

“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!”

The Bible tells us:

1) Jesus is Supreme in the entire Universe!

Read Colossians 1:15-20

- Jesus is God and has all God’s fullness!
- Jesus is the “first born” (honored over all creation) and is before all things (supreme)! He was the first to rise from the dead with a resurrected body.
- Jesus is the creator!
- Jesus is the sustainer (holds all things together)!
- Jesus is the head of the church!
- Jesus is the reconciler between God and us!

2) Jesus Loves us and wants to have a personal Relationship with us ... and it brings him Pleasure!

Acts 17:24-27 (all scriptures NIV): “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth, and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands **as if He needed anything**, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men ... God did this so that men would **seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him**, though He is not far from each of us”.

Ephesians 1:3-5: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He **chose us** in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In **love**, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His **pleasure and will**”.

Ephesians 2:4-5: “But because of **His great love for us**, God, who is rich in **mercy**, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by **grace** you have been saved”.

Other verses: Psalms 8:4-5; Isaiah 62: 4,12; Titus 3:4-7; Revelation 3:20

- 3) **Jesus humbled Himself, endured the cross and it's shame, suffered and died in order to resolve the sin gap between God and us! (Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 2:5-11).**

Our sin gap ☹️ Romans 3:23 “for **all** have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God”.

Philippians 2:5-8: “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he **humbled himself** and became obedient to death – even **death on the cross**.”

2 Corinthians 5:21: “God made Him who had no sin **to be sin for us**, so that **in Him we might become the righteousness of God**”.

- 4) **To have our sins forgiven and start a personal relationship with Jesus, we must believe AND receive the gift of salvation that Jesus offers!**

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Ephesians 2:8-9: “For it is by **grace** you have been saved through **faith** – and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** – **not by works**, so that no one can boast”.

John 3:16-18: “For God so **loved** the world that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world through Him**. Whoever believes in Him is **not** condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son”.

John 1:12: “Yet to all who **received** Him, to those that **believed** in His name, he gave the right to become children of God”.

- 5) **If we have a personal relationship with Jesus, He wants to be our best Friend! We develop our relationship with Jesus primarily by love and obedience.**

James 2:20-23: "... was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the alter? ... Abraham believed God ... and he was called **God's friend**".

Read John 15: 9-17

- 6) **Jesus wants to empower us to accomplish great things for Him!**

John 15:8: "This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit** showing yourselves to be my disciples".

John 14:12-13: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father".

John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If** a man remains in me and I in him, he will **bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do **nothing**".

Philippians 4:13: "**I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me!**"

What are the "great things" Jesus would like you to accomplish?