

UNIT 12

EXALTING CHRIST

Hymn Part 6

CHRIST'S NAME

“... wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11



DAY 1

Prophet, Priest, and King

DAY 2

Names of Christ, Part 1

DAY 3

Names of Christ, Part 2

DAY 4

Victory in Christ

DAY 5

Pressing Toward the Mark

Why You Will Find This Unit Helpful

You will find that the names and offices of Christ will inspire you to worship and exalt Him. As your love for Christ increases, you will be drawn to surrender to His absolute lordship in your life. During this final unit you will review what God has been doing in your life, and you will set your mind on pressing toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Lifelong Goal

You will surrender to Christ's lordship and worship Him in Spirit and truth.

Summary of God's Work in You

Keeping Christ's name before you at all times helps you think His thoughts and show His character. Knowing His position, authority, and work, you want to worship Him. Your worship can be measured only by His worth. Christ helps you worship in His role as Lord. God's goal is the lordship of Christ. Christ rules in your heart.

Unit Learning Goals

- You will understand three offices of Christ and principles by which His names can be grouped.
- You will demonstrate your surrender to His lordship over your life.
- You will demonstrate your worship, reverence, awe, and gratitude to Him in prayer.
- You will understand the nature and source of your victory in Christ.
- You will demonstrate your commitment to spend time daily with the Lord in prayer, Scripture study, and meditation for the rest of your life.

What You Will Do to Exalt Christ

- You will study the names and offices of Christ. You will worship, praise, and thank Him.
- You will spend time in prayer exalting Christ.
- You will respond to an invitation to bow and surrender to Christ's absolute lordship.
- You will understand the victory Christ has already provided for you, and you will learn about the weapons and armor He provides for spiritual warfare.
- You will review your study of *The Mind of Christ* and identify some of the areas of your life in which God has been working.
- You will begin praying for your church to be a pure and beautiful bride of Christ.

Scripture Memory Verse

"He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

Lifelong Helps Related to This Unit

Names, Titles, and Descriptions of Jesus Christ (pp. 253–54)

The Mind of Christ Card Related to This Unit

5B. Unit 12: Scripture Memory—Colossians 1:18

Optional DVD Messages by T. W. Hunt

- Session 6, Part 1: His Name
- Session 6, Part 2: His Name
- Session 8: The Resurrection

DAY 1
PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

Today's Bible Meditations

“God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
 (Phil. 2:9-11).

“The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”
 (John 4:23-24).

Name of Christ for Today
 The Prophet (John 7:40)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Lord Jesus Christ, You are Prophet, Priest, and King. You do more for me than I can understand. Yet I thank You for the privilege of being related to You and chosen by You. Draw me to Yourself in worship today. Teach me what You mean by worshiping in spirit and truth. Be exalted in my life for Your Father's glory. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today in the left margin. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Hymn Part 6: Christ's Name

The hymn in Philippians 2 concludes with verses 9-11 as God exalts His Son and gives Christ a name above every other name. God's goal is that every person (knee) shall bow and every person (tongue) shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father. During this final unit we want to focus our attention on the names of Jesus and the Person those names represent. Our purpose is to worship Jesus Christ as Lord and thus bring glory to God the Father.

2. Why did God exalt His Son Jesus? _____

The sixth characteristic of a Christlike mind is *peaceful*. Christ's love took Him to Calvary. But his death bought us peace with God. Peace is not the absence of conflict but the harvest of love. The resurrection was Christ's victory over sin and death. His victory made peace a reality. Through Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation we can experience genuine peace.

3. What did Jesus purchase for you through His death on Calvary? _____

4. Before you continue:

- Pray and thank God for providing peace for you through the sacrifice of His Son.
- Praise God for the victory Christ won over sin and death through His resurrection.
- Tell Christ how much you love Him for the supreme sacrifice He made for you.

Christ's Offices

The creed of the New Testament church was "Jesus Christ is Lord." This is the confession of "every tongue" in Philippians 2:11. The confession of faith in Romans 10:9 is of Jesus as Lord. Paul wrote the Corinthian church, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3, NASB). The three titles *Jesus*, *Christ*, and *Lord* occur together many times in the New Testament. Each name refers to a special office Christ holds. God's intention is for "Jesus Christ is Lord" to be the creed of today's New Testament church.

