

THE JESUS THEY KNEW
Acts 3:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Though the crowds followed Jesus everywhere, they did not really know Him. (Matt. 19.22; Luke 14.26; John 6.60,66)
2. **JOHN 6.69:** *“Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
3. Because of the Jesus they knew, the apostles preached Jesus *“that you also may have fellowship with us”* (1 John 1.3).

I. THE PRINCE OF LIFE

- A. **ACTS 3.15:** *“and killed the Prince of life”*
1. Prince (archegon): Literally, origin, beginning. Jesus is the origin and source of life. (Acts 5.31; Heb. 12.2)
 2. They took the life of He who gives life. (Acts 3.14,15)
- B. Jesus is the origin of life in three ways.
1. He is the origin of physical life. (John 1.1-3; 1 Cor. 8.6)
 2. He is the origin of spiritual life. (John 10.10; cf. 11.44)
 3. He is the origin of eternal life. (John 11.25,26; 5.29)

II. THE CHRIST

- A. **ACTS 3.18:** *“that the Christ would suffer”*
1. Christ literally means “anointed one” (John 1.41)
 2. Peter uses the scriptures to show Jesus is the Messiah of the Old Testament prophecies. (Acts 3.18-21)
- B. Jesus is prophet, priest, and king. (Heb. 3.1; John 18.37)

III. A PROPHET

- A. **ACTS 3.22:** *“The LORD...will raise up... a Prophet”*
1. What is a prophet? (cf. Ex. 4.15,16; 7.1; 2 Pet. 1.20,21)
 2. Jesus speaks for God. (John 14.24; Heb. 1.1,2)
- B. If Jesus is the spokesman for God...
1. We must listen to Him. (Acts 3.22)
 2. There are consequences for choosing not to listen to Him. (Acts 3.23; Heb. 2.3)

CONCLUSION: You can know Jesus!

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 12, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

BAD COMPANY

The Corinthian church faced many issues that created division. One such issue concerned the resurrection of Christ. Some had been teaching that there was no resurrection, and their teachings were convincing many of the brethren. Therefore in a series of arguments establishing the fact of the resurrection, Paul warns, *“Do not be deceived, evil company corrupts good habits”* (1 Cor. 15.33).

Hanging out with the wrong crowd and associating with the immoral is the cause of many good people making bad choices. When the good and upright stray from good morals, it is almost always because of the influence of their friends. No wonder Paul warned to *“not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers...”* (2 Cor. 6.14). Christians cannot avoid the company of the world (1 Cor. 5.10). We are not commanded to avoid the company of the worldly (1 Cor. 7.12,13; 10.27). We must see the difference between having a friend that is of the world and being under the influence of a friend who is of the world.

The world needs us to be a light (Matt. 5.13-16). We need to be a positive influence to those around us. However, if friendships are pressuring us to compromise our good habits, then we must *“come out from among them and be separate”* (2 Cor. 6.17).

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INTRODUCTION:

1. Having spent three years with Jesus, the apostles came to know Him very well. (1 John 1.1.2; cf. Matt. 11.19; John 6.69)
2. Knowing the heart of Jesus moved the apostles to preach Him to the world, *“that you may also have fellowship”* (1 John 1.3)
3. Who is this Jesus whom that Peter preached?

I. THE SERVANT OF GOD

- A. **ACTS 3.13:** *“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus”* (v. 26).
 1. Servant (paida): It carries both the meaning of a child as well as a slave. (cf. Matt. 20.28)
 2. Jesus was the Son of God who came to do the will of God as a servant. (Phil. 2.7)
- B. Jesus was the Servant in three ways.
 1. He was the Servant of God. (Acts 3.13,26; Luke 2.44)
 2. As a Servant, Jesus came for the specific purpose of offering His body for sin. (Acts 3.18; Heb. 10.5-7)
 3. Everything that Jesus came to do for God was for our benefit. (Acts 3.26)

II. THE JUST AND HOLY ONE

- A. Jesus is the Holy One.
 1. **ACTS 3.14:** *“But you denied the Holy One”*
 2. Three times inspiration refers to Jesus as the Holy One. (Acts 2.27; Luke 1.35; 1 John 2.20)
 3. Holy (hagios): Literally, separated. As the Holy One, Jesus was separated from sin. (Heb. 4.12)
- B. Jesus is the Just One.
 1. **ACTS 3.14:** *“But you denied...the Just”*
 2. Some declare themselves as righteous based on their own definitions. (Rom. 10.3; Job 35.2; 40.8)
 3. Jesus is truly righteous as One who always did everything that God wanted Him to do. (Rom. 5.17,18)
 4. Because Jesus is righteous, we have been gifted with being right with God. (Rom. 5.19)

CONCLUSION: Do you know Jesus?

DOES ARROGANCE MAKE SENSE?

It is one of the three avenues of temptation (1 John 2.16). It was where the serpent started when he approached Eve. He told her that by eating the forbidden fruit, *“you will be like God knowing good and evil”* (Gen. 3.4). It was the same approach the devil used with Jesus. Twice, the devil said to Jesus, *“If You are the Son of God...”* (Matt. 4.3,6).

In the book of Job, three of his friends argue that Job is suffering as a direct result of his sin. They contend that God is righteous and would never bring such suffering on someone unless they deserved it. They declared, *“Is not your wickedness great and your iniquity without end?”* (Job 22.5). Yet Job insisted that he was innocent and did not deserve what God had done to him. He complains to God, *“But You have been cruel to me. With the strength of Your hand, You have opposed me”* (Job 30.21).

After his lengthy exchange between Job and his three friends, a fourth man steps up to speak. He is a younger man named Elihu. He is angry at Job for his self-righteousness and at his three friends for their accusations against Job without evidence (Job 32.1-3). In his long speech, he condemned Job for condemning God’s treatment of him. In essence, he tells Job that he does not have the right to challenge God. *“In this you are not righteous...for God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him?”* (Job 33.12). Later, he asked Job, *“Do you think this is right? Do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s?’”* (Job 35.2).

After Elihu had his say, God makes an appearance and says in essence, *“Who do you think you are judging Me?”* With great sarcasm, God asks Job, *“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth...? Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!”* (Job 38.4,5). He asks, *“Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of years of your days is great?”* (Job 38.21).

The application of this beautiful book should be obvious. It is the height of arrogance to declare what we believe as right in contrast to what God says is right. We declare that certain behaviors and lifestyles are right when God has clearly condemned them. We say that God is wrong, and we are right. And yet God says to us, *“Who do you think you are?”* How does it make sense for the created ones to say to the Creator, *“You are wrong, and I am right”*?

Only God has the right to decide what is right. He has written it in a book. Micah writes, *“He has shown you what is good”* (Micah 6.8). The Bible is how we *“discern both good and evil”* (Heb. 5.14). We have no right to decide what is right. We can only read about what God had decided, and then abide by His word. CLP