

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH
LESSON 4
THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST
Supplemental Class Notes

ROAD MAP

1. To present the person of Christ:

◆ As God

◆ As man

◆ As Lord and Savior

1. INTRODUCTION

A. THE NAMES AND TITLES OF CHRIST

The title Lord Jesus Christ:

Lord - title of honor; we are subject to Him (1 Corinthians 7:23; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:22)

Jesus - Greek word *Joshua*, meaning savior (Matthew 1:21)

Savior- Christ was God's Lamb (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)

Christ - means "Anointed one"; Messiah (John 1:41); the official title of our Savior

B. THE I AMs OF CHRIST

◆ I am gentle and humble in heart - Matthew 11:29

◆ I am the Son of God - Matthew 27:43

◆ I am with you always - Matthew 28:20

◆ I am the bread of life - John 6:35

◆ I am the light of the world - John 8:12

◆ I am not of this world - John 8:23

◆ I am the door - John 10:9

◆ I am the good shepherd - John 11:25

◆ I am the resurrection and the life - John 11:25

◆ I am the way, the truth, and the life - John 14:6

◆ I am the vine - John 15:5

- ◆ I am a king - John 18:37
- ◆ I am the Alpha and the Omega/Almighty - Revelation 1:8; 21:6
- ◆ I am the First and the Last, the living one, alive forever - Revelation 1:17-18
- ◆ I am He who searches the minds and hearts - Revelation 2:23
- ◆ I am coming quickly - Revelation 3:11
- ◆ I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star - Revelation 22:16
- ◆ I AM- John 8:58

2. THE GOD WHO BECAME MAN (section I)

A. THE INCARNATION

What is the “kenosis” (Philippians 2:6-8)

The term kenosis comes from the Greek word for the doctrine of Christ’s self-emptying in His incarnation. The kenosis was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity nor an exchange of deity for humanity.

Philippians 2:7 tells us that Jesus *“emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”* Jesus did not cease to be God during His earthly ministry.

But He did set aside His heavenly glory of a face-to-face relationship with God.

He also set aside His independent authority.

During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father.

As part of the kenosis, Jesus sometimes operated with the limitations of humanity (John 4:6; 19:28). God does not get tired or thirsty.

Matthew 24:36 tells us, *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

We might wonder if Jesus was God, how could He not know everything, as God does (Psalm 139:1-6)?

It seems that while Jesus was on earth, He surrendered the use of some of His divine attributes. Jesus was still perfectly holy, just, merciful, gracious, righteous, and loving - but to varying degrees Jesus was not omniscient or omnipotent.

However, when it comes to the kenosis, we often focus too much on what Jesus gave up. The kenosis also deals with what Christ took on. Jesus added to Himself a human nature and humbled Himself. Jesus went from being the glory of glories in Heaven to being a human being who was put to death on the cross.

Philippians 2:7-8 declares, *"taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"* In the ultimate act of humility, the God of the universe became a human being and died for His creation. The kenosis, therefore, is Christ taking on a human nature with all of its limitations, except with no sin.

CHRIST NEVER CEASED BEING DEITY - Colossians 2:9

CHRIST ADDED HUMANITY TO HIS DEITY - Matthew 17:1-8

CHRIST VOLUNTARILY SET ASIDE, OR EMPTIED, HIMSELF - Philippians 2:7

- Set aside His glory - John 17:5
- Set aside His independent authority - Philippians 2:7
- Set aside the open display of His divine attributes - Matthew 24:36
- Set aside His eternal riches - 2 Corinthians 8:9
- Set aside His face-to-face relationship with the Father - Matthew 27:46

IMPORTANT: As a result of His self-emptying or self-humbling, Christ took on the form of a bond-slave. This explains passages that people have problems with that imply that Christ is not God, such as:

- *"I can do nothing on My own initiative ... I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me"* (John 5:30).
- *"The Father is greater than I"* (John 14:28).

CHRIST HAD TO BE MAN, TO DIE IN MAN'S PLACE - Matthew 20:28

CHRIST HAD TO BE GOD, TO BE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE - Christ's sinlessness cannot be explained apart from His deity (Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-48).

3. THE MAN WHO IS GOD (section II)

A. THE DEITY OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATED IN HIS ATTRIBUTES (section II A)

B. THE DEITY OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATED THROUGH HIS TITLES (section II B)

C. STATEMENTS DECLARING THE DEITY OF CHRIST (section II C)

Thomas's testimony to Christ's deity - John 20:28-29

Christ as the only Sovereign, King of kings - 1 Timothy 6:14-16

Christ claimed to be God - John 10:31-33

4. THE CHRIST WHO IS SAVIOR (section III)

5. THE KING WHO COMES TO RULE (section IV)

A. THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Highly exalted - Philippians 2:9-10

At the right hand of the Father - Hebrews 1:3

B. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Coming in judgment - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

His glory revealed - Matthew 24:30

The power of Christ's second coming - Revelation 19:11-16