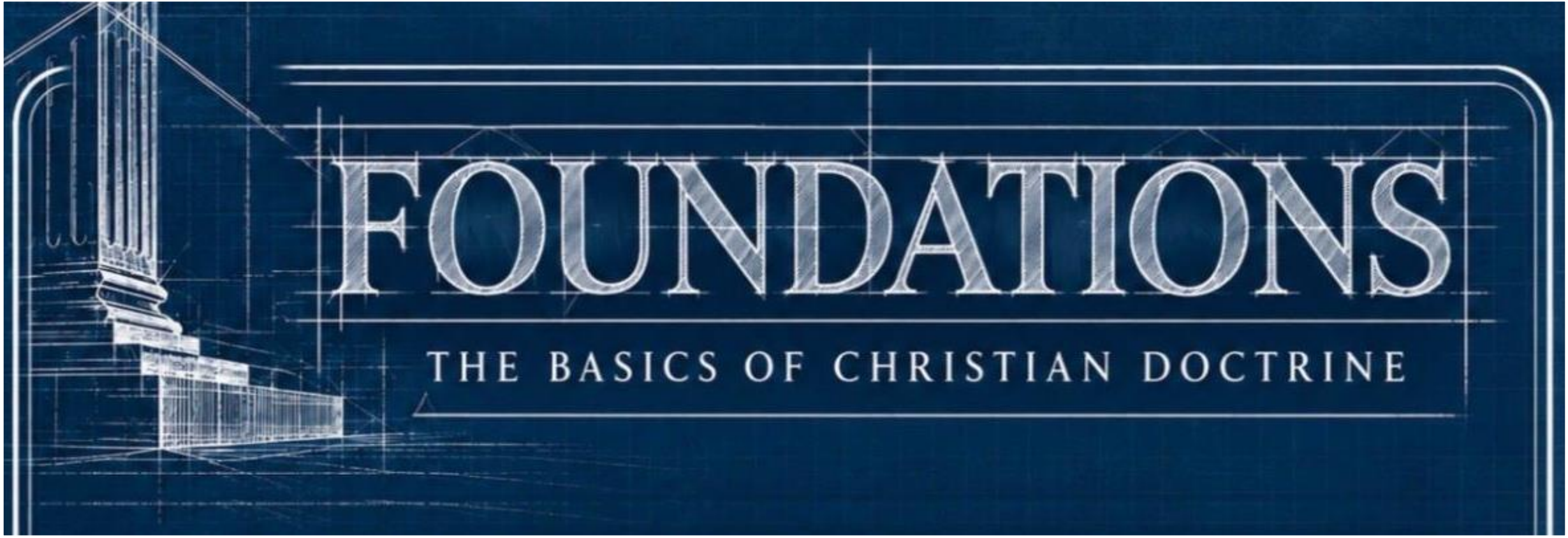




FOUNDATIONS

THE BASICS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Study Topics In This Study

Week 1: Bibliology

Week 2: The Trinity

Week 3: The Doctrine of Sin

Week 4: Christology

Week 5: Soteriology

Week 6: The Doctrine of the Church

Week 7: Eschatology

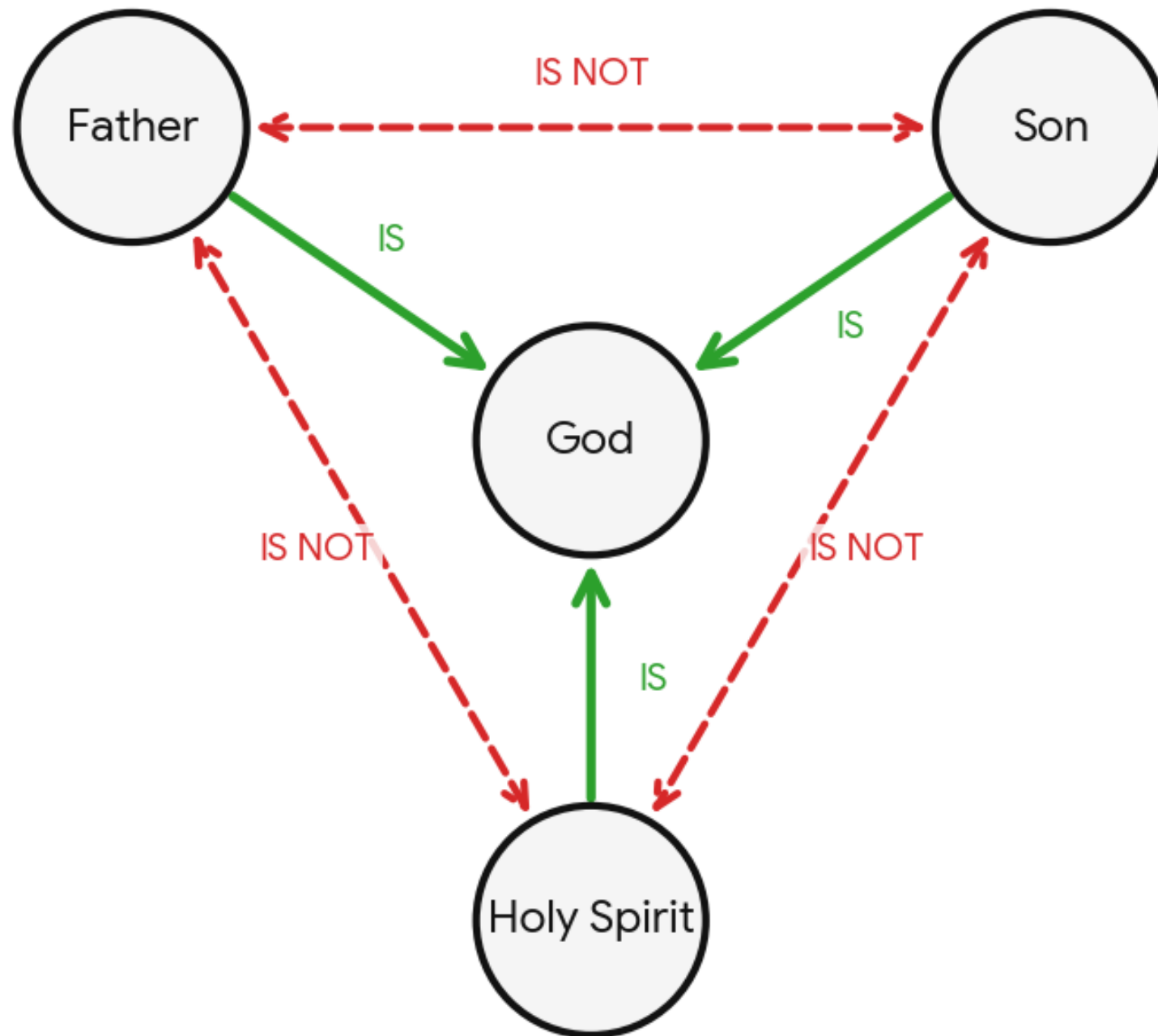
Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy... “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings** which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired** [θεόπνευστος *theopneustos*] **by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14–17

Why study the Bible?

- The goal of Bible study is not interpretation, but application.
- We seek obedience, not knowledge.
- The Lord (Yahweh) spoke to Joshua... “Only be strong and very courageous; **be careful to do** according to all the law [Torah] which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law [Torah] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may **be careful to do** according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” Joshua 1:7-8

The Trinity

God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.



