New Beginnings

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

6-Week Curriculum on the Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Join Us in Studying the “Sanctifying Truth” of God’s Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word

North Jacksonville Baptist Church’s New Beginnings Bible Study Class

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the exciting North Jacksonville Baptist Church. We want to do all we can to enhance your walk with God. A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. We are ever becoming and never arriving in this life. The New Beginnings class will familiarize you with our church, our doctrinal beliefs, and will help you connect personally with our ministry. Through the New Beginnings class you will be inspired to move beyond where you are spiritually to greater maturity and fruitfulness.

Please make every effort to attend all the sessions. “A student learns what his teacher knows, but a disciple becomes what his master is.” The goal of the New Beginnings class is ultimately to help you become more like Jesus Christ. Come and be blessed! We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,

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Senior Pastor

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If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me – Luke 9:23

**THE DISCIPLE’S CROSS**

**WITNESSING TO THE WORLD**

*Matt 28:18-20*

**PRAYER**

*John 15:7 – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

**PRAYING IN FAITH**

*Luke 18:1*

**WITNESS**

*John 15:8 – Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. Matthew 4:19 – Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**CHRIST**

*John 15:5 – I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing (1 John 5:12; Phil 4:13). John 14:15 – If ye love Me, keep My commandments.*

**FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS**

*Heb 10:25*

**LIVING IN THE WORD**

*2 Tim 2:15*

**WORD**

*John 8:31 – … If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**FELLOWSHIP**

*John 13:34 – A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

new Beginnings

North Jacksonville Baptist Church
Lesson 3 – God the Son

In Matthew Chapter 16, Jesus asks His disciples, Who do men say that I am? This question is asked today and will continue to be asked until that day when, according to Philippians Chapter 2, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil 2:10-11). As it was in the days when Jesus first asked this question, there is no shortage in the number of those who are emphatic in their belief that Jesus Christ is, at best, a “good man;” however, this number is drastically less for those who, like the Apostle Peter, believe that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16; see generally Matt 7:13-14). The reason for this drastic difference can be attributed to the fact that to believe in the same Jesus in whom Peter believed requires the same revelation that Peter received, i.e., God the Father must draw you to and reveal to you the true person of Christ (Matt 16:17; John 6:44). In other words, no man can come to a true understanding of who Jesus Christ is, unless the will of God the Father draws him to that understanding through divine revelation (John 1:12-13, 6:44, 65; Rom 3:11; 1 Cor 2:10-16, 12:3). Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why 1 Timothy 3:16 refers to Christ’s incarnation as a “MYSTERY” that the human mind, in its carnal state, cannot comprehend (1 Cor 2:10-16). Perhaps, this is why we are told in Romans Chapter 12 that we must transform ourselves by being renewed of our minds that we, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, might comprehend the “Truth” about Jesus Christ and His KENOSIS – Christ’s self-emptying of His right, apart from the will of God the Father, to independently exercise His attributes of deity – as described in Philippians Chapter 2:

Philippians 2:5 – Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; 6Who, being in the FORM of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the FORM of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: 10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (see also John 5:19-20, 30, 6:38, 14:6; Heb 10:20).

Next to 1 Timothy 3:16, one of the most succinct statements on the deity of Christ is found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 1 of which begins, “In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3; see also Col 1:15-17, 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:1-4; 2 Pet 1:1; 1 John 5:20). You may ask, “How does this statement relate to Christ?” The answer to this question is found in John 1:14, which states, “And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (a few of Jesus’ “I AM” Statements in John – John 6:35; 8:12, 24, 58; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5).

As indicated by some of the answers to the questions below, the Bible is replete with explicit references to the deity of Christ; but, why would God leave the portals of heaven to come into this sin-cursed world to die for those who were His enemies (see Rom 5:10)? Well, the short answers to this question are: (i) to do His Father’s will (John 6:38); (ii) because He loves us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10); (iii) to seek, identify with and to save us by becoming a curse for us that we might receive imputed righteousness (Luke 19:10; Gal 3:10-13; Rom 4:25; Heb 4:14-16); and (iv) to reconcile us back to God (2 Cor 5:17-21). This and more was accomplished as a result of the virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death, atoning resurrection and victorious ascension of Jesus Christ, who is 100% God and 100% man, i.e., the Word made flesh (Matt 1:18-25; John 8:46; Heb 4:14-16; Rom 4:25, 5:9-21; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 2:5-11; John 1:14). Who do you say Jesus is?