Jesus is Prophet. *Jesus* was the name of God in the flesh. In this human nature Jesus functioned as Prophet (see Acts 3:22), the first of His three great offices. God speaks through a prophet, and if a prophet speaks, we must listen.

 5. What is one of Jesus' offices? _____

 6. Read Acts 3:22,26 in the right margin. What was the purpose of Jesus' coming as a prophet?

Christ is Priest. As Prophet, Jesus came to bless us and to turn us away from our iniquities. The name *Christ* combines both His human and His divine natures. Christ is His name as Priest: "Christ being come an high priest of good things to come ... by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:11-12).

Christ, our Great High Priest, now functions in two ways. First, He is an Intercessor (see Heb. 7:25). We know God will hear Christ as He prays for us. Second, Christ is our Mediator (see 1 Tim. 2:5). He mediated a new covenant relationship between us and God. Our Priest has given us an important observance, the Lord's Supper, as a reminder of what has been paid for our sin debt. This observance also helps us remember that Christ is coming again.

 7. What are two ways Christ functions as our Priest?

I _____ and M _____

The Lord is King. Jesus' third great office is that of King (see Rev. 19:16). His name as King is *Lord* (see Phil. 2:11). This name brings in the divine nature. God rules through Christ as Lord, and we bow our knees to acknowledge His rule.

His three great offices, then, are contained in the formula "Jesus Christ is Lord" (see Phil. 2:11). As a human, Jesus was Prophet. This involves His past work. The name *Christ* brings in both His human and divine natures and shows Him as Priest. The priestly work is Jesus' present work for us. *Lord* shows Jesus to us as King. This speaks of a future day when every knee will bow. In this way the creed contains every

ACTS 3:22,26

"A PROPHET SHALL THE LORD YOUR GOD RAISE UP UNTO YOU OF YOUR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME [MOSES]; HIM SHALL YE HEAR IN ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER HE SHALL SAY UNTO YOU. UNTO YOU FIRST GOD, HAVING RAISED UP HIS SON JESUS, SENT HIM TO BLESS YOU, IN TURNING AWAY EVERY ONE OF YOU FROM HIS INIQUITIES."

REVELATION 19:16

"HE HATH ON HIS VESTURE AND ON HIS THIGH A NAME WRITTEN, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

important idea in the work and nature of Christ: “Jesus [Prophet] Christ [Priest] is Lord [King].”

 8. Beside each name below write the corresponding office.

Jesus _____

Christ _____

Lord _____

 9. What is the creed of a New Testament church?

____ J _____ C _____ is L _____

- Because Jesus is a Prophet, I listen to His Word.
- Because Jesus is a Priest, I believe Him.
- Because Jesus is King, I obey Him. I acknowledge Jesus' total lordship over every area of my life.

 10. Jesus loved you so much that He gave His life for your redemption. From your love for Him, bow and confess to Him, “Jesus Christ, You are Lord.” Take time as you conclude this lesson to worship Jesus in prayer as Prophet, Priest, and King.

DAY 2 NAMES OF CHRIST, PART 1



Today's Bible Meditation

“Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:78-79, NASB).

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse in the margin and the name of Christ in the margin on the next page. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer in the margin on the following page to begin your study.

Throughout this study you have been given names of Christ from Scripture on which to focus your attention. We have found in the names of Christ ways to submit to Christ. We have also found ways to relate to Christ or to abide in Him. Many of these ways help us love Him more fully and appropriately. The names of Christ help us worship Him.

2. Scan through the previous lessons. Which name of Christ has been most meaningful to you and why?

Name of Christ for Today
Emmanuel [God with Us]
(Matt. 1:23)

Now we want to share with you a few principles that organize some of Christ's names. These principles are not mutually exclusive, because some names could be included under several of the principles.

Deity Names

Christ's deity or divine names refer to Him as God. Because of the deity names, we worship Christ as well as the Father and the Spirit. Any other worship is improper and idolatrous. God has revealed Himself through the incarnation, for Jesus is God. Listed below are some of His deity names.

- Creator (Col. 1:16)
- Holy One of God (Luke 4:34)
- Truth (John 14:6)
- Lord from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:47)
- Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
- Image of the Invisible God (Col. 1:15)
- Son of God (John 1:49)
- Emmanuel [God with Us] (Matt. 1:23)

Perhaps the most important of the divine names is Jesus' own claim to be the "I am" (John 8:58). In this way Jesus identified Himself with the eternal, self-existent God who appeared to Moses (see Ex. 3:14).

