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THE UNIQUE CHRIST

Many people ask, "Why do you make so much of Jesus Christ?" Others say, "Well, we know something about Christ, but who is Christ? Why do you say, you must believe in Christ, you must accept Christ, you must receive Christ, you must trust Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour?" Why does the real Christian say that? H.G.Wells, the great British historian, said at one time, "The Lord Jesus Christ is the most unique Person in the whole of history".

Concerning most men we speak of their origin and birth: that was not the same with the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, that was Incarnation. All things were created by Him. The Lord Jesus Christ existed before the world was ever created. And when Christ was born, it was the most extraordinary birth. The angels from heaven, the shepherds (Luke 2:8-12) and the wise men from the East (Matt.2:1,2) witnessed and spake of it; He was virgin-born. He was God coming to earth.

Why did God come to the earth? One day a man of God was walking on a road. Ahead of him another man stepped on an ant-hill and killed and wounded a lot of ants and said, "I wish I could get down to these poor ants and tell them I love and sympathize with them. I would love to build an ant- hospital. I would gladly go down and re-build their house, but for one thing, I am too big, and for another, they would not understand my language and I cannot talk to them". He stood helpless. God looked down

from heaven; He saw the grief's and troubles in the world; the distress of people, their sins and wickedness, their wars and strife's, their jealousy and their prejudice, their pride and discriminations, their fighting, their stealing, lying and cheating, bribery and corruption, generation after generation. God looking down said, "I want to go down and tell them that I love them and want to help them" (John 3:16; Matt.11:28). Since with God nothing is impossible, He did it by becoming a Man. The Lord Jesus Christ was God (He became a man). God Incarnate!

How did God become man? Every day you eat food, but you do not understand the process of digestion. We have Radio and Television. We do not understand them. So also, I do not understand how God became man, but I believe it. Not only was the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ unique, but also His life. He never wrote a book, but more books have been written about Him than any other person in this world. Nobody can understand His love, His tenderness, His compassion. He never performed any miracle for Himself, it was always for someone else. He taught the world to love and to be selfless. He went about doing only good. He made the blind to see, the dumb to speak and the lame to walk. He raised the dead to life again. At His death He prayed for those who crucified Him, "Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was the most extraordinary death that man ever died. The Gospels tell us of His

wonderful life and death. One third of the Gospel of Matthew, one third of Mark, one fourth of Luke, and half of John tell us of His death, because when the Lord Jesus died, He died for a specific purpose. He did not die by accident, He did not die as a martyr. He died by purpose and desire. He said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..." (John 10: 17, 18). Yes, He came for a specific purpose from Heaven-to die on the Cross and to shed His precious blood for the remission of the sins of the world.

The trouble with the world today has nothing to do with economics or politics, nor yet with the atom or hydrogen bombs. The trouble with the world is that man has a desire. You see, God made you more than a body with eyes, nose, ears etc; God gave you a soul, an everlasting soul which will live for ever and ever. You have no choice. You may like it or not. Your body will die, but your soul will live on forever. Your soul is that part of you which has a conscience, intelligence and memory . Your soul is the real you. The Bible teaches that the soul has desires which make people to lie, cheat, steal and hate, discriminate, fight and be treacherous. When you get a group of people with all these desires out of control in their lives, then they explode into war. Nations rise up against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms-and you are in a world war. All the wars in history have been caused by this ruling principle of sin (James 4:1,2). That is the problem with the world today. We still have this basic problem, why? Because from the heart and human nature come all the problems of the world, and that is why the Lord Jesus came into the world. He wanted to do something about this desire called SIN, this guilt and rebellion against God.

Yes, the death of Christ is very different and unique from all other deaths. When He died even the soldiers had to confess that He was the Son of God. Judas His disciple who betrayed Him said, "He was

innocent". Even Pilate, who judged Him said, "I find in Him no fault at all". There has never been a death in history like that, for He died, not to stay in the grave. On the third day He arose, and the grave was empty. Thereafter during forty days, He appeared ten times to different people speaking of the coming Kingdom of God on this earth, which He will establish when He comes again the second time. He ascended to heaven after those forty days in the presence of witnesses and is coming back at any time now -then only the world will have peace. He is the Prince of peace. Now listen. What are you going to do about this Lord Jesus Christ? There are four roads open to you.