The Doctrine of Sin

When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was **desirable** to make one wise, she **took** from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Genesis 3:6-7

Origin of sin

- The Bible lays the blame for the sin and death in the world on the first man, Adam.
- Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

Categories of Sin

- Sins of **Commission** - actively committing an evil act
- Sins of **Omission** - failing to do what is right

for all have **sinned** [*hamartia*
ἁμαρτία] and fall short of the glory
of God, Romans 3:23

For the wages of **sin** [*hamartia*
ἁμαρτία] is death, but the free gift
of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus
our Lord. Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet **sinners** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία], Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

How can my sins be forgiven?

and He Himself bore our **sins** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] in His body on the cross, so that we might die to **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Christology

- Christology is the study of the Doctrine of Jesus Christ. This is the most important doctrine of the Word of God, which follows from the fact that Jesus Christ is the Center and Executor of God's plan of redemption from sin, is the only Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Everything that God has ever done for man, is doing, or will ever do for man is through Jesus Christ, by Jesus Christ, and for Jesus Christ. Paul gives the sweeping assertion of Christ being the Sum Total of our redemption and the Focal of all of God's dealings with us in (Colossians 1:13-19).

- E. C. Bragg

The word "Christology" comes from two Greek words meaning "Christ / Messiah" and "word" - which combine to mean "the study of Christ." Christology is the study of the Person and work of Jesus Christ. There are numerous important questions that Christology answers:

Who is Jesus Christ? Almost every major religion teaches that Jesus was a prophet, or a good teacher, or a godly man. The problem is, the Bible tells us that Jesus was infinitely more than a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man.

Is Jesus God? Did Jesus ever claim to be God? Although Jesus never uttered the words "I am God," He made many other statements that can't be properly interpreted to mean anything else.

What is the hypostatic union? How can Jesus be both God and man at the same time? The Bible teaches that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, that there is no mixture or dilution of either nature, and that He is one united Person, forever.

Why is the virgin birth so important? The virgin birth is a crucial biblical doctrine because it accounts for the circumvention of the transmission of the sin nature and allowed the eternal God to become a perfect man.

What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God? Jesus is not God's Son in the sense of how we think of a father/son relationship. God did not get married and have a son. Jesus is God's Son in the sense that He is God made manifest in human form (John 1:1,14).

A Biblical understanding of Jesus Christ is crucial to our salvation. Many cults and world religions claim to believe in Jesus Christ. The problem is that they do not believe in the Jesus Christ presented in the Bible. That is why Christology is so important. It helps us to understand the significance of the deity of Christ. It demonstrates why Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Christology teaches us that Jesus¹ had to be man so that He could die - and had to be God so that His death would pay for our sins. It is perhaps the most important area of theology. Without a proper understanding of who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished, all other areas of theology will be errant as well.

The Incarnation of Jesus

- Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully God and fully man
- Jesus had two (dual) natures - deity and humanity
- Jesus' simultaneous deity and humanity is called the "unity of the person of Jesus Christ"

The unity of the person of Jesus Christ means that:

1. There is no “double personality” or independent functioning of separate natures in Him
2. There has been no fusion of the divine and the human natures or absorption of one of the natures into the other nature
3. The incarnation did not bring about a reality that is neither divine nor human but instead is a third or different reality
4. The God-man was not existent until the incarnation but continues after the exaltation. To be rejected is any notion that Jesus had a preexistent human soul.
5. In assuming human nature the eternal Word did not abandon His divine nature

The humanity of the person of Jesus Christ

The Humanity of Christ

“Jesus was born, had family connections, lived in his home at Nazareth, was subject to his parents, rejoiced, was tempted, craved human sympathy, prayed, was obedient to God, had a body, mind, soul, suffered, died, and rose again.”