3. Take a few moments in prayer to worship Christ as God.

Functioning Names

These names indicate ways Jesus works for us, that is, functions on our behalf. Some of these names could be called redemption names. Jesus is:

- Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)
- Saviour of the World (John 4:42)
- He That Sanctifieth (Heb. 2:11)
- Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6, NASB)
- Shepherd and Bishop [Guardian, NASB] of your souls (1 Pet. 2:25)

4. In prayer acknowledge Christ for who He is and thank Him for the things He does for you.

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Emmanuel, how I praise You for coming to dwell among humanity in order to provide for my salvation on the cross. I cannot understand why You have also chosen to take up residence in my life, but I am glad You did. I enjoy Your presence and Your fellowship. Shine in me. Shine through me to reveal Your light to those who live in darkness. Guide my feet in the ways of peace. Amen.

Light Names

Jesus is the True Light. You have to look up in the sky to see all these manifestations of light. Listed below are celestial-light names describing Jesus.

- Dayspring [Sunrise] (Luke 1:78)
- Day Star (2 Pet. 1:19)
- Light of Life (John 8:12)
- Light to Lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:32)
- Light of Men (John 1:4)
- Light of the World (John 8:12)

In Jesus' last words in the New Testament He called Himself "the bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16). This name signifies hope. In the New Jerusalem "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" (Rev. 21:23, NASB).

 5. Close your time with the Lord today by praising Him for His glory.

DAY 3 NAMES OF CHRIST, PART 2

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the names of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer in the margin on the next page to begin your study.

The Complement Principle

One aspect of our submission to Christ (bowing the knee) is to fulfill complementary roles that His names suggest. Listed below are some of Christ's names and the role or relationship we have with Him.



Today's Bible Meditation
"I am Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the first and the last"
(Rev. 22:13).

Names of Christ for Today
Alpha and Omega, the
Beginning and the End
(Rev. 21:6)

CHRIST'S NAME	OUR ROLE
Shepherd (John 10:11)	Sheep
Father (Isa. 9:6)	Child
Brother (Heb. 2:11)	Brother or sister
Teacher (John 3:2)	Disciple
Master (2 Tim. 2:21)	Servant
Vine (John 15:1)	Branch
Bridegroom (Mark 2:19)	Bride of Christ (the church)

The Identity Principle

When we apply the Identity Principle, we identify with Christ through His names. We are to grow into His likeness. We are to become like Christ.

- God's Beloved (Matt. 12:18). We must be beloved by God (Rom. 1:7).
- Chosen One (Isa. 42:1, NASB). We are chosen (2 Tim. 2:10).
- Heir of All Things (Heb. 1:2). We are joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
- Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). We become fully human when we live as Christ lived.
- Lamb (John 1:29). Christ is pure. We are to be pure.
- Rock (1 Cor. 10:4). We are not to waver.
- Jesus Christ the Righteous (1 John 2:1). In Him we are righteous (Jer. 23:6).

Prayer to Begin

the Lesson

Alpha and Omega, You began a good work in me, and You are able to finish it. You are far greater than my mind can comprehend. Holy Spirit, as I study more about Christ's names today, please continue to enlarge my knowledge and understanding of Him. Exalt Him in my life. Then enable me to lift Him up in the eyes of others as I declare His greatness to those around me. Amen.

 2. Review the list and ask God if there is one particular area He would like to work on to bring you closer to Christ's likeness. Thank God that you are beloved, chosen, and a joint heir with Christ.

The Life Principle

Some of the names for the Lord indicate that He is the Source of our life. Whenever a name is repeated in various forms, God is emphasizing the concept illustrated in the use of that name. Christ is:

• The Bread of Life (John 6:35)	• Eternal Life (1 John 5:20)
• The Life (John 14:6)	• Our Life (Col. 3:4)
• Light of Life (John 8:12)	• Prince of Life (Acts 3:15)
• The Word of Life (1 John 1:1)	• The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

 3. Christ is your life. Pause to agree that He is your life and ask Christ to do all that is necessary for His life to be clearly reflected in you.

The Sovereign Principle

Many names indicate the sovereignty and royalty of Christ.

