

Essentials of the Christian Faith

- **The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.**
- **The Deity of Christ**
- **Salvation by Grace**
- **Resurrection of Christ**
- **The Gospel**

I. The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16

- Inspiration and Inerrancy - The Bible is inspired by God. Inspiration means that God, through the Holy Spirit, caused the writers of the Bible to write the accurate and authoritative revelation of God. It is God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16) through the instrumentation of the apostles and prophets (2 Pet. 1:21).

I. The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

“...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:20, 21

Interesting facts:

- The odds of Jesus fulfilling 48 of the 61 major prophecies concerning Him are 1 in 10^{157} ; that is a one with 157 zeros behind it.
- By comparison, the estimated number of electrons in the entire known universe is about 10^{79} ; that is a one with 79 zeros behind it.

II. The Deity of Christ

- Jesus is God in the flesh

“By this you know the Spirit of God; Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God, And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

1 John 4:2,3

II. The Deity of Christ

- Jesus is God in flesh

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”

John 1:1,2

II. The Deity of Christ

- Jesus is God in flesh

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory was of the only begotten of the Father....”

John 1:14a

II. The Deity of Christ

- Jesus is God in flesh

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

John 8:24

II. The Deity of Christ

- Because Jesus is God He is the proper object of faith.
- It is not simply enough to have faith. Faith is only as valid as what it is put in.

The Doctrine of the deity of Christ includes:

The **Trinity** - There is one God who exists in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all coeternal, and of the same nature. (Mark 1:9 – 11) (Gen. 1:26)

Monotheism - There is only one living God in all existence (**Isaiah 43:10; 44:6,8; 45:5,14,18,21,22; 46:9; 47:8**).

The Doctrine of the deity of Christ includes:

The Hypostatic Union - That Jesus is both God and man.

- **The sufficiency of the sacrifice of Christ** - The sacrifice of Christ is completely sufficient to pay for the sins of the world
- **As God** - Jesus must be God to be able to offer a sacrifice of value greater than that of a mere man.
 - He had to die for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). Only God could do that.

The Doctrine of the deity of Christ includes:

**The Hypostatic Union - That Jesus is both
God and man.**

- **As man - Jesus must be man to be able to
be a sacrifice for man.**

- As a man He can be the mediator between God
and man

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God
and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself
a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

(1 Tim. 2:5).

III. Salvation by Grace

“For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **Ephesians 2:8,9**

“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”

Galatians 5:4

III. Salvation by Grace

“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.” **Galatians 2:21**

“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” **Romans 3:20**

III. Salvation by Grace

“But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.” **Romans 4:5**

“Is the law then against the promise of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.” **Galatians 3:21**

IV. The Resurrection of Christ

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”

1 Cor. 15:14

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

1 Cor. 15:17

V. The Gospel

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him accursed.”

Galatians 1:8, 9

V. The Gospel

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...” **1 Cor. 15:1 – 4**

V. The Gospel

- Jesus is God in flesh,
- Born of a virgin,
- Lived a perfect life,
- Died for our sins on a cross,
- Rose from the dead,
- He freely gives the gift of eternal life to those who believe.

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