewel polished by grace." (Sinclair Ferguson)

"Meekness is the self-imposed restraint exercised by Christians so that Christ may be glorified in their lives." (Frank Retief)

1 Peter 3:4 "... instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

*Mender of bruised reeds  
O patient lover  
Tis love my brother needs  
Make me a lover  
That this poor reed might be  
Mended and tuned for thee  
O lord of even me  
Make a true lover  
Kindler of smoking flax  
O ardent lover  
Give what thy servant lacks  
Make me a lover  
That this poor flax may be  
Kindled aflame for thee  
O Lord of even me  
Make a true lover  
(Amy Carmichael)*

## Jesus Humble in Heart

Matt 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"Anyone who thinks they are humble, are not. The truly humble person is blissfully unaware of the esteem in which they are held." (Anonymous)

"There is nothing more awful than conscious humility; it is the most satanic form of pride." (Oswald Chambers)

"If any man tells me that he is humble, I know him to be profoundly proud." (Charles Spurgeon)

"Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings." (Archibald Alexander)

"Humility is the beginning of true intelligence." (John Calvin)

"No other man has ever humbled Himself so greatly; and no man has ever been more exalted as a result." (Anonymous)

"Nothing is so sweet and beautiful, yet to ambitious men so surprising, as the humility of the Lord Jesus." (Walter J. Chantry)

1. There was nothing majestic about his bearing. Isaiah 53:2 "He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him."
2. There was nothing externally attractive about Jesus. Isaiah 53:2 "Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him."
3. He was born into a humble and poor family. Leviticus 12:7-8 "These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl."