

Does He Mean This Much to You?

Some people never grow too old, or too tired; nor do they live too far from the meeting house to be present for every service. The weather never gets too hot, or too cold, as long as travel is possible. It is never too dry, never too wet, but that some people make arrangements to be at worship.

Do you think it is strange that people should act that way? Not at all. They attend services because of their relation to Christ. To them He is more than life or death, joys or sorrows; more than earthly comfort, entertainment or earthly gain. Christ is their all in all.

Such people do not have to tell their neighbors how much they love the Lord. Everyone knows that they do by the way they live. The apostle Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21) "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of Him who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

-via Old Paths II, Jamestown, IN

The Genealogy of Christ

As the Jews questioned the Deity of Christ, Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39). Many Old Testament promises find their fulfillment in the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38). Let us notice a few of the great truths we can find in the genealogy of our Lord.

1. It proves Christ is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Through the fleshly seed of Abraham, all nations of the earth were going to be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3; cf. Galatians 3:15-29). The Messiah was not just to be a descendant of Abraham, but would also be a descendant of Isaac (Genesis 21:12), Jacob (Genesis 28:13,14), Judah (Genesis 49:10), Jesse (Isaiah 11:1,10), and David (2 Samuel 7:12-16). Matthew starts off his record by giving us "the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

2. It proves Christ's right to sit on the throne of David. Jacob said, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes" (Genesis 49:10). Shiloh, "the bringer of peace," is none other than Jesus. The angel Gabriel told Mary "the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32). In the first gospel sermon preached in the name of our risen Lord, Peter referred to David and said, "being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:30). Christ has been raised from the grave and now sits on the throne of His Father (Revelation 3:21).

3. It proves Christ's throne would not be on this earth. When God pronounced a curse upon Jeconiah (also known as Coniah), He said "none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah" (Jeremiah 22:30). Since Christ is a descendant of Jeconiah (Matthew 1:12), He cannot rule in the land of Judah. The throne of Christ is in heaven (Hebrews 8:1). Christ is also a priest on His throne (Zechariah 6:13; Hebrews 7:17).

4. It shows the importance of the Gentiles. In Matthew 1:5 we read, "Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth." Rahab had been a heathen prostitute in Jericho (Joshua 2:1). Ruth was a heathen woman from the land of Moab; she became an ancestor of King David and Jesus.

5. It proves there can never be another Messiah. At the destruction of Jerusalem, the Roman army destroyed all of the birth records of the Jewish people. Since the genealogy of the Messiah would be needed to prove His right to sit on the throne of David, there can never be another Messiah.

Simeon was a just man who "waited for the Consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25). "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). When Mary and Joseph brought our Lord into the temple after His birth, Simeon picked up Jesus and said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

-by David Padfield

32,850 Sermons Later

Several years ago' a reader of The British Weekly wrote this provocative letter to the editor:

"Dear Sir:

It seems ministers feel their sermons are very important and spend a great deal of time preparing them. I have been attending a church service quite regularly for the past 30 years and I have probably heard 3,000 of them. To my consternation, I discovered that I cannot remember a single sermon. I wonder if a minister's time might be more profitably spent on something else?"

For weeks a real storm of editorial responses ensued. The uproar finally was ended by this letter:

"Dear Sir:

I have been married for 30 years. During that time I have eaten 32,850 meals - mostly of my wife's cooking. Suddenly, I have discovered that I cannot remember the menu of a single meal. And yet, I received nourishment from every single one of them. I have the distinct impression that without them, I would have starved to death long ago."

- **selected**

Christians - Marry Christians!

One of the most important factors to be considered in choosing a marriage partner is whether or not that person is a faithful child of God. Through the years several studies have been conducted which tracked the results when chosen mates were Christians and when they were not. Statistics reported from two churches of Christ prove the point:

B Street church of Christ, Miami OK

-Christian to non-Christian

79 marriages

57 left faith

25 divorced

22 faithful

-Christian to Christian

64 marriages

5 left faith

2 divorced

59 faithful

Bridges Street church of Christ, Wynne AR

-Christian to non-Christian

76 marriages

61 left faith

23 divorced

15 faithful

-Christian to Christian

28 marriages

4 left faith

4 divorced

24 faithful

Common sense, practical experience, and the important principles taught in the word of God all point to the importance of Christians marrying Christians. Think!

- by *Greg Gwin*