



# THE CHALLENGER

US POSTAGE PD  
PERIODICAL  
(USPS 557-980)

Our NEW WEB address: [thehourofgraceandpower.org](http://thehourofgraceandpower.org)

Vol. 36 No. 12

PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

December 2007

## *The Christ of the Bible*

BY THE EDITOR

**T**HE close kinship of Christ with Christianity is one of the distinctive features of the Christian faith. The entire substance and strength of Christianity continues in Jesus Christ. His is the most maligned name in our country. There are religious organizations and churches where His authority is not known despite the fact that He is the declared Head of the Church. He is hated in our judicial systems, taken out of the public school system, ridiculed and cast aside in higher educational institutions. Recognition of His birth in secular circles is fast becoming against the law of this land. Prayer to Him is no longer connected with education. Even creationists hesitate to name Him as the Creator.

### Why Such Hostility?

He was and is the greatest hell-fire preacher and teacher in the Bible. He scathingly denounced the religious leaders of His day. With a whip in His hand, He drove out from the temple the money-changers. We learn of God's horrible judgment upon sinful people in the Old Covenant. Christ presents himself in the New Covenant as coming to fulfill the will of His Father. What was the reaction of men in this world? They killed Him on a cross. We should not be filled with surprise of today's treatment of the Son of God. "If the world hate you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own, but because you are not of this world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore, the world hates you" (John 15:18,19). "If I had not come and spoken to them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hates Me hated My Father also" (John 15:22,24). The sinner will never accept the judgment of the Savior until sin is made conscious to Him by the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7-11)

Stop and think with me for a moment. If Christ died for sinners, then only an acknowledged sinner can meet Him. If He came to seek and save the lost, only a lost individual can be introduced to Him by the Holy Spirit. Our greatest hindrance in trusting the Savior is not a lack of faith; it is honesty about being the sinner He says we are. It is an easy task to believe God when we see ourselves as doomed and damned because of personal sin. When willing to acknowledge that sin in repentance (when we turn from sin to the Savior), and trust in His power to transform our lives to meet God's standard of righteousness and holiness, we rest in peace in what God has done. A description of the believer is found in Ephesians 2:10. Today, many people worship only a baby in Bethlehem. They have not see Him dying on a cross to pay the penalty for their sins. They have not the resurrection power of Jesus Christ coursing through their mind and heart. This is the reason for their fitting into this present evil world.

Who is the Christ of the Bible? Do you know Him? Does He abide within you? Do you abide in Him with all the gracious benefits declared in John, the fifteenth chapter? His Word clearly declares the consequences of such a thrilling relationship. Do you know what they are? Keep your Bible closed and never will you know. Your conduct and lifestyle clearly indicates your relationship with Jesus Christ.

### His Divine Offices

**He is the Creator.** "All things are made by Him" (John 1:3). "For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16).

**He is the upholder of all things.** "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17). "Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when He had by himself purged (cleansed) our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3).

**He is the Judge of all men.** "For the father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the son" (John 5:22, II Timothy 4:1, Acts 17:31, Matthew 25:31-46). Either Christ suffered for your sin on the cross or you will suffer personally after the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:12-15). From the very first announcement of Christ's arrival at the stable, we know His pur-

(continued on page 2)

## THE FORGOTTEN MAN OF SORROWS

The Lord Jesus Christ had endured the shame of the cross. There He had fully paid the debt of sin owed by all mankind, as God's wrath was poured out upon Him. He suffered the full punishment of sin that we would be expected to pay if He had not done what He did. His death was sure. His burial was with great care, but without fanfare. His resurrection was low key, but word spread fast. He was alive! Slowly but surely people saw Him, and wondered with amazement and awe. And belief. For forty days He showed Himself alive and taught wherever He went. And at the conclusion of the forty days, the apostles and others were assembled together in Jerusalem. He instructed them to stay together and wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost. Then, in full sight of them all, He was taken up into heaven. The promise would be that He would return in like manner.

The apostles waited, chose another man to make up the absence of the son of perdition who betrayed the Lord, and prayed. Pentecost arrived ten days later, and with it, the birth of the Church — the union of believing Jew and Gentile into one body — Christ's Body. Thus, the Church is an organism, not an organization. The early Church saw great additions to their ranks. People were being saved by the thousands. The Jewish religious leadership was concerned. Persecution began. The numbers continued to grow. Believers were scattered due to the threat of Saul. They preached and witnessed of Christ wherever they went. Saul became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and started churches all over Asia and into Europe with his missionary journeys. The known world is hearing about Jesus Christ and salvation through Him alone. Gentiles are being saved and added to the congregations. Organization takes place in the local churches. The Word of God is being preached — Christ being their focal point. The Old Testament scriptures pointed to Him, and the New Testament scriptures that were being written were about Him working through believers in the power of the Holy Spirit.