- Governor (Matt. 2:6)
- King of Kings (1 Tim. 6:15)
- King of Saints (Rev. 15:3)
- King of the Jews (Matt. 27:11)
- Thy King (Matt. 21:5)
- Lord of Lords (1 Tim. 6:15)
- Good Master (Mark 10:17)
- Messiah the Prince (Dan. 9:25)
- Prince of Life (Acts 3:15)
- Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
- Prince of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)
- King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible (1 Tim. 1:17)
- King That Cometh in the Name of the Lord (Luke 19:38)
- Leader and Commander to the People (Isa. 55:4)

The Preeminence Principle

Not only is Christ the absolute Ruler, but He is to be preeminent (first or foremost) in all things.

- God of the whole earth (Isa. 54:5)
- Firstborn of every creature (Col. 1:15)
- Head of every man (1 Cor. 11:3)
- Firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:29)
- Head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18)
- Head of all principality and power (Col. 2:10)
- Lord over all (Rom. 10:12)

Paul expected Christ to be supreme in the New Testament church and in the lives of believers. If we will bow our knees today, we can place Christ above all earthly relations, institutions, past times, and business. Christ must be Lord over all.

 4. Christ is your Ruler and the Head of your church. Take a few moments in prayer to bow your knees and submit to His lordship in your life, your family, your work, and your church.

5. Christ is great and greatly to be praised. Praise Him for His preeminence.

The Alpha-and-Omega Principle

This designation is used for this series of names because it is biblical; it is a name Christ gave Himself. Alpha and Omega express well the idea contained in the principle. *Alpha* is the first letter of the Greek alphabet; *omega* is the last. We would say “the A and the Z.” Some of the Alpha names indicate Christ as initiator—One who begins something. All initiative is with God. The Omega names indicate Him as a finisher—One who completes something. God always finishes what He starts. After Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” He added “the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Rev. 22:13, NASB).

6. In your own words define Alpha-and-Omega names.

Alpha names mean Christ is _____

Omega names mean Christ is _____

• Jesus is the Author (Initiator) and Finisher of our faith (see Heb. 12:2).

Author—Finisher

• Jesus is our Advocate with the Father (see 1 John 2:1)—our defense lawyer. This is an Alpha name. We do not need to fear Satan’s constant accusation (see Rev. 12:10), for Jesus initiated our salvation and stands ready to defend us. Jesus also has a corresponding Omega name: Righteous Judge (see 2 Tim. 4:8). What an unbeatable combination—our defense lawyer is our judge! Jesus begins and finishes the work on our behalf!

Advocate—Judge

• As Alpha, Jesus is the Lamb of God who took away our sins (see John 1:29). He is meek, pure, and innocent. As Omega, Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (see Rev. 5:5). As Lion, Jesus is bold, powerful, and strong.

Lamb—Lion

• One of Jesus’ Alpha names is Servant. As Servant, He submits to God and even lived among the disciples as One Who Serves (see Luke 22:27). But Jesus as Omega is the Head of the church (see Eph. 5:23). As Head, Jesus directs the work of His servants.

Servant—Head

• Another Alpha name is Apostle—the Sent One who came to earth to begin a new work for all of us. But Jesus also has a corresponding Omega name—the High Priest (see Heb. 3:1) who now intercedes for us.

Apostle—High Priest

• Jesus is the Son of Man (see Matt. 11:19) and the Son of God (see 1 John 4:15).

Son of Man—Son of God

7. Do you have a sense of awe at how great Jesus is? Take a moment in prayer to worship Him. Jesus is worthy of our worship.

Jesus is not only the A and the Z. He is the B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, and Y! He who begins the work and finishes it also does the work through us throughout our lives (see John 15:1-5). In the stages of life, Jesus is the Child (see Isa. 9:6), the Man (see 1 Tim. 2:5), and the Eternal Father (see Isa. 9:6). In regard to the building, He is the Foundation (see 1 Cor. 3:11), the Cornerstone (see 1 Pet. 2:6), and even the Builder (see Heb. 3:3). If we see Jesus as Plant, He is the Seed from which we all spring (see Gal. 3:16), the Root (see Rom. 15:12), the Branch (see Zech. 6:12), and the Vine (see John 15:1). As to His churchly offices, Jesus is the Apostle (see Heb. 3:1), the Prophet (see Acts 3:22), the High Priest (see Heb. 5:10), and the Overseer or Bishop (see 1 Pet. 2:25). Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the summation of all God's work.

