



By

Mark McGee

Many Christians tell me they've never heard of the Christadelphians, but the group has been in existence for almost 175 years. I've talked with members of the group, so I know they exist. There are tens of thousands of Christadelphians around the world today.

This is a **warning** to anyone who is a Christadelphian or is considering becoming one.

Christadelphians believe they are Christians, but they are not. Here's why I say that.

“Jesus is a Man, not God!”

That’s a direct quote from one of the official Christadelphian websites. Here’s more about their beliefs concerning Jesus Christ:

We believe that the Bible is quite clear in its presentation that Christ is a man. The Son of God, but certainly not God Himself. The bulk of mainstream Christianity has staked its life on the assertion that Jesus is God. However, this is to be rejected for the following inescapable reasons, and many more:

God is one. There can only be one true God. It is undeniable that Jesus referred to himself and the Father as separate. To fly in the face of this the most fundamental of Biblical teachings, in any way, is to venture out onto very thin ice.

Mortality and immortality are mutually exclusive characteristics. God is immortal, and cannot die. Jesus died. If you alter this, all Scripture is inexorably weakened.

Jesus always very clearly pointed out his subservience to God; in power, teaching and life itself. To assert their equality is untenable.

Mortal humans cannot exist in the direct presence of God. As Exodus 33:20 says, no man can see God and live. Therefore, to say Jesus was fully God and fully man violates scripture, since thousands of people saw Jesus.

We believe the trinity ideology is actually an insult to both God and Jesus. To say that God could be reduced to a form that could walk among us is to completely ignore the sheer magnitude of God's power (see 1 Tim. 6:16). This idea makes God small, capable of being touched by sinful human hands. To say that Jesus had a part of him that was immortal

and could not sin is to disparage the magnitude of his accomplishment, overcoming the power of sin. God is bigger and Jesus' accomplishment was greater than the trinity doctrine allows.

Jesus is currently in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God (Luke 22:69; Acts 7:55-56) – a separate position than God Himself. He is serving as our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5) and high priest (Heb. 5:10) – two roles which make no sense at all if Jesus is God. In the near future, Jesus will return to earth to set up his worldwide kingdom over which he will reign.

Christadelpia.org

Anything about the Christadelphian doctrinal statement bother you? It should. What the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ is at the center of the truth of Christianity. Christadelphians are similar to other cults and false religions that bring Jesus down to the level of being a human being who God chose for a special purpose. Christadelpia began in the 19th century when many other similar cults were birthed (e.g. Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah's

Witnesses). It was a very active time for false religious groups to begin.

Here's something else Christadelphians get wrong about Jesus. They don't believe Jesus existed as a person before people we read about in the Old Testament. They believe His existence began when God conceived Him in Mary's womb through the power of His Spirit.

The Christadelphians believe that the Christ and his mission can only be understood in the light of a clear comprehension of the covenants he came to fulfill. Christ fulfilled the promise to Eve, that one of her seed would crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He fulfills the covenant with Abraham, that in his seed would all the nations of the earth be blessed (Genesis 22:18, Gal. 3:16). And he will fulfill on his return God's promise to David, that one of his descendants would sit on his throne in Jerusalem for ever (II Sam 7:12-16).

It was always the understanding of these men and women that the Messiah would be their descendant. To present that Jesus was born more than a man, or that he existed as a person before Eve, Abraham and David, is to reject the clear presentation of God's purpose to these people of faith.

And, here's yet another major problem with what Christadelphians believe about Jesus:

We reject as unbiblical the idea that Christ could die as a replacement sacrifice for us, thus covering all our sins forever with that one act. Certainly it is through his sacrifice that we may be forgiven, but only if we walk the path of self-denial that he marked out for us.

They believe that Jesus' death on the cross opened a path for God to forgive them, but they have to walk the "path of self-denial" marked out for them. That's worked-based salvation.

So, Christadelphians believe Jesus is just a man, didn't exist before He was born to Mary, not God, His death was not a "replacement sacrifice for us," and we have to perform works for our salvation. I have some HUGE problems with that.

