

Jesus Christ: The One and Only (Part 5)
1 Timothy 3:16

Introduction:

- God’s incredible gospel plan revolves around and centers in one person – Jesus Christ. We have been learning six incredible truths about Jesus Christ from 1 Timothy 3:16. Let’s continue.

“...received up into glory.”

1. The apostle Paul taught that we no longer know Christ after the flesh (2 Corinthians 5:16). Why is this? Because as this verse before us states, He was “*received up into glory.*”
2. You see, the story of Christ didn’t end with the resurrection. If it would have ended there, Christ would still be walking around on this earth in His resurrection body. Paul says we no longer know him after the flesh. What happened? Where did He go?
3. Christ was received up into glory. cf. Acts 1:9-11
 - “*received up*” – This refers to His physical, bodily ascension into heaven. Right before this, Jesus had showed the disciples His hands and feet, flesh and bones, and had eaten with them (Luke 24:38-43). Christ’s ascension was not simply a spiritual ascension of His soul and spirit, but He physically and bodily ascended from earth to heaven.
 - “*into glory*” – This is a reference to His exaltation by which Christ was given the position of honor and power at the Father’s right hand. Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-22
4. Christ has been given a position of exaltation, and because of this we have received some wonderful blessings.

Because He is exalted, we can receive the forgiveness of sins.

- Hebrews 10:12 teaches that Christ offered Himself as a once-for-all sacrifice for sins, and then He sat down at the right hand of the Father.
- When Jesus sat down in His exalted position, this spoke of the fact that the work of redemption was complete and finished. He sat down. Why? The work was done!
- In Ephesians 1:20-23, we saw Christ’s exaltation in heavenly places. Notice the earthly result of this in 2:1. “*And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.*” cf. Ephesians 1:7
- Because His work was complete on the cross, He was exalted and is now offering total and complete forgiveness of sins to any person on earth who will trust Him.

Because He is exalted, we can now be made one with Jesus Christ.

- In Ephesians 1:20-21, we see Christ’s exaltation, but then it declares, “*...and gave him [Christ] to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body...*” vs. 22-23
- In His exaltation, Christ was given the position of being head over a new creation called the church, the body of Christ. This new organism is being formed today and is composed of all believers in Christ.

- He is the Head, and we are His body. We are made one with Jesus Christ!
Ephesians 5:30-32
- When He ascended to heaven and was exalted, Christ sent back His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). Later the apostle Paul revealed that the moment a sinner trusts Christ, the Holy Spirit enters into his spirit and brings that person into oneness with Christ.
Ephesians 1:12-14

Because He is exalted, we now have an intercessor to God the Father.

- An intercessor is a go-between, also called a mediator. Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5
 - When writing to Hebrew believers, the term “*high priest*” is used. Again, the idea is that of a mediator or intercessor.
 - Jesus Christ literally sits in His exalted position in heaven and intercedes for us and pleads our case. The devil is called the great accuser of the brethren, but we have an advocate, a mediator who intercedes on our behalf. Romans 8:33-39
 - Our intercessor is powerful (Ephesians 1:20-23), yet merciful and compassionate. Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16
 - Even that human nature which He took of the virgin Mary was raised not only from the grave, but taken up into glory. Jesus Christ in His human nature ever appears before the throne as our sacrifice and as our mediator.
 - Christ brought back to the right hand of the Majesty on High His glorified humanity; therefore He can understand what we go through as humans (tears, sorrow, temptation, rejection, trials, etc.).
5. There are some other ramifications of His exaltation that do not directly affect us, but nevertheless are very true. Just as His exaltation insures blessings to believers in this dispensation, His exaltation also insures judgment and wrath to unbelievers in the future.
6. If Christ was **not** exalted far above all principality and power, then this would mean that He is **not** Lord. Unbelievers could continue to scoff and mock the name of Christ with no fear whatsoever of retribution.
7. But the Bible teaches that He is, in fact, exalted at the right hand of the Father. He is exalted far above all. He has a name which is above every name, and that name is “*Lord*.” He is Lord of all! Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3-4; 1 Peter 3:22
- Those who have cursed the name of Jesus Christ, those who have ridiculed Him, those who have denied Him, they will bow and with their tongue confess that He is Lord, He is supreme, He is preeminent, He is the way, the truth, and the life!
 - There will be no arguments, no discussion, no debates, just a simple confession. Jesus was right and I was wrong. He is Lord of all!
 - Christ is exalted, and because of this, there is an appointed day of judgment (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5). It is called the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.
 - Every person who has ever lived will have to stand before Christ, give account for their lives, bow before Him, and confess that He is Lord.
 - Unfortunately, this confession will not gain for them eternal life. They made their choice while living on earth to either accept or reject what God’s Word clearly said. A person’s eternal fate is settled by their decision on earth.
 - The small and great will stand before Christ and the bow in reverence. Every movie star that cursed His lovely name on a movie screen, every sports star, every

powerful politician, every wealthy businessman – no person will escape this judgment. Christ's exaltation guarantees this.

In Conclusion:

1. The church is built upon the truth of Jesus Christ. We are the pillar and ground of the truth, and the Bible teaches that Jesus is truth!
2. You have probably heard it said, "All roads lead to the same God, and all religions worship the same God in different ways."
3. One illustration was made popular a few years ago by a Buddhist parable. Men who were blind from birth were gathered together in a room with an elephant. Each man was led to a different part of the elephant. One felt the head, one the legs, tail, ears, trunk, etc. Afterward they were asked, "What is an elephant"? They began arguing when one claimed it was a plowshare, or a tree trunk, a brush, etc. The conclusion is that they all saw one part of the greater whole. In other words, we who argue about truth are arguing about the same god that has been revealed to us in different ways.
4. It is a very clever parable but holds one truth that I'm sure the author did not intend. Each one of these men was blind and each one was wrong. Until God reveals who He is, we all grope around in the darkness, vainly searching for some semblance of truth. As long as we are blind, we remain in the darkness, and what seems true is complete error.
5. In Christianity God reveals Himself to us (through His Word and His Son), and we receive His truth and experience a relationship with Him. In world religions, man seeks his own truth and creates his own god. He may call the thing he worships a god, but that does not make it God. The Bible gives concrete points of reference that place it squarely in contradiction with all world religions. Two contradicting points cannot be one in truth.
6. This is why Buddha cannot forgive sins, nor can Mohammad, Gandhi, the pope, or any other religious leader. A religious leader can't forgive sins because he too is in debt to sin. You can pay the penalty of your sins by entering into God's judgment, but you can never satisfy the debt. Without anything to pay, how can we ever get out of debt? I can't. Only Jesus Christ can pay the penalty of my sin.