8. Review all the lists of the names of Christ. Conclude by expressing your worship, praise, and thanksgiving to Christ. God wants Christ to be exalted in your mind and in your life.

DAY 4

VICTORY IN CHRIST

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today on this page. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

The Battles Continue

All of God's saints are engaged in battles that are part of a long war. The final outcome of the war is assured and is spelled out in the Book of Revelation. God and His saints will conquer Satan. Victory in the war is decided, but the battles continue. We are in their midst.

We are deceived if we do not realize that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12, NASB). The battles we fight are in the mind, where Satan and his forces work with great determination. Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees when He said, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matt. 12:35). Having the mind of Christ involves struggle.

2. If you have the mind of Christ, will you still face struggles and spiritual battles? _____

3. Where will those battles primarily be fought? _____

Name of Christ for Today

Our Savior Jesus Christ

(2 Pet. 1:1)

Spiritual Weapons and Armor

Paul showed in the verses below that the spiritual battles we fight are in the mind: "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5, NASB).

God has given believers spiritual weapons that have divine power to demolish strongholds. Claim those weapons and use them to take captive every contrary thought and make it obedient to Christ. With spiritual armor (see Eph. 6:13-18) we are to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12).

 4. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 below and circle items of spiritual armor you are to wear.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

 5. What is one thing you are always to do? _____

Paul used the spiritual weapons and armor to fight his spiritual battles. At the end of his life, Paul claimed, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7, NASB). We pray that you too will be victorious.

The Battle and the Victory Are the Lord's

Our present responsibility is to fight our battles in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. What Jahaziel told Jehoshaphat applies to all time: "The battle is not yours but God's" (2 Chron. 20:15, NASB). The New Testament consistently speaks of victory not as something we accomplish but as the appropriation of what Jesus has already accomplished!

Paul proclaimed, "Thanks be to God, who always leads us *in His triumph* in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place" (2 Cor. 2:14, NASB, author's italics). Victory is not an outcome to be achieved but steps to follow. When we walk in Christ and He is shown and exalted

Prayer to Begin

the Lesson

*Jesus, You are my Savior.
In You I have victory over
the world. How can I say
thanks? Nothing I can do
would be adequate. However,
I place my life on the altar
as a living sacrifice to You in
an act of worship. Continue
to renew my mind so that
I can be pleasing to You.
Please accept my humble
thank-you for the victory
You give. Amen.*

*Victory is not an outcome
to be achieved but steps
to follow.*

*Victory is when the
Victor abides in us.*

in our life, we walk in victory. For the spiritual Christian, victory is not an event. Victory is when the Victor abides in us: "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5, NASB).

The proof of faith is not in success or even in answered prayer but in enduring. We do not have the privilege of giving up to Satan. Because the battle is not ours but God's, we are not the ones to make that choice. Paul urged Timothy, "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:3, NASB). Moses persevered "as seeing Him who is unseen" (Heb. 11:27, NASB).

All spiritual forces are subject to Christ. The demons had to obey Christ because He had authority. Christ's final victory is the work of the cross. When the forces of evil succeeded in nailing the incarnate second Person of the Trinity to the cross, they thought they had defeated God. But that cross proved to be their undoing: "When He [Jesus] had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him" (Col. 2:15, NASB). Victory is not justice waiting to be accomplished but a debt that has been fully paid.

 6. Which of the following best describes spiritual victory in Christ?

- Spiritual victory in Christ is a future hope. I hope He wins.
- Spiritual victory in Christ is a present reality. He has already won.

Christ has already won. The final enemy to be vanquished will be death itself. The finality of death—the real meaning of death—will be realized for the unbeliever in what the Bible calls the "second death" (Rev. 20:14). But for the believer:

When this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:54-57, NASB).

For believers, death is momentary—a passage into the presence of Christ. Death is the path to full knowledge and the end of Satan's obstruction of our understanding. God manifests His final victory after indwelling our life of struggle. Beyond death is the reward we were seeking as we grappled with the forces of the world. Passing through this doorway, we at last experience safety and eternal sanctuary. For a Christian, real death (eternal, not momentary) happened two thousand years ago, and we do not dread the past!

