

We Have Found The Messiah

Introduction. Do you remember the excitement of finding something for the first time or finding an article which has been lost for a while? The first chapter of John records for us the beginning of Jesus' ministry. One of the men who heard Him speak was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother (John 1:37-42).

When Andrew heard Jesus speak, he knew he had heard the Messiah which the Old Testament had prophesied for so many years. He wanted to share this discovery with someone, so he told his brother. The language there means that the first thing he thought to do was to tell his brother. Andrew had a very commendable spirit. When he found the truth, he wanted to tell someone else. I wonder if we have the same dedication today.

I want us to see today just what Andrew and his brother Peter had found. As Jesus lived, these men realized more of the wonderfulness of knowing the Christ. What they found that day can be yours this day.

I. ***In Him We Have Found The Fulfillment Of Old Testament Prophecies***

- A. Andrew knew that this was the Messiah. He came to this conclusion after hearing Jesus speak and we can come to this conclusion after we hear the words of Jesus speak from the New Testament.
 - 1. The word "Messiah" or "Messias" is only used four times in the Bible (Daniel 9:25-26; John 1:41; 4:25). It is a Hebrew word.
 - 2. The term "Christ" is uniquely a New Testament word because it is the Greek equivalent of "Messiah." It occurs 555 times in the New Testament and means "the anointed one."
- B. Galatians 3:24-25 states that the law was our "schoolmaster" or "tutor." The Greek word means that the Old Testament was our custodian which insured that we made it to Christ.
- C. There are over 60 prophecies about the life of Jesus. We can only consider eight:
 - 1. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1).
 - 2. Preceded by John the Baptist (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-2).
 - 3. Entered Jerusalem by a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35-37).
 - 4. Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Matthew 10:4).
 - 5. Sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15).
 - 6. Silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12).
 - 7. Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33).
 - 8. Crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38).
- D. The odds of these eight prophecies coming true are staggering. If you were to cover the state of Texas with silver dollars to a depth of two feet, then take one silver dollar painted red and dropped it from a

plane into the state, mixing them thoroughly, the odds of a blindfolded man picking that red silver dollar is the same as one man fulfilling those eight prophecies.

II. ***In Him We Have Found The Son Of God***

- A. There are 38 declarations in the New Testament that Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:1; Luke 3:38; John 1:34). Several "great confessions" are recorded for us.
 - 1. In Matthew 14:33, the disciples acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.
 - 2. In Matthew 16:16, Peter confessed that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - 3. In Matthew 27:54, the centurion acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.
 - 4. In Mark 3:11, the unclean spirits conceded that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - 5. In John 11:27, Martha admitted that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - 6. In Acts 8:37, the Ethiopian eunuch confessed that Jesus was the Son of God.
- B. As the Son of God, He has all authority (Mark 2:1-12). The centurion understood that because Jesus had the ability to heal the sick, He had all authority from God (Matthew 8:5-10)

III. ***In Him We Have Found The Source Of All Spiritual Blessings***

- A. The apostle Paul was very much in the habit of describing the Christian's blessings as those blessings which were "in Him" or "in Christ" (Galatians 3:10-14; Ephesians 1:3-14). He was so fond of this expression he used it 94 times in his writings.
- B. These spiritual blessings include forgiveness, redemption, prayer, guidance, peace and salvation. To understand our nature (2 Peter 1:4), we must understand the fullness of these blessings that we have "in Him."
- C. There have been many "religious leaders" who have claimed to be the source of spiritual blessings:
 - 1. Buddha (563-460 B.C.).
 - 2. Confucius (551-479 B.C.).
 - 3. Muhammad (A.D. 570-631).
 - 4. Joseph Smith, Jr. (A.D. 1805-1844).
 - 5. Charles T. Russell (A.D. 1852-1916).
 - 6. If Isaiah could prophesy about Christ 700 years before His time (7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1-9; 52:13-53:12), why could he not prophesy about these men?

IV. ***In Him We Have Found The Cleansing Of Our Sins***

- A. God offered the children of Israel an ability to make themselves clean (Isaiah 1:2-3, 18). All men are in sin (Romans 3:9-19, 23). God still offers us the chance to be clean, but it can only be through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 1 John 1:8-2:2).
 - 1. This "cleansing" is not a physical cleansing, but a spiritual one (1 Peter 3:21).
 - 2. We are cleansed from the guilt and consequences of sin (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- B. After having our sins forgiven, God calls for us to be pure (1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 1:15; 2:14; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3).

V. ***In Him We Have Found Eternal Life***

- A. We were not left on this earth to merely seek our own way back to God (Jeremiah 10:23). Jesus Christ came down to the earth to institute a new way back to God (Hebrews 10:12-22; 6:18-20).
- B. God promised eternal life to us long ago and Jesus is the way of that eternal life (Titus 1:1-2; John 3:16, 36; 10:10; 11:25).
- C. As seen in the previous point, we must sanctify ourselves in righteousness and holiness to receive this promise (Romans 6:22-23). The pathway to doing this is found in God's word (John 6:63, 68).

Conclusion. All these benefits can be yours today. We have everything we need to inherit eternal life. However, they will mean nothing if you do not obey from the heart (Romans 6:17). We want you to have that kind of heart. Our culture and our country are changing. We face unbelievable challenges that were unthinkable years ago. We want you to turn from your sinful ways of the past and make a new life for yourself in the future. That is precisely what Andrew and Peter did when they found the Messiah. After this incident, their lives were never the same again. They made a decision to follow the Christ. Would you do that today?