By the close of the New Testament, John was exiled on the isle of Patmos. Less than seventy years had transpired since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unbelievers were rearing their heads above the nest that Satan had built for them and flying off into the various churches. Gnosticism was prevalent and had to be dealt with. So did the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, spiritual fornication and adultery, blasphemy, mechanical service and worship, the doctrine of Balaam, and, of course, the lukewarmness toward that which was sacred and holy.

Within three hundred years the church was still going, spreading, and growing. But a great change had occurred. Man was preoccupied with church, but no longer with Christ. The programs ruled. Christ was now outside the church, as was the Holy Spirit. Man found that he could build a bigger following in the flesh than in the Spirit! He could use Christ and his Word as a pretext, but the church would be nothing more than a social club or gathering, with a pseudo-spiritual handout to pacify the gullible.

Today, the church is still here. There are more of them than ever before. But more of what? More denominations, more cults, more unbelief, more programs — but not more of Jesus Christ. He too has become a pretext to what goes on in the churches. The fleshly arm of man dominates, distracts, and disarms the unknowing. People are being drawn into churches to be a part of another type

## The Christ of the Bible

(continued from page 1)

pose in coming was to die in our deserved place. A holy God will never tolerate our personal sin. Hear the angel's declaration at Bethlehem: "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD" (Luke 2:10,11). He is not only our Savior, but also our Lord, Master, and Ruler. This is the Christ you must meet and serve.

### From Box 400



I have grown in the Lord since I first began your Bible Study Course. Thank you for the work and expense which I know you put forth to provide us with these mailings. I am obliged for such charity. — a prisoner (GA)

May God's glory and blessing be with you each day. Thanks for your kind contribution to our ministry. I want you to know how important it is to have this assistance from outside agencies to enrich our efforts to bring God's Word to the inmates of this facility. All literature is swiftly acquired and put to use. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. — a prison chaplain

I have been incarcerated for 11 months. I have turned my life over to my Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. I am only three classes away from my bachelor's degree in business administration, but I am no longer interested in going that direction. I want to serve the Lord by preaching the gospel of Christ. I am bilingual (Spanish-English), so I can seek ministry in either language. Thanks for your attention concerning the Bible Study Course.

I am thoroughly enjoying my Bible Study Course and my growth in Christ Jesus. I am 38 years old and for the first time in my life I believe. I now understand what Christmas means. — Florida

## Personal Word



According to my personal evaluation, I have faced only two major crises during my entire lifetime. One was at the age of 12 when my mother passed into the Presence of the Lord. The second and most recent is the night when, unexpectedly, my wife of 59 years went to be with her Lord. Marian Porter had a ministry to people that went far beyond my knowledge. Phone calls and cards were received from across the nation. Many realized the loving intimacy we possessed and assured me of their prayer support. If you are one of them reading these lines, let me assure you of the valuable investment you are making in my continuing personal

ministry. I intend to carry on full speed in communicating God's glorious provision for His children and His grace that has provided an eternal salvation for sinners. How dare I slow down when countless millions are headed for hell, many of which are not even aware of this fact? A big job still awaits us. With your prayer support and financial investments, we shall carry on with an enlarged ministry for the Lord and His glory. I thank God for your labors with us. I am trusting God for many more to get involved. Our message? You can easily hear or read it. I will be overjoyed if the Lord should direct your action in our direction.

### Our Season's Greetings

Many will miss our usual Christmas card greeting this year. My sweet wife enjoyed preparing and mailing them with a personal note in many. She decorated our home inside and out each Christmas season. Of course, there will be many changes since she now resides in the Presence of the Lord. Be assured of my resignation to them, since I realize God prefers her there instead of here.

My prayer is that the Spirit of the living Christ may permeate your heart, mind, and home this blessed season. May He have preeminence in your total being. (Colossians 1:18) Be sure to maintain your daily Bible reading and prayer. As a child of God, have sweet communion with the Holy Spirit Who abides within you. Notice carefully the benefits of ABIDING in Christ in the fifteenth chapter of John. Let's talk to sinners around us about the marvelous grace of God that provided a Savior and that we are no longer under the domination of sin, but can now live in His glorious resurrection power. (Romans 6:4,5)

### The Lord's Provision

My father promised me a signature that I might enter the Navy if I went to college for one year. I not only survived the strict first year, but was preaching the gospel by the end of it. By my second year I was looking for a country girl who loved the Lord with her whole heart. She arrived at our college in Tennessee from a small country town in Iowa. She sat across the table from me at her first meal on campus.

Soon I decided to go after her, along with about six young men. She was the only girl I had ever met that I concluded was worth going after. She soon became the leading soloist on campus, being the first freshman to sing in the college choir. I soon learned of her first place in the state high school solo contest as well as winning in a couple of competitions with musical instruments. After hearing her first solo, I asked if she could play the piano. She was irritated that I would ask such a question.