Christadelphians like to quote Scripture to support their position on these and other beliefs. However, just like so many cults they don't quote in context, they don't use Scripture correctly, and they leave out Scripture that doesn't fit their false teaching.

I have a lot of problems with what Christadelphians teach, but I'll focus on four in this current study. I'll mention some of the other problematic beliefs in a later part of the series.

- Jesus is not God
- Jesus didn't exist before being conceived in Mary's womb
- Jesus' death was not a replacement sacrifice for us
- People have to work for their salvation

How can Christians respond? Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Interestingly, that verse is in the context of not being affected by false teaching.

... that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

A Christian's best defense against false teaching is truth in love, so our response will be the following:

- Jesus is God
- Jesus is Eternal
- Jesus' Sacrifice was For Us
- Salvation is Not by Works

Jesus is God

Jesus said things publicly that the Jews who heard Him understood as His claiming to be equal to God:

Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. John 5:18

Jesus claimed the title “I AM” while in the Temple, which led Jews to attempt to stone Him to death for blasphemy.

Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. John 8:58-59

Jews tried to stone Jesus again for blasphemy because of His claims to give eternal life to His disciples, and that He and God the Father “are one”:

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 'I and My Father are one.' Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God. John 10:27-33

Jesus sealed His death during this conversation with Israel's rulers. He quoted from Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 7, which Jews understood to mean Jesus was making Himself to be equal to God.

Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' Jesus said, 'I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?' And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. Mark 14:61-64

Jesus also claimed to do things that only God could do (e.g. forgive sins, grant eternal life, raise the dead, know what would happen in the future, receive worship from people).

Jesus also claimed that the Old Testament Scriptures were about Him:

Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Luke 24:44-45

The Christadelphians either missed those Scriptures during their studies, purposely suppressed them to protect their false teaching, or believed that Jesus is a liar since He made clear His Deity.

Christadelphians also don't believe the Holy Spirit is God. In fact, they don't believe the Spirit is a Person. They view Him as God's "force." That's interesting in light of what Jesus told His disciples about what the Holy Spirit would do for them when Jesus sent Him from the Father:

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:15-18

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:12-15

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would guide the disciples “into all truth.” So, what did the disciples (apostles) say and write about the Deity of Jesus as the Spirit of God guided them into all truth?

Here’s how the Apostle John started his Gospel account:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

As we continue reading John's Gospel we learn that the "Word" is Jesus Christ. John wrote this about the Word several sentences later:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

It's clear that John, who was one of the inner circle of apostles, believed that Jesus Christ was God and had become flesh.

John Mark was not an apostle, but he spent many years with the apostles and wrote what he heard them say. Mark's Gospel starts out by quoting from Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3:

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' 'The voice of one crying in the

wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' Mark 1:1-3

Mark changed the wording of Malachi 3:1 slightly to make an important point. God told Malachi to prophesy that He would send “My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.” That meant the “messenger” would prepare the way for God. Mark changed it slightly to point out that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God who the messenger would precede and prepare the way before Him.

Mark did something similar with the Isaiah 40:3 quote. Isaiah quoted God as saying the voice of one crying in the wilderness would cry out, “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.” Mark changed it slightly from “make straight .. A highway for our God” to “Make His paths straight.” Who is the context of Mark’s quote? “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Clearly, a reference to the Deity of Jesus of Nazareth.

Thomas, one of the apostles, called Jesus “God” when he saw Him after the Lord’s resurrection:

And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God! John 20:28

The Apostle Paul called Jesus “our great God and Savior” in Titus 2:13. The Apostle Peter used a similar phrase in 2 Peter 1:1 – “our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Paul wrote this about Jesus in his letters to the Colossians and the Philippians:

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Colossians 2:9-10

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities

or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:15-16

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. Philippians 2:5-6

The writer of Hebrews, in the context of what God speaks, wrote this:

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 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 our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by

inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Hebrews 1:1-4

But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. Hebrews 1:8

That's God calling the Son of God, God. Pretty clear about the Deity of Jesus there.