- Walter Thomas Conner

Characteristics of Humanity of Jesus

1. Growth
2. Temptation
3. Physical Exhaustion, Thirst, Hunger, Pain, Suffering
4. Emotions
5. Limitations of Knowledge and Power
6. Individuality
7. Dependence on God the Father

Biblical Evidence of Jesus' Humanity

Luke 2:52	Jesus' birth and maturation were normal
Matthew 4:2	Jesus fasted, suffered hunger
John 19:28	Jesus experienced thirst
John 4:6	Jesus experienced fatigue
John 19:34	Jesus suffered pain and death
Matthew 9:36	Jesus felt compassion
Luke 4:2	Jesus was tempted
1 Timothy 2:5	Jesus is called a "man"
Romans 5	Jesus is presented as the second Adam
1 Timothy 3:16	Jesus was "revealed in the flesh"
John 1:14	Jesus, as the Word, "became flesh and dwelt among us"
1 John 4:2	"Jesus Christ has come in the flesh"
Galatians 4:4	Jesus was "born of a woman"
Luke 24:39	Jesus said to Thomas, "see my hands and my feet"

Consequences of the Humanity of Jesus

1. Reality of His incarnation
2. Jesus' oneness with us
3. His humanity as the basis for His saving work
4. Reality of a perfect example for humankind

Implications of the Humanity of Jesus

1. Jesus' death atones for our sins
2. He can truly intercede for us and sympathize with us
3. He manifests the true nature of humanity
4. He can be our example as servants of God

The deity of the person of Jesus Christ

The deity of Jesus Christ means that:

1. No mere portion or segment of deity rests or abides in Jesus but rather that the “fullness” of deity dwells in Him (Colossians 1:19, 2:9)
2. His divine nature is the same as, and not unlike or merely like, that of God the Father
3. He as the only Son of God provides an authentic revelation or disclosure of God the Father (John 14:9)
4. His sonship is eternal and not temporally constricted (John 1:1, 8:58). His divine nature was not something awarded to or bestowed on one who began as only human.
5. His sufferings at the hands of evil people were in the plan of God in behalf of humankind (2 Corinthians 5:19)

The deity of Jesus Christ means that:

6. His offer / pronouncement of the forgiveness of sins is not the blasphemy of an imposter but truly the gift of the God of grace
7. He is the only, the eternal, and the unique Son of God (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:3), different from those human beings who are through Him adopted as “children of God” (Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:15-17)
8. The Son of God has taken humanity in the one person of Jesus, that Jesus is truly the God-man, and, therefore, that it is proper and appropriate for believing human beings to worship Him
9. Jesus’ promise of ultimate triumph has the guarantee and security of God (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)

The Sinlessness of Jesus

- Could Jesus have been fully human and not have the possibility of sin in His life?
- Is it really temptation if He could not have sinned?
- Could Jesus have sinned? Yes, but He did not.
- Millard Erickson: “While He could have sinned, it is certain He would have not.”
- “The sinlessness of Jesus was clearly set forth by New Testament writers as the basis for or as a qualification for his sacrificial or redemptive work in behalf of human beings.”

– James Leo Garrett, Jr.

The Sinlessness of Jesus

- For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15
- For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. Hebrews 7:26-27
- how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14
- For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 1 Peter 2:21-22
- For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 1 Peter 3:18
- You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. 1 John 3:5
- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Matthew 16:13-21

Now when Jesus came into the district of **Caesarea Philippi**, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13

“Caesarea Philippi’s population was mainly non-Jewish, and there Jesus would have peace to teach the Twelve.” (Barclay)