I soon realized she met my spiritual standard, and it was not long that she acknowledge she wanted to get married, have children, please her husband, be a homemaker, and serve the Lord. When I heard the fellows talking that they wanted a girl who could sing, lead a choir, and play the organ or piano, I challenged them by repeating the kind of girl I was looking for. (The Lord gave me more than I asked of Him.)

The school we were attending had no ministry to train girls to be a homemaker or a pastor's wife. Their total emphasis for the girls was a career. This Iowa girl was not caught up in all of such glamour and security. I have known this girl for 62 years, and we were happily married for 59 of them. From that piano bench in Iowa, we have gone across America and around the world with the glorious provision of God's eternal salvation. We have had a thrilling trip. Second only to my relationship with Jesus Christ, Marian Fulton Porter has meant more to me than all this world has to offer. Her dreams were fulfilled in her ministry as a housewife, rearing our son, pleasing her husband, and serving the Lord in many varied capacities. I know, for I am that fortunate husband.

### God Answers Prayer

The Lord has again met our needs as He promised. (Philippians 4:19) How wonderful to sit before a console that is up to date with modern equipment. This is the goodness of God and I praise Him. He provided a friend who is a professional in this field to advise and set up this improved operation for our cassette and CD ministry. We hope to reach hundreds more people with this monthly ministry in their homes, institutions, or wherever they may be around the world. Via the Internet these same personal chats can be heard on our web-site. I hope you are informing others of this worldwide communication of biblical Truth. We have special printed cards announcing our web-site that will enable you to have a personal ministry with us. Write today for your supply.

**THE FORGOTTEN MAN OF SORROWS** (cont. from page 1)

of fleshly activity. Paul summed it up: **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. . . .”** (II Timothy 3:5).

The Lord Jesus Christ, the God-Man, every born-again person’s Savior, the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, Who tasted death for every man, the Lover of our Souls Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, daily making intercession for us — is forgotten! He has become religiously incorrect as well as politically incorrect. He is hated as much today as he was when He walked this earth. His method of redemption is hated as much today as it was when He secured our redemption through His death, burial, and resurrection. His born-again followers are as despised today as they were after Pentecost. And the cross has lost its offence. Man has popularized and made comfortable what they call Christianity. The easy-believism — live-as-you-please heresy, dominates the scene. Church services proceed with great thought and ingenuity — to lure the unsaved man into an unsaved church to believe a powerless-to-save gospel and give him the assurance that what he did was all that was necessary to know about God and give him heaven. All without mentioning sin, judgment, or hell.

Remarkable!

Unknown to a holy God!

And foreign to the holy Scriptures!

Man cares more about what other people think of him than what the Lord thinks. And the changes keep on spilling over. Quicker than you can imagine, church will no longer have any resemblance to church as instituted by the Holy Spirit of God on Pentecost. But it will go on calling itself church. Well, actually, that’s not wholly true. More and more groups are NOT calling themselves a church — even distancing themselves from their origins. And their number continues to swell. And the Lord Jesus Christ — soon there will be people in these works that have never heard of Him, or His name, even in a prayer. It should come as no surprise that after the calling up of the believers from this earth, that those who remain will unite their “religious” works together under one false prophet and system — and still call it church. The true Church of Jesus Christ will be gone to be with the Lord. Only the imposters will remain. Don’t be one of them. Examine where you are by the Word of God.

“I am so glad to obtain your Bible Study Course. I am locked up, and I am trying to find God and obtain faith. I had a wife and two kids; now all I have is a Bible, and it isn’t my own. I hope you have something that will help me find God.” — *an inmate* (VA)

**THE CHALLENGER**

(USPS 557.980)

**Dwight Porter, D.D., Editor**

Published monthly by *The Hour of Grace and Power, Inc.*

Editorial & General offices located at 862 Barber Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-4825

Periodical postage paid in Vero Beach, Florida, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
**THE CHALLENGER**  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400

Without cost or obligation, this publication will be sent to you monthly. Extra copies are available.

**Address The Challenger mail to:  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400**

**WE DEPEND 100 PERCENT UPON the gifts received from those who receive spiritual benefit from our ministry. Make check or money orders payable to THE HOUR OF GRACE AND POWER.**

**OUR OPERATION**

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

**~ WEB SITE ~**

**thehourofgraceandpower.org**

☆ ☆ ☆

*“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord” I Corinthians 15:58*

☆ ☆ ☆

**~ AVAILABLE ~**

Bible Study Course  
Nine Lessons • Certificate  
Literature Sheet – Features  
75 Printed Messages  
CDs and Cassettes Mailed Regularly  
(NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION)



**YES, please send your audio messages.**

**I prefer  CDs  Cassettes.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: DWIGHT PORTER, BOX 400, ROSELAND, FL 32957  
(no cost or obligation)**