The Apostle John quoted Jesus Christ in Revelation as claiming to be – “the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End ... who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Those are terms that identify God.

The Scriptures are quite clear in answering the false teaching of Christadelphians concerning whether Jesus is God. He is.

Beginning of a Cult

The Christadelphian cult began during the mid-19th century by English physician John Thomas. Dr. Thomas emigrated to the United States and joined the Disciples of Christ (started by Alexander Campbell). Thomas eventually began preaching independently and founded Christadelphia. One of his disciples, Robert Roberts, helped organize the new religion in the UK and U.S. Roberts believed the truth of Scripture had been lost for eighteen-hundred years until Thomas rediscovered them. That was a similar claim of other cult groups of the 19th century (e.g. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses).

Britannica.com lists **Christadelphians** as a Protestant religious group, but I disagree. Christadelphia is most certainly a cult that teaches false doctrine. We are doing what the Scripture requires of Christians when they hear false teaching —

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
Colossians 2:8-10

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not

cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. Acts 20:28-31

As I mentioned in the **first part of this series** much of Christadelphian theology is false teaching, but I'm focusing on four specific areas of their teaching for this current study:

- Jesus is not God
- Jesus didn't exist before being conceived in Mary's womb
- Jesus' death was not a replacement sacrifice for us
- People have to work for their salvation

We addressed the false teaching of Jesus not being God in the first part of our series. We turn now to the Christadelphian teaching that Jesus did not exist before being conceived in Mary's womb.

Christadelphian False Teaching About Jesus

Let's begin by demonstrating that this is what Christadelphians teach. Our desire is not to put words in the mouths of cultists, but to carefully hear the words coming from their own mouths. All we have to do is compare their words to the clear teachings of Scripture and we see the error clearly. I'm linking to the full Christadelphian articles below so you can see that I am not taking their beliefs out of context.

*To present that Jesus was born more than a man, or that he existed as a person before Eve, Abraham and David, is to reject the clear presentation of God's purpose to these people of faith. **The Christadelphian Faith***

... he began to exist on the day he was "begotten." Like all sons, he is preceded by his Father ... How Jesus came to exist is explained in simple terms in the Gospel of Luke ... The narrative of his birth tells us that he came into existence because the "Holy Spirit (the power of the Most High) came upon Mary" his

*mother ... It is quite illogical to assume the pre-existence of “God the Son” first, and then to interpret John’s “Word” in that sense. **The Christadelphian Journal***

Jesus Christ – was born of the virgin Mary, who was an ordinary woman of human nature. Jesus did not pre-exist nor was he the second person of the trinity. He was the Son of God, conceived by the power of God but inheriting a human nature from his mother. **Christadelphian Beliefs**

*The idea of a pre-existent “God the Son” in heaven changes the vital experience of Jesus as the independent, responsible Son of man who was also Son of God, and so takes away the true significance of his life and his death as the atonement for sin, achieved once for all. **Who Are The Christadelphians?***

I disagree completely with the position of the Christadelphians that Jesus did not exist before His conception. Not only did Jesus exist before His birth to Mary, I believe Jesus existed from eternity. Why do I believe that?

Jesus is Eternal

Jesus claimed to have existed with the Father from before creation.

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:5

The Christadelphians are calling Jesus a liar by saying He didn't exist before being conceived in Mary's womb. Jesus said He had glory with the Father "before the world was." That means Jesus existed before the creation of the heavens and the earth.

Jesus also claimed that He and His Father "are one," and that He would give eternal life to His followers. Oneness with God would imply that Jesus is Eternal. Being able to give His followers eternal life would also support that belief.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.' 'Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.' John 10:27-33

Notice that the Jews understood immediately Jesus was claiming to be God. The Jews knew that no human being who had existed only since conception in his mother's womb could be God because God exists from everlasting to everlasting (1 Chronicles 16:36; Psalm 41:13; Psalm 90:2). The Jews understood that Old Testament teaching well and knew Jesus was claiming to be the Eternal God. They took up stones to kill Him "for blasphemy."

The Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus Christ is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, which would certainly support that He existed before His conception in Mary's womb.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Colossians 1:15-17

... and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:9

The Apostle John also wrote that Jesus is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3

The writer of Hebrews also claimed that Jesus created the worlds.

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. Hebrews 1:1-2

Taking God at His Word, we can safely say that Jesus Christ existed before His conception in Mary's womb. He would have to have been in existence before the creation of the heavens and the earth in order to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

As we know from the Old Testament writings, God created the heavens and the earth. That's more evidence for Jesus being the Eternal God – Self-existent from Eternity. If God created the heavens and the earth and Jesus Christ created the heavens and the earth, Jesus is the Eternal God and existed before conception in Mary's womb.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?' says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing. Why do you say, O

Jacob, And speak, O Israel: 'My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:25-28

Christ Jesus In The Old Testament

We also see the Pre-Incarnate Christ in many places in the Old Testament. This means He existed before His incarnation (John 1:14). Here are OT verses that point to Christ Jesus. The Pre-Incarnate Christ is sometimes referred to by the title of the Angel of the Lord, the Angel of God, and Commander of the Lord's Army.

- Genesis 1:26 ("Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness")
- Genesis 16:7-14 ("Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur ... Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, 'I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.' ... Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, 'Have I also here seen Him who sees me?'")
- Genesis 18 ("Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the

tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him ... And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear *a child*, since I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? ... So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.”)

- Genesis 22:11-18 (“But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ ... And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me ... And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, ‘In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand

which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”)

- Genesis 31:11-13 (“Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ ... I *am* the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar *and* where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.”)
- Exodus 3:2-6 (“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed ... So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.’ Moreover He said, ‘I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”)

- Exodus 14:19-23 (“And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them ... Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided.”)
- Exodus 23:20-23 (“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name *is* in Him. But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.”)
- Numbers 22 (The Angel of the Lord, Balaam, and the donkey)

- Joshua 5:13-15 (“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are You for us or for our adversaries?’ So He said, “No, but *as* Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant? Then the Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy.” And Joshua did so.”)
- Judges 6:11-25 (“Now Gideon perceived that He *was* the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Peace *be* with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-*is*-Peace. To this day it *is* still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”)
- Judge 13:2-24 (“When the Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that

He was the Angel of the Lord. And Manoah said to his wife, 'We shall surely die, because we have seen God!')

- Zechariah 3:1-5 ("Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, 'The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is* this not a brand plucked from the fire?' Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, 'Take away the filthy garments from him.' And to him He said, 'See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.' And I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.")
- Psalm 45:6-7 ("Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.")

- Isaiah 9:1-7 (“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God.”)
- Micah 5:2-5 (“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”)

Notice that Micah prophesied that the coming Ruler in Israel (Messiah/Christ) would come out of Bethlehem and that His goings forth “are from of old, From everlasting.” The Old Testament prophets were clear in their understanding concerning the pre-existence of Christ. Christadelphian teaching about Jesus Christ is false teaching.

We turn now to the Christadelphian teaching that Jesus death was not a replacement sacrifice for us. We will begin by reading their own words; what Christadelphians have written about their beliefs concerning Christ's sacrifice. Please read their comments carefully, then I'll respond.

In Their Own Words

We reject as unbiblical the idea that Christ could die as a replacement sacrifice for us, thus covering all our sins forever with that one act. Certainly it is through his sacrifice that we may be forgiven, but only if we walk the path of self-denial that he marked out for us.

Christadelphian Faith and Beliefs

Baptism is mandatory, a visible demonstration of repentance and contrition. Christadelphians hold that baptism is the symbolic participation in Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, resulting in forgiveness of sins. *Christadelphian Beliefs and Practices*

It was necessary that Jesus should offer FOR HIMSELF for the PURGING of his own nature, first, from the uncleanness of death, that having by his own blood obtained eternal redemption FOR HIMSELF, he might be able AFTERWARD to save to the uttermost those that come to God by him ... Christ cleansed himself first, in the God-appointed way. His sacrifice cleanses and redeems US only as we become PART OF HIM.

