

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

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You wouldn't ask your barber how to do electrical work in your house. You wouldn't ask your dentist how to lay hardwood floors. But there is a chance that your barber might have been trained in electrical work and he might know something about it. Or your dentist might have worked on flooring while in dental school. But when it comes to fixing the problem of your soul...you absolutely should not go to any man or any false religious teacher, because there is no chance he is able to fix the problem of your soul. Jesus was the Creator of your body and soul, only **he has the knowledge and ability to renovate your body and soul**. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Your Deliverer had to **be a Pure Person**

Your Deliverer had to **a Powerful God**.

Our goals are: That you will remember that the **only one person in existence in heaven and on earth that was qualified to die for you**, did so, and you must therefore **serve him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength**.

Your Deliverer had to be a Pure Person

15 Q. WHAT KIND OF MEDIATOR (中保) AND DELIVERER (拯救者) 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 (正义) demands it: man has sinned, **man must pay for his sin**, but a sinner cannot pay for others.

1. None of the many sacrifices in the OT that the Jews performed could take away the penalty for sins.

There were burnt offerings (燔祭), sin offerings (赎罪祭), trespass offerings (赎愆祭), peace offering (平安祭), and grain offerings (素祭). **These offerings pointed out different aspects of the work of Jesus**— and so they had to be perfect—not old, not ceremonially unclean, and not sickly nor spotted. But of themselves, these sacrifices were ineffective to remove sins— **unless the offerer saw Christ through them**.

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.**

2. Why couldn't animals take away sins? God is a just God, so he required that if man sinned, only a man could take his punishment. God would not accept animals, 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.

3. The Bible confirms Jesus was a real human, with real human lineage (血统). David was our Savior's **father from his mother's and father's sides**. You can read the accounts in Matthew and Luke's Gospel.

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**,

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

1 Corinthians 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 (赎价)** 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 (挽回祭) 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.

We therefore reject many heresies (异端学说) ...including Eutychianism, which mingles the human and

Divine natures of Jesus.

5. But Jesus was much more than truly human. He was a truly perfect human – free of all human defects– like the Old Testament sacrifices had to be perfectly pure, spotless and not handicapped 残疾的.

You see, God could not accept a man with his own sins to die for a man with sins. A man could only die for his own sins. It is true, that a man may die for another man – like a security detail might take a bullet to protect the life of PM Trudeau, but that man who might give his life for the Prime Minister 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.

6. The Bible confirms that Jesus was perfectly pure. The Old Testament predicted he would be pure and the New Testament confirmed that he was pure.

Seven hundred fifty years before Jesus was born Isaiah predicted his purity – purity that qualified him to be a sacrifice for sinners.

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.**

The Apostle Paul confirmed that Jesus lived a pure life.

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 (无玷污的) – 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 (代求) 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.

Your Deliverer had to be a Powerful Person

17 Q. WHY MUST HE ALSO BE TRUE GOD?

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

1. While Jesus had to be truly man, and truly pure, these 2 things of themselves would not have qualified him to be the Savior of the world. Being this way might easily qualify him for most positions in human society, but not in a heavenly society. By only being a pure man, he would have only qualified him to be the Savior of **just one man**.

2. So Jesus had to be great enough and powerful enough in order that his death would be sufficient for all those his Father had given to him. And he was. He was a perfectly pure human, and he was 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 and his descendants 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! You receive this great thing for which you did not work...and for what you could not pay.

3. Look at how the fact and the necessity of Christ Deity – showing his greatness- is confirmed in the Bible. The honest Jew would be able to look at these verses and recognize it as the truth.

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.”

4. Some try to rob Christ of his Deity by saying that people have different names in which “God” is included, but they are not God. They might say for instance, “Joshua” means “God saves.” But Joshua is not God.” So they argue: “Immanuel is only a name that includes God.” But people who make these types of conclusion **ignore other clearer passages.** For instance, this same Child of the virgin would be called “Mighty God” who would save his people.

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.

No other person in the Bible is every called Mighty God. If Jesus weren’t “Mighty God” then it would have been blasphemy (褻瀆) to write that. He is the true “Mighty God” who would be from the throne of his father David, and to him the nations of the world would bow in submission. All nations would bow in submission **because he redeemed the world from sin and misery.**

This doctrine denies the heresy of Arius (Arianism) which denies the Deity of Jesus, and the heresy of Jehovah’s Witnesses. **Those who deny the Deity of Jesus will go to hell.**

5. 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.

John 1:10 He was in the world, **and the world was made through Him...**

What a beautiful Savior: Son of God and Son of Man. Who could be greater than the Creator?

6. These 2 things qualified Jesus to be that perfect Mediator, and you desperately needed a Mediator – to make peace between God and man. Consider Job’s plea...his utter helplessness before God...

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.

The only one that could stand before the Father on your behalf is Jesus Christ. Praise God he did.

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). Further, Jesus had to be powerful, powerful enough to die for the sins of the whole world. **He was true God.** There was none greater.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. It is Christ or death. If you had no Christ, it wouldn’t have mattered how good you were, you would have gone to hell. It is plain and simple as that...and that death would have been eternal separation from God with an eternally guilty conscience – that undying worm!

2. 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. He saves, he sanctifies, and he secures. This love will give you the strength and courage to keep on fighting sin.

3. Do you realize that every Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and atheist (无神论者), regardless of how good he is, will go to hell. You have to tell him of this...that he may hear and be saved!

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, 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.