

What If Christ Had Not Come Into The World?

No. 117

Introduction. At this time I would like for us to try to imagine what this world would be like without Christ. I feel too often we are guilty of taking Christ for granted. We fail to recognize the multitude of blessings He has brought to our lives and to the world.

I. **Civilization Would Be So Different** - If Christ had not come, civilization would be so different.

A. Some time ago **Henry Rogers**, a brilliant lawyer, wrote a book entitled **The Eclipse of Faith**, in which he imagined that some powerful hand had wiped the influence of Christ completely out of our civilization. He imagined himself going into the library and finding all of the writings of Christ's life and work had disappeared. He opened his **law books** and found that all the legal safeguards protecting children, the poor, and the innocent had been removed. He turned to his **histories of art** and there found many of the world's greatest masterpieces such as Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," and Rembrandt's "The Prodigal Son" had perished. In like manner he turned to his **books of literature**. There he found blank pages where formerly there had been great writings of Browning, Longfellow and many others. Next he turned to the **world of music** and found that most of the great hymns of the church had vanished. Among there were "Fairest Lord Jesus," and "The Old Rugged Cross." Then Rogers realized that without Christ the vast majority of the hospitals, orphanages and benevolent institutions would perish. The lawyer cried out and said that he did not want to live in a world without Christ.

B. Jesus has left a **tremendous impact upon our world**.

1. Christ has **influenced slavery**.

- a. In the Roman world at the time of Christ there were 60 million slaves. **Slaves** were regarded as of less value than animals. Roman law required death for killing a plowing ox, but not for killing a slave. **Trojan** made 10,000 slaves fight at one time in the amphitheater for the amusement of the people.
- b. Christ taught the **equality of man**. He taught that we are to love all men and treat them as we would like to be treated. His teachings have led to the end of slavery wherever Christ and the gospel have been widely accepted.

2. Christ has influenced the **nobility of womanhood**.

- a. Before Christ came into the world, woman was considered a plaything or a slave of man, but never his equal.
- b. Christ has taken woman from beneath the feet of man and placed her at his side. He did this by teaching that woman is to be treated with love and respect. (Eph. 5:25, 28; 1 Pet. 3:7).

3. Christ has influenced **orphans**.

- a. Before the advent of Christ into the world, unwanted infants were often abandoned and left to die.

- b. Through the influence of Christ laws prohibit such and thousands of orphanages have been established to care for these children.

4. Christ has influenced the **dignity of work**.

- a. Before Christ came work was considered beneath the status of self-respecting men. Work was for slaves and common folks. The **emperor Augustus** once executed a senator for working in a garden to help a friend.
- b. Jesus, through His work as a carpenter and through the teachings of His apostles, caused men to realize that work is not a badge of slavery, but it is to be respected.

Cynthia Pearl Maus, in her anthology **Christ and The Fine Arts**, includes this splendid tribute to the Lord:

“Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, and that a despised one. He worked in a carpenter’s shop for thirty years, and then for three yrs He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college...He never traveled, except in His infancy, more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. 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 betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed on a cross between two thieves. His executors gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, His seamless robe. When He was dead, He was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave through the courtesy of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today Jesus in the centerpiece of the human race, and the leader of all progress.

“I am well within my mark when I say that all the enemies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that have ever ruled together has never affected the life of of man upon this earth like this one solitary personality.

“All time dates from His birth and it is impossible to understand or interpret the progress of human civilization in any nation on earth apart from His influence. Slowly through the ages man is coming to realize that the greatest necessity in the world is not water, iron, gold, food or clothing...but rather Christ enshrined in human hearts, thoughts and motives.”

II. **No Perfect Example** - If Christ had not come, we would have no perfect example to follow.

A. Jesus has given us a perfect pattern to imitate.

1. He spent His entire life doing the will of God and unselfishly serving the needs of others. (Phil. 2:4, 5; Acts 10:38).
2. Christ was so perfect that He could stand before His enemies and ask them to find fault with Him and they could not find any sin in Him. (Jn. 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22).

B. Even though we will never reach the perfection of Christ, He has still left us an infallible example to follow. We will never go wrong by imitating the Lord. (1 Cor. 11:1).

“Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee Calling,
Come follow me!
And we see where Thy footprints falling
Lead us to Thee.
Foot prints of Jesus
That make the pathway glow;
We will follow the steps of Jesus
Where’ver they go.”

III. **World Lost In Sin** - If Christ had not come, the world would be lost in sin without hope.

A. Under the Old Law men offered animal sacrifices by the teeming thousands to remind them of their sins.

1. These sacrifices could not, however, take away sin. (Heb. 10:4).
2. It was only the blood of a perfect human sacrifice that could atone for the sins of the world.

B. Christ came to this world and lived a sinless life and then died on the cross for the sins of man. Man can now be saved by the blood of Jesus. In order to be saved by the blood of Jesus one must repent of his sins and be baptized. (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

IV. **Christians Would Not Have A Mediator** - If Christ had not come, Christians would not have a mediator to save them from daily sins.

A. The Christian emerges from the waters of baptism with all of his sins washed away by the blood of Jesus. He is without sin.

B. But all of us are weak and fallible and fall into sin time and time again.

C. Now when we sin we have an advocate with the Father who will obtain forgiveness for us. (1 Jn. 2:1,2).

V. **No Hope Beyond The Grave** - If Christ had not come, we would have no hope beyond the grave.

A. The grave would be the end. Hell would be our everlasting destiny.

B. Through Christ man has immortal life. (Jn. 11:25).

C. Man no longer has to fear the pangs of death or hell. (1 Cor. 15:51-55).

VI. **No Prepared Home** - If Christ has not come into the world, there would be no prepared home for the faithful in heaven. (Jn. 14:1,2).

A. The book of Revelation gives us a vivid description of this home. (Rev. 14:13; 21:4).

B. John also wrote about heaven.

REV 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

REV 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 18 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

VII. **No Universal Invitation** - If Christ had not come, there would be no universal invitation.

A. The invitations of men are always selective. They are never for all. They are never for all regardless of age, wealth, education or race.

B. Christ is unique. He is special. He is impartial. He invites all men to come to Him. (Matt. 11:28-30).

Conclusion.

I. Jesus invites all to come and He will give them sweet rest. Those who trust Jesus and obey Him are cleansed by His precious blood and enjoy rich blessings here and in the hereafter.

II. **Dying men** have said, "I'm sorry I've been a sinner, an atheist, an infidel." But no man on his deathbed has

ever said, "I'm sorry I gave my life to Jesus. I am sorry I became a Christian. Christ is too wonderful and the genuine Christian life is too full of peace, comfort and rest.

III. **Do you know Christ?** If you do, all the delights of glory are waiting for you. If you do not know Him, He is inviting you today, saying, "Come unto me." Come as we stand and sing.

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