

## Christ, Messiah, and the Gospel

### Commentary for June 1, 2023 — The Central Message of Christianity

The resurrection of Jesus is the proof of His being the Messiah (the Christ) of all Jews and Gentiles, and eventually every human being. This is the Gospel. This is the core message of Christianity. We begin in the "[June 2023 Newsletter](#)" that introduces the article this month, "**The Gospel of Messiah.**" This topic should not be controversial, but in today's world, there are many "Christian" books, novels, and movies that attempt to deflect, disrupt, distract, and dissuade believers from this basic truth. The Gospel of Messiah is about why Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ) promised in the Old Testament. He is the Messiah of all Israelites and the Messiah of all Gentiles. Every person who ever lived or will live shall recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

Of course, the *prima facie* evidence of the resurrection of Jesus is not possible in the present day. This is because none of us were or are eyewitnesses (yet) of His historical resurrection. We believe by faith that God gives us. We will not be direct eyewitnesses of the living Messiah until we are resurrected to glory. Then we shall be as He is today:

**"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is [now, at present]."**

• **1 John 3:2**

However, we do have in our possession the first person, eyewitness testimony of Matthew, Mark, and John in their Gospels, the first person testimony in the epistles of James, Peter, John (again), Jude, and the apostle Paul, as well as the other eyewitness accounts compiled by Luke in his Gospel and Acts, all based on the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and that He is Lord and Messiah.<sup>1</sup> "**Lord**" and "**Christ**" are linked in New Testament texts some 113 times. The apostle Paul makes precisely this point:

**"For to this end Christ [Messiah] both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be LORD both of the dead and living."**

• **Romans 14:9**

Those who oppose Jesus as the Messiah (as the Christ) MUST discredit the witnesses of Scripture because it is their only basis to deny the resurrection and to deny that Jesus is the Messiah. If they admit the witnesses told the truth, then they must admit to the truth of the resurrection, and they must also admit His Messiahship. The Messiah is the Ruler — their Ruler — and their Lord.

Those who deny the resurrection (in the hidden recesses of their soul) simply do not in any

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<sup>1</sup> Read Dr. Martin's presentation: "[Types of Messiah in the Old Testament](#)." You will learn what Israel in the 1<sup>st</sup> century should have known. There were many kinds of "messiahs" in the Old Testament. Then there was the expected Messiah that Jesus fulfilled perfectly.

way want to submit to Jesus as their Ruler, their Master, their Lord, their King, the Son of God — all summed up in the term “Messiah.” Many such people are all too willing to submit to the impersonal Law that brings death (Romans 7:5, 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:56), rather than the Lawgiver who brings life (Isaiah 33:22), the Lawgiver who Himself puts the Law to death (Romans 7:4, 6). Those who do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah are not free in their hearts, they are not free in their minds, and they are not free in their souls:

**“For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant [slave, in Greek], is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant [Messiah's slave].”**

• **1 Corinthians 7:22**

With the Law of God, you have nothing except death. With Jesus the resurrected Messiah, you have everything, and we will partake of the divine nature that Jesus has at present!

**“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for [the] Christ [the Messiah<sup>2</sup>]. I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ [the Messiah] Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ [Messiah], And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ [Messiah], the righteousness which is of God by faith.”**

• **Philippians 3:7–9**

**“Beware lest ANY MAN spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ [Messiah]. For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete in him [Messiah] ...”**

• **Colossians 2:8–10**

Those who believe that Jesus is Messiah shall willingly submit just as Paul explains:

**“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [Messiah], of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”**

• **Ephesians 3:14–15**

At a future moment, at the conclusion of the ages (Revelation 11:12) every intelligent being will submit and confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord:

**“Wherefore God also has highly exalted him [Jesus], and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [Messiah] is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

• **Philippians 2:9–11**

This is our legacy and the legacy of every person. As a believer, acknowledging Christ as Lord of your life is vital to your own peace of mind. It is a gift from God, not to be dismissed lightly (2 Corinthians 9:13–14), **“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift”** (verse 15).

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<sup>2</sup> The definite article is in the Greek text.