Do not be surprised if Satan tries to thwart you in your effort to live by the principles of this course. Christ never promised that living His life would be easy. In one sense the battles are already won. We have the mind of Christ. Our problem is knowing how to live by the mind of Christ in the context of this world. Remember

*For a Christian, real death
(eternal, not momentary)
happened two thousand
years ago, and we do not
dread the past!*

that you gained the mind of Christ even at spiritual birth. Still, that baby mind in you must grow, and the growth process is beset by the habits of your old sin nature, the obstruction of Satan, and the appeal of the world. However, victory is yours. Your triumph was accomplished two thousand years ago when Christ fully satisfied the requirements of God on the cross, conquered death, and ascended to intercede for us until the final battle is over. Jesus has been interceding for you even as you have studied this material.

7. Conclude in prayer. Claim your victory in Christ. Ask God to teach you to use your spiritual weapons to make every thought obedient to Christ.

8. As a follow-up to the previous assignment on page 188 to view the DVD on The Crucifixion, this is an appropriate time in your study to complete the following assignment either as a group or individually: session 8, "The Resurrection," from *The Mind of Christ* DVD messages.

DAY 5 PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the names of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

Conforming to Christ's Image

I believe the Lord had several purposes in leading me to write this course. He led me to write it, and I believe He led you to study it. The first group of purposes relates to you as an individual.

**God's primary purpose in you as a believer
is to conform you to the image of His Son.**

Christ is your Creator (see Col. 1:16), your Redeemer, and your Sustainer (see Col. 1:14,17, NIV). He is the Head over every rule and authority (see Col. 2:10, NASB). Yet great as Christ is, He is your Brother if you are redeemed (see Heb. 2:11). You are to look like your elder Brother. You are to resemble Christ and live a life that parallels His. Though you walk in a material world, you are really a spiritual, heavenly creature. God is molding you into that image: "Just as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Cor. 15:49, NASB).

You can actively participate in that process of being conformed to Christ's image. Conforming to the pattern of Christ is really a matter of realizing in thought and deed all that was born in you when you became a Christian. There are specifics in the mind of Christ to which you can conform:



Today's Bible Meditations
"Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: or the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Rev. 19:6-8).

Names of Christ for Today
Author and Finisher of
Our Faith (Heb. 12:2)

**Prayer to Begin
the Lesson**

*Jesus, Author and Finisher
of my faith, I confess that
You began a good work in
my life when You redeemed
me. You have been doing a
good work in me these past
few months. I now pray that
You will continue to
accomplish Your purposes
in my life to mold and shape
my life into Your image.
I exalt You. I worship You.
I adore You. I bow before
You and proclaim
that You are my Lord
Jesus Christ! Amen.*

- The virtues of godly wisdom in James 3:17
- The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23
- The characteristics of the servant mind
- The qualities described in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:3-10
- The model of Christ in expressing emotions
- The model of Christ in relationship to things and people
- The model of Christ in relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit
- The model of Christ's use of the Scriptures and prayer
- The character and behavior of holiness
- The actions of Christlike love

 2. Which area(s) found in this list did God emphasize in your life?
Underline the area(s).

 3. Do you sense that you are more or less like Christ than when you began this study?

More like Christ Less like Christ

 4. Why? _____

Conforming to the image of Christ is accomplished through a process (see Mark 4:26-29). You can and must cooperate in this process. This is why your will is so important. You must be "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2).

Knowledge of Christ

What we have given in this book is basic information about the mind and person of Christ. If we are to be conformed, we must have specific information about what we are being conformed to. I have 21 personal notebooks (not to mention the many books in my library) full of information on the person of Christ that I have gathered over the years. I included in this course only a part of the material I have learned.

Because Christ is inexhaustible, I have much yet to learn, and you do too. Jesus invites us, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me" (Matt. 11:29, NASB).

 5. Of all the things you have learned about Christ during this study, what one thing seems to stand out as most interesting, meaningful, inspiring, or challenging?

This course is only a beginning. The knowledge you are to gain is contained in your primary textbook, the Bible. The Old Testament is full of God's actions, messianic prophecies, poetry about the various aspects of His work and being, and Christ's names. The New Testament tells of Jesus' earthly work (the Apostle work) and His heavenly work (the High Priestly work).

We pray that you will commit to spend time with God daily. Make Jesus and His purposes the basis of all you are and do. Embrace Jesus as you go through your daily routine, planning, budget, friendships, marriage, child rearing, work, and all other aspects of your life.

