

HC 15-17– Christ was exactly what you needed him to be!

TSK, Bezuyen, GreekLexicon, HebrewLexicon, INT, 331

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Let's say you have a heart attack on a transatlantic 大西洋 flight. The stewardess 空姐 looks down the list of passengers and sees that there is doctor on board. She calls out for the doctor. But when the doctor comes to you, you find out that he is a doctor of ancient Egyptian literature 文学. Imagine your disappointment...you might possibly die because there is no one or no thing to help you.

This illustration applies spiritually, with limitations, to you as well. There are many things that sound good but can't fix man's deepest need. Good works didn't help you to fix the deadly disease of sin. No man could help. No obedience to God's law could help. This is why you needed the spiritual heart surgeon, one who could take out your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh – and give you a new spirit so you could obey his laws. Ezekiel 11:19. And it is about this one – the new heart giver- that we will take about today, the only one who was eminently qualified to help!

Our headings are: Christ had to truly be a person, Christ had to be truly pure, and Christ had to be truly powerful.

Our goals are: That you get the point that there was only one person in existence in heaven and on earth that was qualified to die for you, and he did do so. And that you then serve him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, for what he has done for you.

15 Q. WHAT KIND OF MEDIATOR AND DELIVERER SHOULD WE LOOK FOR THEN?

A. He must be truly human and truly righteous, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, he must also be true God.

16 Q. WHY MUST HE BE TRULY HUMAN AND TRULY RIGHTEOUS?

A. God's justice demands it: man has sinned, man must pay for his sin, but a sinner can not pay for others.

Christ had to Truly be a Person

1. While there were many sacrifices in the Old Testament that the Jews performed, none of them could take away the penalty for sins. There were burnt offerings, sin offerings, trespass offerings, peace offering, and grain offerings. These offerings simply pointed out different aspects of the work of Jesus Christ – and so they had to be perfect, not sickly nor spotted. But of themselves these sacrifices were ineffective to remove sins unless the offerer saw Christ through these sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Why could they not take away sins? God is a just God, so he required that if man sinned, only a man could take punishment. God would not accept an animal, grains, money, or even an angel to take the place of sinful man. **This is why Jesus had to take on a real human body** and a real human soul to die as a substitute for you.

2. The Bible confirms that Jesus was a real human person, with real human lineage 血统. David was his father from his mother and father's sides.

Romans 1: 1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His

Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

3. This death of a truly human person was confirmed as fully **satisfying Divine justice for sins**.

1Corinthians 15: 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 **For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.** 22 For as in Adam (man) all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Matthew 20:28 - "just as the **Son of Man (Adam)** did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom** for many."

Hebrews 2: 17 Therefore, in all things **He had to be made like His brethren**, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Christ had to Be Truly Pure

1. Jesus not only had to be a man to die for sins, but like the Old Testament sacrifices, he also **had to be perfectly pure**. (Sacrifices were spotless, healthy, not handicapped.) You see, God could not accept a man with sins to die for the sins of another man. He could only die for his own sins. It is true, that a man may die for another man – to keep him safe for instance, or like a security detail might take a bullet to protect the life of the Prime Minister, but that man who might give his life cannot save the soul of the Prime Minister. He can only save the Prime Minister's body – and only for a time. He can't die for the Prime Minister's soul because his own soul is sinful.

2. The Holy Scriptures confirm that Jesus was perfectly pure. This purity was predicted in the Old Testament and proved in the New Testament.

Isaiah 53: 9 And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

In Isaiah's famous chapter 750 years before Jesus, he confirmed Jesus' purity as a qualification for saving sinners...especially in the earlier verses of Chapter 53. By Christ's stripes you are healed.

The Apostle Paul confirmed that Jesus did not experience any sin so he was qualified to save you.

2Corinthians 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.

The writer of Hebrews wonderfully illustrates the purity of the Lord Jesus in light of the sacrifices of the Old Testament: Jesus Christ was holy, harmless, undefiled – separate from sinners.

Hebrews 7: 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Christ had to be Truly Powerful

17 Q. WHY MUST HE ALSO BE TRUE GOD?

A. So that, by the power of his divinity, he might bear the weight of God's anger in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.¹

1. While Jesus had to be truly man, and truly pure, these two things of themselves would not have qualified him to be the Savior of the world. Those characteristics would have only qualified him to be the Savior of just one man.