1. You can make fun of Him and scorn Him, and say that you will have nothing to do with Him.
2. You can neglect Him, you can put Him off, you are convinced that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Saviour, but you are just going to go on in your own ways.
3. You can reject Him.
4. You can receive Him now. Then He too will receive you, pardon and cleanse you from all your sins and will come and dwell in you and fill your soul with eternal love and heavenly peace. Amen.

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Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the merciful and mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. According to His abundant mercy God hath begotten us to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Though for a season we may be in heaviness through manifold temptations -the trial of our faith, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. May we love

Him and rejoice in Him with joy unspeakable and full of glory, awaiting His glorious appearing (1Pet. 1: 3,6-8).

"Lovest thou me?" (John 21: 17), was the theme verse for the Youth Camp held at Hebron from 22nd May till the Lord's day, May 27th. The church as a whole including the youth workers and counselors and other helpers are thankful for your prayers. The Lord enabled them to cater to the many-sided needs of such a camp, which registered about 3500 participants drawn from various parts of Andhra Pradesh and small numbers from Karnataka and Goa, besides North India. More than seven hundred professed faith in the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour and about 140 testified in baptism, brothers and sisters almost in equal number. It has been our endeavour to baptise only those who have no convenient assembly affiliation or local church to testify to the Lord, in this counsel of His. The Gospel procession and the testimony gatherings towards the closing day were heartening and inspiring to many.

Bro. Paul Sudhakar took the Bible studies in the mornings under the following headings- **1. Love's Source** (Jer.31: 3). God's love is everlasting, unchanging and pursues fallen humanity with this love to redeem them. So the Cross shows us what true love is. We love Him because He first loved us and gave Himself for our sins (1 John 4:19; Gal.1: 4; Rev.1: 5,6). **2. Love's Sacrifice**. "But God commendeth his love" (Rom.5:8). The word BUT spans the gap between man's depravity and God's riches in Christ. God showed unique love because, the cost was high and His Son paid the price with His own blood. The recipients are unworthy. Christ died while we were yet sinners. The plan of redemption begins with forgiveness (Eph.1: 7), and follows on to freedom, fellowship with God, unto the fulness of God (Eph.3: 19). **3. Love's Sorrow**. "She loved much" (Luke 7:47). In response to divine love we must show forth true love to Him. She came with penitence and tears; washed His feet, anointed His feet, kissed His feet

and publicly demonstrated her love for Christ, born out of gratitude. **4. Love's Submission**. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John14:15). The Christian obeys his Master not out of compulsion but out of devotion. Submission should be characterised by four factors; Daily (Luke 9:23); Detailed (Psalm 37:23; 119:133); Diligent-Wholly (Matt.25:11 ;Heb.12:17); Delightful, love-prompted service (Exo.21:5). **5. Love's Steadfastness**. "...she (Ruth) was steadfastly minded to go with her (Naomi)" (Ruth1: 18). If we sicken to the rejected Saviour and Master we will sit with Him, walk with Him and reign with Him (Rev.20:4,6). **6. Love's Separation**. "...Take now thy son, ...whom thou lovest...and offer him there for a burnt offering" (Gen.22: 2). Abraham went through many a separation from the day of divine call by the God of Glory, until at Moriah he came to separation from even Isaac, whom he loved most. Love for God Jehovah was supreme, and very few of us have attained to this grade of love for the Giver than the gift. **7. Love's Service**. "Lovest thou me?" (John 21: 15). Matthew, Mark and Luke end with preaching the Gospel. John ends his Gospel with, "feeding the flock" as spoken to Peter. Both must go hand in hand. Such ministry is going to be self-giving and sacrificial, following Him all the way to Calvary, to reach Easter's resurrection and fulness of Pentecost. The Lord bring us to the reality and actuality of this love and help us to serve Him, the byproduct of His love for us-love everlasting.

Bro. Theodore took the evening ministry, which was Gospel-centered bringing many to conviction and confession with repentance. So pray for such who took a decision to follow Christ, with forgiveness and fellowship, in His fear (Psalm 130:3,4). The servants of God with other senior brothers helped in the ministry of baptism and the laying on of hands. Let us also remember to thank the Lord for all who had the heavy responsibility of preparing and serving food. The Lord may help us all to

serve Him in any capacity, seen or unseen, known or unknown, to receive His reward at His coming and not of men. As the song goes, "Love and serve Him from your heart...Glorify His Name...Worship and adore Him, ...King of kings and Lord of lords". Love for Him is poured in worship first, followed by sacrificial service. The Lord write this word upon our hearts.