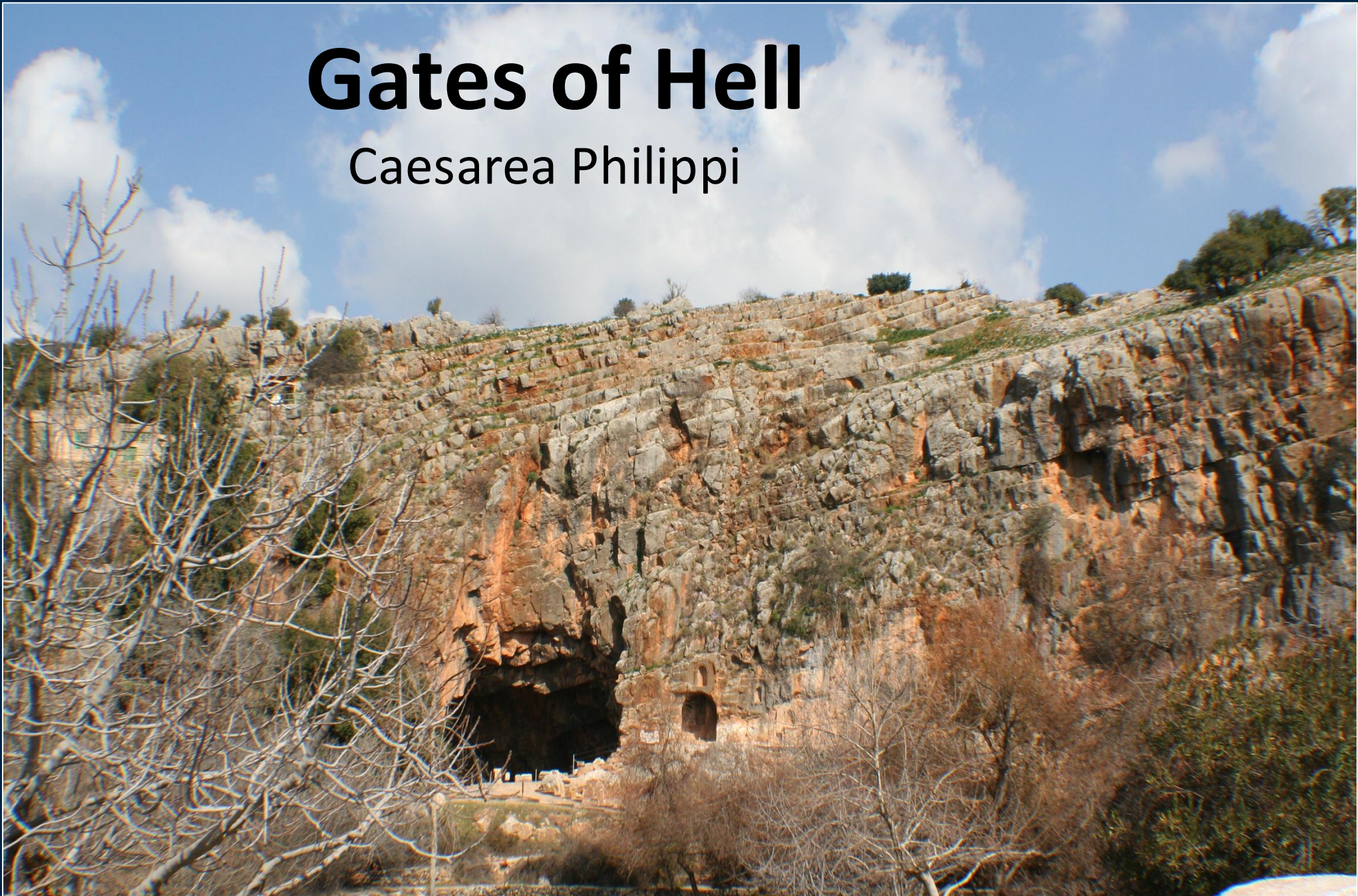


Jesus and the disciples removed themselves from the region around the Sea of Galilee and went north about 30 miles to Caesarea Philippi, that is, Caesarea in the tetrarchy of Herod Philip, Herod Antipas' brother.



Gates of Hell

Caesarea Philippi





Gates of Hell

Caesarea Philippi

Sanctuary of Pan in the days of Jesus





In ancient Greek religion and mythology, **Pan** was the god of the wild, shepherds and flocks, nature of mountain wilds, rustic music and impromptus, and companion of the nymphs. He had the hindquarters, legs, and horns of a goat. Source: Wikipedia

**What are the idols
in our culture today?**

Now when Jesus came into the district of **Caesarea Philippi**, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13



And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” Matthew 16:14

- John the Baptist - forerunner of the Messiah
- Elijah - revered Old Testament prophet
- Jeremiah - revered Old Testament prophet
- One of the prophets

*All flattering answers and all wrong answers

He [Jesus] said to them [the 12 disciples], “But who do you say that I am?” Matthew 16:15

Today we must ask... who is Jesus to me?

