

More than a Man

1 Timothy 3: 16

Our text verse this morning speaks volumes of the eternal God-Man, Jesus Christ. He alone provided for the redemption of mankind. He, who was holy and sinless, willingly embraced the suffering of the cross, bearing our sin and shame, while enduring the righteous judgment of God, judgment we deserved, and yet He bore in our place. He is the central figure throughout time and all of humanity. Never has one man changed the lives of others and altered the eternal destiny of souls as Christ.

Take a moment to consider the words of *One Solitary Life* written by Dr. James Allen Francis:

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, while He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His garment, the only piece of property He owned. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Let's take a few moments to consider the [details](#) Paul reveals about the life of Christ as we think on: [More than a Man](#).

I. The Significance of His Appearing – [God was manifest in the flesh](#). This phrase stands as a reminder of Jesus' incarnation. The birth of Christ was the most significant of all time. Never has a

life so changed the course of humanity and offered hope to all who believe as the life of Christ. Consider:

A. The Person of the Incarnation – [God was manifest in the flesh](#). I know we are aware of whom Christ is, but I want to remind you that **God** was manifest in the flesh. The very Son of God humbled Himself, stepping down from glory on high, came robed in flesh as a man, to walk among man and pardon our sin. This was no ordinary birth, no ordinary baby; God had come to earth! [Phil.2:6-7 – Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: \[7\] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:](#)

- Jesus came to earth as a man. Why would He do such a thing? Why would He leave the splendor of heaven to dwell among men? To answer this we must consider:

B. The Purpose of the Incarnation – Christ was born for a purpose. It wasn't because God needed to know what was happening on earth. It wasn't to gain a better understanding of men. He created all we know; God has infinite wisdom. The life Jesus lived was anything but leisurely, so why did He come?

- It is simple: Jesus came for us! All are born in sin, separated from God. Jesus came to forgive our sin and restore the fellowship that sin had destroyed so that we might be made acceptable to God. [1 Jn.3:5 – And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin](#). Since Adam sinned man has been bound under sin and the influence of Satan. Jesus came to provide liberty for the captive and defeat the works of the devil. [1 Jn.3:8 – For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil](#).

- This was no “last ditch” effort; it wasn't something God thought He would try in hopes it might bring redemption. This was God's plan from the beginning. Jesus came that we could be saved. What a glorious truth! Jesus came for me and you!

II. The Sufficiency of His Achievement – We know that He came, but that was just the beginning. He lived a life that accomplished what we never could. Jesus fully satisfied the righteous demands of God. Consider:

A. His Perfect Life – Jesus was [justified in the Spirit, seen of angels](#). Take a moment to consider the account of His baptism. The Spirit descended like a dove as God said, “[This is my beloved Son, in](#)

whom I am well pleased.” The Spirit testified of His deity and perfection. Jesus was fully God and fully man. He faced the same difficulties we all face. He hungered, wept, felt loneliness, had compassion, experienced anger, and even temptation. As He walked as a man, Jesus encountered all that we could ever endure, and yet without sin. [Heb.7:26 – For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.](#)

- We can rejoice in His perfect, sinless life. God is holy and in Him is no sin. He demands that we be holy if we are to be accepted of Him. There is not a one of us that could possibly meet the demands of God. Were it not for the righteousness of Christ being imputed to our account we would never achieve what God requires. Jesus has made us acceptable to God. We received His holiness when we were saved.

B. His Preeminent Sacrifice – Considering the phrase, [justified in the Spirit](#), we must also consider the sacrifice of our Lord. Sin in any form is never acceptable to God; it must be atoned, there must be a sacrifice given. Down through the ages men had offered the blood of animals, but that alone could never fully satisfy the debt man owed for sin. This would require a perfect sacrifice; One in whom was no blemish or fault.

- Jesus alone was worthy to become that sacrifice. He lived a sinless life that was acceptable to God. He did not die because of His sin. He did not die because He had committed deeds worthy of death. It was there on the cross of Calvary that God laid the sins of the world, yours and mine, upon His sinless, holy, perfect Son. As Jesus cried, **It is finished**, and died; He purchased our redemption, fully atoning for our sin. There will never be a need for another sacrifice. Jesus satisfied the Father’s demand. We are made holy through His shed blood. God sees the saved as He sees His Son!

C. His Perfect Gift – Jesus was [preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world](#). We all know that Israel is God’s chosen people. He brought forth a nation having favor upon them. I’m glad that salvation wasn’t offered only to the Jews. The offer was extended unto the entire world. Jesus came that all men might be saved. [Rom.10:13 – For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved](#). It makes no difference, Jew or Greek, free or bond.

- Had it not been for the mercy of God I would still be lost in sin, but He came unto me with the offer of an eternal, perfect gift. The same is available for whosoever. It makes no difference who they are, where they live, or what they possess; Jesus will save all who believe! It is still being offered today.

III. The Supremacy of His Ascension – Lastly we find that Jesus was [received up into glory](#). This speaks of His glorious ascension, His return to the Father in heaven. There are a few things we need to consider concerning His ascension. First of all consider:

A. The Power of His Ascension – The gospels teach that Jesus died upon the cross for our sin and was buried in a borrowed tomb. Praise God that isn't the end of the story. On that third day a miraculous event happened as Jesus came forth out of the grave alive and well. He died and yet He lives forevermore. Death couldn't hold my Savior in the ground!

- After fulfilling the Father's will, Jesus ascended back to heaven in power. [Acts 1:9 – And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight](#). We serve a risen Lord who is seated at the right hand of God. He died for our sin, rose from the grave, and ascended back to glory. [Heb.10:12 – But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God](#).

B. The Provision of His Ascension – Jesus is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for those who are His. He fulfilled the work of redemption and now stands as our intercessor and mediator before God. [Rom.8:34 – Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us](#). He is there at the throne of God pleading our case, praying for our strength, and defending us against the accusations of the adversary. He is proclaiming that I have been purchased by His precious blood, pardoned from the charges that were laid to my account. He ever lives to make intercession for the saved. We have a direct line of access to God through His Son.

C. The Promise of His Ascension – As Jesus ascended back to heaven, he left with a promise to come again. [Acts 1:10-11 – And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ^{\[11\]} Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven](#). The world brings new challenges every day. It has grown less tolerant of believers, but I am reminded that this world is not my home. One day our Lord will return for those who have trusted in Him. Just as He rose from the grave and ascended to heaven, He will come in like manner. Because of His resurrection and ascension we are a people of promise! He will return!

Conclusion: I hope you agree that Jesus was more than a man. He is my Savior, the Resurrection and Life. All that I am I owe to Him. I pray that you know Jesus as more than a man

who walked the earth 2000 years ago. I pray that you haven't just heard about Him, but that you know Him in a personal way! Jesus loves you and wants you to be secure in Him. If you are unsaved, look to Jesus by faith, and receive salvation in Him!