2. So Jesus had to be great enough – powerful enough – in order that his death would be sufficient for all those that his Father had given to him. And Jesus was. He was a perfectly pure human, and he was also all-powerful God. This is why Jesus was pictured as passing through the cut animals while Abraham was in a deep sleep. Jesus was doing what Abraham could not do. Abraham was

only an observer...and a receiver of Christ's work. Genesis 15:17. What a blessing this is for everyone who is a Christian today! You receive this great thing for which you did not work...and for what you could not pay. Look at how the fact of Christ Deity – showing his greatness- is confirmed in the Bible.

Isaiah 7: 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

"Immanuel" means "God with us."

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus is called "Mighty God." Obviously if he weren't "Mighty God" then it would have been blasphemy to write that. He is the true "Mighty God" who would also be from the throne of his father David, and to him the nations of the world would bow in submission. They would bow in submission because he redeemed the world from sin and misery.

Jeremiah ties it all nicely together, showing that Jesus (Jehovah) would be the means by which the people of God would become righteous... And you will notice that this was not speaking of Judah being saved from Babylonian captivity, but of Judah being saved from spiritual captivity.

Jeremiah 23: 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The Apostle John confirms that Jesus, the Savior, was creator of heaven and earth. What a beautiful Savior: Son of God and Son of Man. Who could be greater than the Creator?

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

3. These three things qualified Jesus to be that perfect Mediator, and you desperately needed a Mediator.

Job 9:14 "How then can I answer Him, And choose my words to reason with Him? 15 For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge.

Psalms 130: 3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

The only one that could stand before the Father on your behalf is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Jesus was a true person. Since man sinned man had to die. Jesus was truly pure. No man with sin was fit to die for others (and certainly animals couldn't do the job). Jesus had to be powerful, powerful enough to die for the sins of the whole world. He was God. There was none greater.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It was Christ or death. It is plain and simple as that...except that your death would have been eternal separation from God with an eternally guilty conscience! How much you must now love the Savior! How vast the benefits that you in Christ possess. And it was all provided by Jehovah. We say: Jehovah Jireh – Jehovah the Great Provider. May this message today stay in your breast in order that you will stay close to the Lord – your only place of safety...and it is the only way you will have the strength and courage to keep on fighting.

Finally, those who are outside of Jesus have only themselves to blame for the judgment that is coming on them. But the Lord has prepared a way out. If you ask the Lord to set you free from sin's tyranny 暴政, he will willingly do so. Jesus has met all the requirements for you. He is truly human, truly righteous, and he is also true God! Let his death be counted as yours.

Form for the Profession of Faith New Horizon URC

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ:

We thank God concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that you were made desirous of professing your faith publicly, here in the presence of God and his holy church, and of obtaining the privileges of full communion with the people of God.

You are now requested to answer sincerely the following questions:

*The Vows**

Yi Zheng and Wei Kang, will you stand now, and in the presence of God and his people respond to the following questions:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with repentance and joy embrace him as Lord of your life?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God revealing Christ and his redemption, and that the confessions of this church faithfully reflect this revelation?

Answer: I do.

3. Do you accept the gracious promises of God sealed to you in your baptism and do you affirm your union with Christ and his church which your baptism signifies?

Answer: I do.

4. Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, honoring and submitting to its authority; and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere?

Answer: I do.

The Reception [The minister asks the congregation to rise.]

Minister: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I now welcome you to all the privileges of full communion. I welcome you to full participation in the life of the church. I welcome you to its responsibilities, its joys, and its sufferings. "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20-21).

Congregation: **Thanks be to God! We promise you our love, encouragement, and prayers.**

Minister: Let us together say what we believe:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayer

Lord, our God, we thank you for your Word and Spirit through which we know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. May these who confessed your name today never cease to wonder at what you have done for them. Help them to continue firmly in the faith, to bear witness to your love, and to let the Holy Spirit shape their lives. Take them, good Shepherd, into your care that they may loyally endure opposition in serving you.

May we, with all your children, live together in the joy and power of your Holy Spirit. We ask this, Lord Jesus, in the hope of your coming. Amen.