Bro.J.C.Rao from Delhi shared the word for the Lord's day of the Camp, the various facets of love for the Lord. Love for His House and Habitation was one amongst them challenging us all as we read in Psalm 26:8. This was a favorite verse falling from the lips of our beloved Bro.Bakht Singh again and again, written in the entrance of the Hebron Hall, as it was the message of the dedication of the same in 1959. The Lord help us all to love His Habitation, the place where His honour dwelleth. This means our willingness to forsake every hidden craving deep within us seeking some honour for ourselves even in His service. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "I receive not honour from men...How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:41,44). If at the end of a joint meeting and ministry in the House of God we feel hurt that we have not been honoured for all our labours or sacrifices of time, treasure and talent we put into -although we may not express it-then, we have not attained to that level of love to which the Lord was calling Peter to fulfill his ministry and follow on. The Lord help us to honour Him and He will honour us in due course (1 Sam.2: 30), and keep us in transparency and sincerity to reflect Christ our one Master, Whom we love and in Whom we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory .Let Him be our goal, while the honour He gives, only secondary.

Bro.J.C.Rao with a company of brothers is going on a Gospel Campaign God willing from Delhi to Kothwar, on 6th and 7th June, and Pauri Gharawal from 8th to 10th June. These are at the foot of the Himalayas,

scattered small homes of certain tribes of which many have not heard the Gospel.

Sis.Mary from Anantapur, who served the Lord in Hebron from 1982, was called to Glory on 24th May near Anantapur. She rests from her labours (Rev. 14: 13). Please pray for the comfort of her brothers and sisters.

Praying that we may not fall from our first love in our following the Lord, Who alone is able to work all things together for our good and for His glory, to them who love Him and are called according to His own purpose, given us in Him from before the foundation of the world,

Rom. 8: 28,29	I remain,
2 Tim. 1: 9	yours in His grace
James 2: 5;	K.PHILLIP
John 14: 21, 23	

PUT AWAY THE STRANGE GODS -4 BAKHT SINGH

The enemy has gained entrance into many believing homes through fear, and as a result the influence of worldly associations and friendships has brought ruin upon them. Jacob was tempted to settle down at Shechem. Having fled from Laban, he now wanted to live in peace at Shechem. But God told him that that was not the place of his rest. Even though Shechem appeared to be a wealthy and comfortable place, God told him to leave it and go to Bethel. Jacob obeyed and put away all the strange gods in his household. That was why God made His terror to fall upon all the people round about Jacob. No one dared to do him any harm. When we faithfully obey the Lord, He will watch over us and bless us.

There are several reasons for which people keep away from the House of God. Some keep away for the sake of their business. Their argument is that because they have more children they need to earn more money to feed, clothe and educate them. Besides keeping away from the House of God, they also cut down their time of prayer and devotion. At one time they might have taken part very happily in the service of

the House of God. But now something has happened, and some strange god has come into their heart. In this way, they have brought upon themselves not gain, but loss. Naomi thought that by going away from Bethlehem she would get more food and be happy. Instead of that she lost her husband and two sons. It was only when she came back to Bethlehem, the house of bread, that she was blessed again. Away from Bethlehem she fell into sorrow and worry; but when she came back to Bethlehem she became the happy grandmother of Obed and the blessed great grand mother of David, the king of Israel. So do not let your worldly wisdom keep you away from the House of God. However busy your life may be, God has the first claim over you.

As Jacob journeyed towards Bethel, God appeared to him and spoke to him. "And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee" (Gen.32:9). What a great privilege it is to hear God's voice! It was as if God was saying, because Jacob had put away all the strange gods in his household He was pleased with him and was able to love him and speak to him freely. Now God was able to bless him fully and fulfill all that He had promised some years ago. "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places

whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen.28: 15).

Most of us have received promises from God's Word at different times: on a New Year's Day or on a birthday, or on some other special occasion. But perhaps you feel that in your case God has not fulfilled His promises. It is quite possible that your case is just like Jacob's: firstly, there might be some strange god in your life, and secondly, you might be still far away from Bethel. Do not be satisfied with the fact that you have received many blessings in the past. It was so with Jacob; he had received many blessings already, but God wanted to give him much more. "And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it" (Gen.28:10-12).

(To be contd.)