The most **important** question we will ever answer

To you... Is Jesus a nice guy or an important religious figure or a spiritual leader or a key person in history or a fairy-tale character?

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16

“Christos” is the New Testament Greek equivalent of the Old Testament Hebrew “Messiah,” which means “the anointed One.” In Jesus are fulfilled all the promises of God.

- Bible Knowledge Commentary

The statement by Peter here is not the product of early enthusiasm but of studied reflection and solemn faith.

– Wycliffe Bible Commentary

And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona [Aramaic for “son of Jonah”], because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 16:17

*Jesus linked Simon Peter of the New Testament to Jonah of the Old Testament... the same calling to be a missionary and testify of God to the nations of the world

*Spiritual truth is heavenly, not man-made

“I also say to you that you are Peter
(Greek Πέτρος Petros... a rock or stone),
and upon this rock I will build My
church...” Matthew 16:18

What is the Rock?

Jesus was praising Peter for his accurate statement about Him, and was introducing His work of building the church on Himself. - Bible Knowledge Commentary

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Matthew 16:18

Hades (Sheol) is the realm of the dead

Gates of Hell... the continuous, creative, glamorous attempts of the enemy of God to replace Jesus with something less... to give death instead of life

This is the first use of the word church in the New Testament (or the Bible for that matter), using the ancient Greek word *ekklesia*. Significantly, this was well before the beginnings of what we normally think of as the church on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

This shows that Jesus was *anticipating* or *prophesying* what would come from these disciples/apostles and those who would believe in their message that Jesus is **the Christ, the Son of the living God**.

The ancient Greek word *ekklesia* was not primarily a religious word at all; it just meant, “group” or “called-out group.” In describing the later group of His followers and disciples, Jesus deliberately chose a word without a distinctly religious meaning.