Getting to know Jesus Christ and becoming like Him require:

- Time to talk with Jesus in prayer
- Time in prayer to listen to Jesus' instruction and guidance
- Time reading God's Word to know Jesus, His purposes, and His ways more certainly
- Time to meditate on the person and work of Christ as a model for your life

 6. We have one more long-term assignment for you. First read the following verses.

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay (Eccl. 5:4-5).

 7. Consider the following request carefully and prayerfully. Will you commit yourself to spend time with the Lord daily in prayer, Scripture study, and meditation?

_____ Yes I'm not ready to do that yet. No

 8. If you are willing, how much time are you willing to pledge to Jesus with the intention of keeping your vow to Him for the rest of your life? Check your response.

15 minutes daily

30 minutes daily

45 minutes daily

60 minutes daily

Other: _____ daily

Years ago I committed to spend at least 30 minutes daily with the Lord. God has enabled me to keep that commitment to Him, and God has rewarded me with His presence and guidance. If you have just made a vow to the Lord, the psalmist gives you a model prayer, and God makes a promise to you:

“Thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name. So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows” (Ps. 61:5,8).

“Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Ps. 50:14-15).

The Bride of Christ

Another group of purposes that has pervaded my mind as I wrote has to do with the bride of Christ, the church. One passion of my life is to see the church purified and cleansed. Will you join me and others as we pray for the bride of Christ—the church?

- Pray that your church will be cleansed to be a suitable bride for Christ's perfect purity. Some of our work in the church today is based on worldly techniques and methods. Our use of God's money is not always centered on His unique purposes. Sin persists in the lives of church members. Many members do not realize the purpose God ordained for them to fulfill in the body. Ask God to purge from the church all sin and to ready the church for her glorious Bridegroom.
- Pray that your church will come under the unconditional lordship of her Head, Christ. Lordship should begin with your life. If Christ is the Head, church members are the parts of His body. Each part must be obedient to the Head. Parts can function together as a unit only when all directives come from Christ. Pray that the various leaders of your church first turn to Christ for their direction.
- Finally, pray that the bride will truly love her great Bridegroom. If the angels in heaven worship Christ (see Heb. 1:6), how much more should we who are redeemed by His blood worship Him! Pray for your church's worship. Worldly

music, insincere motives, an orientation to performance or pride in performance, mediocre or even indifferent execution of the components of worship—all these crowd out our adoration of a high and holy God. Ask the Lord to purify your worship so that only God will be glorified and Christ will be exalted.

 9. Take a moment now to pray these prayers for yourself and your church.

We want to pray for you and your church.

Heavenly Father,

I ask that my friends finishing this course today never forget the glory and accomplishments of Jesus. I pray that they will always glorify Christ in their lives above all else.

I ask that You remind my friends of things to pray for in life and in the church. Purify the church through our prayers.

I also plead with You that Jesus' church stop glorifying man and glorify only Jesus. Let Him be seen, not our talents or accomplishments. I pray that the day will come soon when only Jesus' glory will be perceptible in His church. I ask that no name be exalted except Christ's. O great God, exalt Jesus' name as it has never been exalted. Let it be high and holy in His body. Give us that much taste of heaven even now.

Holy Father, fulfill the purpose You originally had in the writing of this course. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Continuing the Process

You have concluded your study of this introduction to the lifelong process of letting God develop the mind of Christ in you. This is just a beginning. Continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

 10. Consider praying this prayer. Respond to God in whatever way you sense would be appropriate.

*This is just a beginning.
Continue to grow in grace
and in the knowledge of
your Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.*

Father God,

I more clearly see now that Jesus was Your method of self-revelation. In knowing Him, I know You and understand Your ways and nature. With all my heart I thank You for revealing Yourself to us so clearly. I understand that all revelation is summarized in the person of Christ.

Because You want me to, I want to live His life today. Through Him You are bringing many children to glory. I have begun a process. I ask You to carry that process through to the final glory You have for me, and I pledge to work with You in accomplishing Your purpose.

I make Him the absolute Lord of my life. I will not question Your directives through Him, for He is my Master.

I love You very much, and I love Your only begotten Son. With all the adoration possible to me at this stage of my growth, I love You with my whole being. I commit myself to let You perfect fully all You intend to finish in me. In Jesus' name, I am Yours. Amen.