This is the emphatic teaching of brethren Thomas and Roberts over and over and over. This is the heart of the Sacrifice of Christ. This is the central issue that distinguishes the Truth from the Apostacy on this subject. This is the heart of the problem with those who cannot clearly see the scriptural picture of the Sacrifice of Christ.

Did he offer as one of those needing the sacrifice, as a REPRESENTATIVE; or did he offer merely on behalf of others, himself NOT needing it, that is, as a SUBSTITUTE? Brethren Thomas and Roberts are

emphatic that the former is the truth, and the very heart of the truth concerning his sacrifice.

All animal sacrifices typified what needed to be done. He was not just another type. He actually DID in himself and for himself what needed to be done: overcome and destroy the Diabolos; offer the cleansing bloodshed sacrifice that God's wisdom had appointed for the cleansing of Sin's Flesh; and break out of the Law of Sin and Death that held all mankind, including himself, in bondage.

THEN he, and God through him, freely offered this victory and escape to all who completely deny themselves, and become part of him, enter INTO him, and to the fullest of their ability conform to his pattern and character. Where they fall short of his perfect victory, his blood continuously cleanses them through repentance and prayer and Divine loving forgiveness in mercy – IF they are giving their all and utmost to the service of God in thankful love.

*How could Christ condemn sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3) if He was not sin's flesh Himself by physical constitution? To deny that Christ, born of woman, was not as unclean as the bodies He died for is to propound the doctrinal heresy of Antichrist or clean-flesh rampant even in Apostolic Times and resisted by the Apostles (1 John 2). Christadelphian – **The Sacrifice of Christ***

As you look through Christadelphian writings concerning this subject you will find them quoting often from the Mosaic Law and the Letter to the Hebrews. There's a reason for that. As we've seen previously, Christadelphians believe Jesus is not God and did not exist before His conception in Mary's womb. They see Jesus as a man who God chose for a special purpose – similar to how God called Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and other people in the Old Testament for special purposes.

Christadelphians see Jesus as the “high priest” mentioned in Hebrews. The first verse quoted as a proof text in *The Sacrifice of Christ* quoted above is from Hebrews 7:26-27.

Christadelphians use it and other quotes as part of a catechism to teach their beliefs to followers:

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Christadelphians believe that Jesus, as the final High Priest, offered up sacrifices first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people. They take that from the Mosaic Law concerning Israel's high priest – “Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which *is* for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house” (Leviticus 16:6). Christadelphians believe that Jesus had an “unclean” body and needed to first perform

a blood sacrifice to cleanse Himself “for the purging of his own nature.”

Is this true? Did Jesus have an unclean body? Did He need to perform a blood sacrifice to cleanse Himself and purge Himself from His own unclean nature?

The short answer is NO.

Here’s a longer answer.

Jesus’ Sacrifice Was For Us

Not For Himself

The Christadelphians, and others who believe similar false teachings, make big mistakes in their interpretation of God’s Word about Jesus Christ because they have misinterpreted Christ’s identity. If you don’t believe Jesus is the Eternal God, and you don’t believe Jesus existed prior to His earthly conception and birth, you will have to bend and twist much of God’s Word to make it fit your twisted narrative.

We first read about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in Genesis 3:15 when God cursed Satan in the Garden of Eden:

*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise
your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*

The “Seed” of the woman would be Jesus, as we learn through careful Bible study. God told the serpent (Satan) that the Seed of the woman (Jesus) would bruise the head of the seed of the serpent, but the Seed of the woman (Jesus) would accomplish that through suffering and sacrifice. The seed of the serpent would bruise the heel of the Seed of the woman.