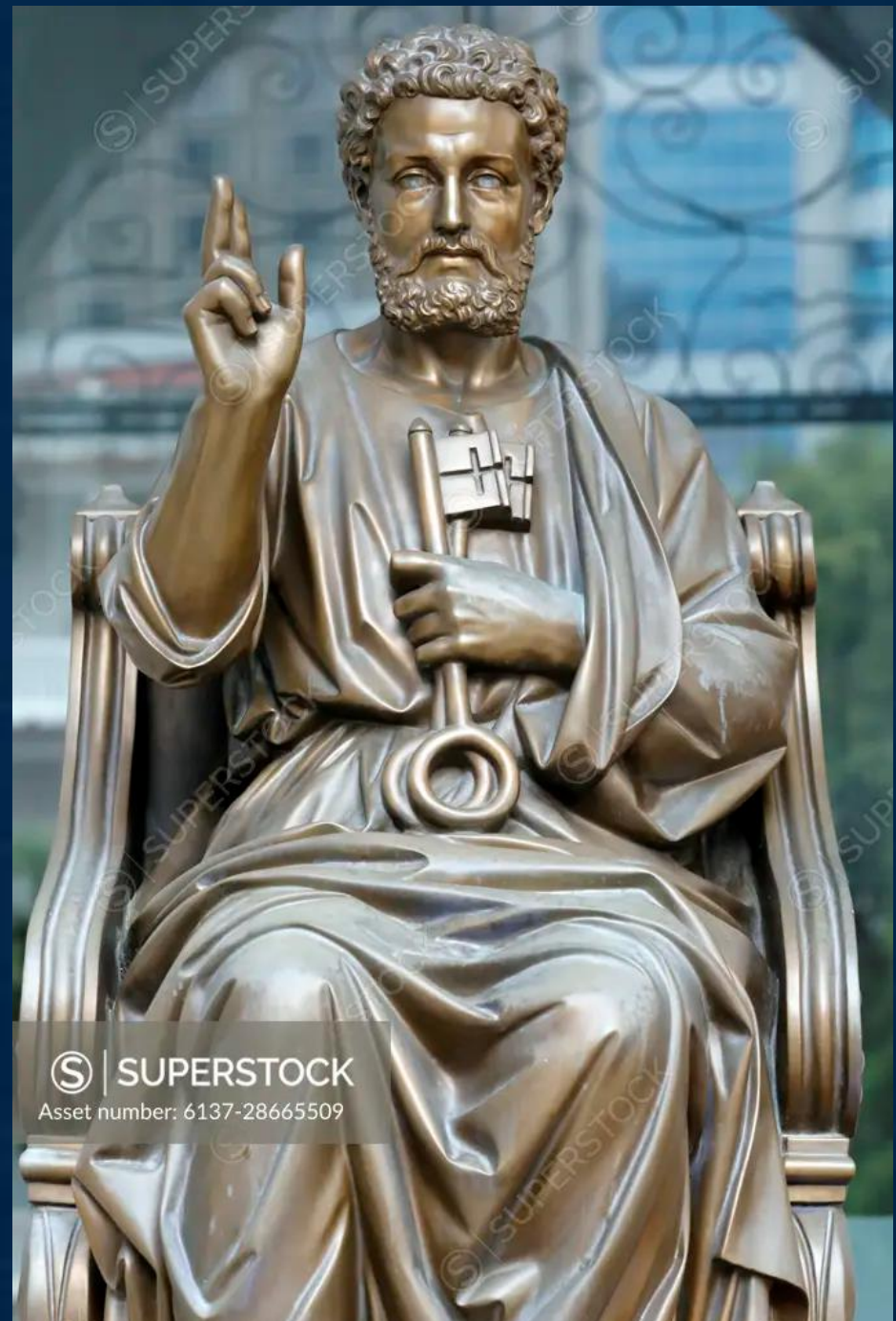
Furthermore, this statement of Jesus was a clear claim of ownership (**My church**). *The church belongs to Jesus*. This was also a claim to deity: “What is striking is...the boldness of Jesus’ description of it as *my* community, rather than God’s.” (France)

Taken together, the promise is wonderful:

- He brings His people together in common: **I will build.**
- He builds on a firm foundation: **On this rock I will build.**
- He builds something that belongs to Him: **My church.**
- He builds it into a stronghold: **the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

Jesus said, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”
Matthew 16:19

*The future perfect tense verbs in Greek (‘shall have been bound’, ‘shall have been loosed’) suggest that the heavenly decision preceded Peter’s declaration of it on earth. – New Bible Commentary



Some people think that this means that Peter has the authority to admit people to heaven, or to keep people out of heaven. This is the basis for the popular image of Peter at the Pearly Gates of Heaven, allowing people to enter or turning them away.

Some people think that it also means that Peter was the first Pope, and that his supposed successors have the keys that were first given to Peter. Indeed, the Papal insignia of the Roman Catholic Church is made up of two prominent keys crossed together.

There is no doubt that Peter had a special place among all the disciples, and that he had some special privileges:

- He is always listed first in the listings of the disciples.
- He opened doors of the kingdom to the Jews in Acts 2:38-39.
- He opened doors of the kingdom to the Gentiles in Acts 10:34-44.

Yet there is no Biblical argument whatsoever that Peter's privilege or authority was passed on. To put it one way; one might say that Jesus gave Peter the keys, but didn't give him the authority to pass them on to further generations, and there is not a *whisper* in the Scriptures that Peter's authority was to be passed on.

The idea that apostolic authority comes from Jesus, who gave it to Peter, who set his hands on the heads of approved and ordained men, who in turn set their hands on the heads of approved and ordained men, and so on and so on through the generations until today is *nonsense*. It is exactly what Spurgeon said it was: *the laying of empty hands on empty heads*.