Let’s Study God the Son (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. What does God the Father say about God the Son? (Luke 3:21-22; Mark 9:7; Heb 1:8; 1 John 5:9-12): _____________

2. What does Jesus say about His deity and eternality? (John 8:24, 58, 10:30, 14:9; Rev 1:8, 11, 17-18, 22:13 KJV): _____________
The Gospel of John contains what has become known as our Lord’s Seven “I AM” Statements, which speak volumes to the deity of Jesus Christ. Each statement references back to Exodus 3:14, where God the Father describes Himself as “I Am That I Am.” Similar to John 10:30, these statements illustrate that God the Father and God the Son are “One.”

1. I AM the **Bread of Life** (John 6:35-48)
2. I AM the **Light of the world** (John 8:12; 9:5)
3. I AM the **Door** (John 10:7; 9)
4. I AM the **Good Shepherd** (John 10:11-14)

5. I AM the **Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25)
6. I AM the **Way, the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6)
7. I AM the **True Vine** (John 15:1-5)

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks “whom say ye that I am,” but a most important “I AM” statement is John 8:24, where Jesus says unless you believe that “I AM,” you shall die in your sins (see also John 8:58; 18:6).
3. What role did Jesus play in creation? (John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:1-4; 3:4; see also Neh 9:6; 1 Cor 8:6; Rev 4:11):


5. What and/or who are the four witnesses of Jesus Christ? (John 5:31-39):

6. Upon what “Rock” or statement of truth did Jesus Christ say He would build His Church? (Matt 16:15-18):

7. What did Jesus’ death and resurrection accomplish for us? (Rom 4:25, 6:5-6; Gal 3:13; Col 2:9-15):

8. Through whom do we have access to God the: (i) Son; and (ii) Father? (John 6:44, 14:6, 16:23; Matt 11:27; 1 Cor 12:3):

9. In order to receive salvation, what must be our response to Christ? (Rom 10:9; Mark 1:14-15):

10. After salvation, what has Christ promised us in Christ? (Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:3-5; John 6:37-40; 10:27-29):

11. After salvation, what “Mystery” in Christ will we enjoy? (Col 1:26-27; Gal 2:20):

12. After salvation, what relationships do we acquire with, through and by Christ? (Rom 8:1, 14-17; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5):


14. What will be the fate of those who reject the love of Christ? (2 Thes 2:7-12; Rev 20:11-15; see also John 3:36; 8:24):

15. Before whom will we all stand in judgment? (John 5:22, 26-27; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11; see also Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16):
JUDGMENT AND ETERNAL DESTINY

Everyone will be Judged (Dan 12:2; Heb 9:27; John 5:29)

- **Believers** – Having accepted Jesus’ payment for sin over which the “second death has no power,” believers will appear before the *Judgment or Bema Seat of Christ* during the “FIRST RESURRECTION” to have their works judged by Christ and tried by fire to determine whether or not they will receive a reward (John 5:22,27-30; 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:11-15; Rev 20:4-6; 1 John 1:9).

- **Unbelievers** – Having rejected Jesus’ payment for sin, unbelievers will appear before the *Great White Throne* – at least 1,000 years after the Judgment or Bema Seat of Christ – to be judged by Christ and will have to either: (i) demonstrate “deeds” of sinless perfection; or (ii) pay for their own sin with the “wages” of eternal death in the “lake of fire.” This is the *Second Death* (Rom 2:16, 3:10-11,23, 6:23; 2 Thes 1:8-9; 2:9-12; Matt 5:48; John 5:22,27-30; 1 Pet 1:15-16; Gal 3:10; James 2:10; Rev 20:11-15).