Jesus said,
“I will give
you the
keys of the
kingdom of
heaven”



The emblem of the papacy used by the Catholic Church which depicts the Keys of Heaven.

Then He [Jesus] warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ. Matthew 16:20

- * Why should they not testify of Him?
- * “Before they could preach that Jesus was the Messiah, they had to learn what that meant.” - Barclay

Jesus begins to explain Christology

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He **must** go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 16:21

Based on historical and biblical timelines, approximately 6 to 9 months elapsed between Jesus' visit to Caesarea Philippi in Matthew 16 and His crucifixion.

While the Gospel of Matthew does not explicitly count the days, scholars establish this timeframe using the Jewish festival calendar and the geographic progression of Jesus' ministry:

- **The Visit to Caesarea Philippi (Late Summer / Autumn):** This event is traditionally dated to around **September or October**. Immediately following Peter's confession in Matthew 16, Matthew 17 details the Transfiguration, which occurred "six days later". The Transfiguration is closely associated with the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*), an autumn festival.
- **The Crucifixion (Spring):** Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, which takes place in **March or April** (the Hebrew month of Nisan).

Following the events in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus intentionally turned His journey southward toward Jerusalem, spending the intervening months traveling through Galilee, Perea, and Judea before His final entry into the city for Holy Week.

“He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer”

The suffering and death of Jesus was a **must** because of two great facts: **man's sin** and **God's love**. While His death was the ultimate example of man's sin against God, it was also the supreme expression of God's love to man.

Peter took Him [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke Him [privately], saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; **for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.**” Matthew 16:22-23

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24

**How can I live as a
disciple of Jesus?**

1. Deny yourself

You are not your own; you have
been bought with a price

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Self-denial is not to deny one's personality, to die as a martyr, or to deny 'things' (asceticism). Rather it is the denial of 'self,' turning away from the idolatry of self-centeredness and every attempt to orient one's life by the dictates of self-interest." - Bible Knowledge Commentary

"Denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial when, for a good purpose, we occasionally give up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will." - Warren Wiersbe

Denying self means to live as an others-centered person. Jesus was the only person to do this perfectly, but we are to follow in His steps (**and follow Me**). This is following Jesus at its simplest: He carried a cross, He walked down death row; so must those who follow Him. – David Guzik

2. Take up your cross

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Galatians 5:24-25

"The cross undermines our self-righteousness. We stand before it with a bowed head and a broken spirit, and there we remain until the Lord Jesus speaks to our hearts His word of pardon and acceptance, and we, gripped by His love and brimful of thanksgiving, go out into the world to live our lives in His service." - John R.W. Stott

3. Follow Him

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12

“To follow Jesus means to walk in obedience to His Word so that our lives bring glory to Him and joy to our own hearts.” – Ron Ritchie

Jesus said to the disciples...

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matthew 16:25-26

**Why is an understanding of
Christology essential to a
New Testament believer?**

- **It Secures Your Salvation:** Scripture teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man. This matters. If He weren't human, He couldn't die in our place as our substitute. If He weren't God, His sacrifice wouldn't have the infinite power needed to wash away our sins once and for all. A right view of Christ means you can trust that your eternity is completely secure.
- **It Shows You the Heart of God:** Do you want to know what God the Father looks like? Look at Jesus. John 1 reminds us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus makes the invisible God visible. When you see His love, His grace, His justice, and His mercy on the pages of Scripture, you are seeing the exact character of God.

- **It Provides Your Marching Orders:** Jesus isn't just our Savior; He is our Lord. When we study His life, we get the ultimate blueprint for how to live, how to serve, and how to love our neighbors. Discipleship means following the Master's footsteps every single day.
- **It Protects You from Deception:** The world is full of false teachings and noise. A strong, biblical anchor in who Jesus truly is protects your mind and your heart from being led astray. It keeps your faith grounded in the truth of God's Word.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11