What kind of sacrifice would it be? I agree with the Christadelphians that it would be a “blood” sacrifice. I don’t agree with them that Jesus would have to shed His own blood to cleanse Himself “for the purging of his own nature,” but I do agree that Jesus’ sacrifice would be the shedding of blood.

We see many types of the blood sacrifice in the Old Testament. Here are several examples:

- Genesis 3:21 – coats (tunics) of animal skin
- Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4 – Abel’s “more excellent sacrifice”
- Genesis 22:12-13 – Abraham’s sacrifice
- Exodus 12 – Israel’s Passover Lamb
- Exodus 24:5-8 – Israel’s Blood of the Covenant
- Leviticus 1 – 5 – Israel’s Levitical Offerings (Burnt, Peace, Sin, Trespass)
- Leviticus 16 – Day of Atonement (Bull, Ram, Goat)
- Numbers 19:1-10; Hebrews 13:11-13 – Red Heifer Offering

The blood sacrifice was necessary because of the sin nature that entered into Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God. God told them that they would “surely die” if they disobeyed and they did die. They experienced a spiritual death (separation from God and His spiritual blessings) and eventually a physical death (separation from body).

Most Christadelphians do not believe in original sin. They don't believe people sin because of Adam's sin. That's interesting in light of what the New Testament teaches. Notice in the following example verses that everyone is “by nature” a child of God's wrath, “just as the others,” and that the only hope for anyone is the blood sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross for sinners – but not for Himself.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by

nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:1-10

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then,

having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in

condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:6-21

Blood sacrifice was the remedy for sin that God had determined before He created the heavens and the earth – before time began. God the Father sent God the Son (the Seed of the woman) to destroy the works of the devil and restore the relationship God had with humans in the Garden prior to the entrance of sin.

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

... but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8-10

... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 1 Peter 1:18-21

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His

grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. Ephesians 1:3-10

Adam and Eve's sin nature opened them up to a new knowledge, "to know good and evil." Because of that, God sent them out of the Garden of Eden and placed angels at the east of the Garden to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:22-24).

We saw in Genesis 3:21 that God provided a blood sacrifice and protective covering for Adam and Eve. God also instructed them in how to make special "offerings" to Him. That was part of the new sacrificial system that had not existed prior to sin separating humans from their Creator. Adam and Eve had children and taught them the importance of making offerings that would be acceptable to God.

However, that did not go well as we read in Genesis 4:1-15 and Hebrews 11:4. Adam and Eve had another son (Seth) and some members of the human family again worshipped God correctly (Genesis 4:25-26).

That did not last long as you will see in Genesis 5. The sin nature was powerful and finally took its toll on the entire human race, and “the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth” (Genesis 6:11-12). God blessed one man, Noah, and saved the human race by His grace. After God destroyed the earth by water, Noah and his family left the Ark that had protected them and their animals during the Flood. What did Noah and his family do?

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Genesis 8:20-21

Notice the importance that blood sacrifice played in this new opportunity for the human race. How well did they do with the new opportunity? We'll see in the next part of our special series, *Beware the Christadelphians*.

Jesus - Our Replacement Sacrifice

Replacement sacrifice (also known as substitutionary – penal, vicarious – atonement) is a huge topic in the Bible. It runs from the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 to Heaven in Revelation 22. Because of that, we were not able to finish addressing the false teaching of Christadelphia concerning the death of Jesus. You can look at the last part of the series to catch up on what we've seen so far.

The Sacrificial Seed

Satan (the old serpent) has never forgotten God's curse in the Garden of Eden:

So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.
Genesis 3:14-15

The Seed of the woman would be the Sacrificial Seed who would “bruise” the head of the serpent’s seed. We know from 1 John 3:8 that the purpose for Jesus coming from Heaven to earth was “that He might destroy the works of the devil.” We know from John’s context that “sin” was the problem.

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Satan has a specific type of “hold” on people. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4 that Satan is the “god of this age” and has “blinded” the minds of unbelievers who are “perishing.” Paul wrote the Ephesians 2 that every person, even believers, were at one time “dead in trespasses and sins.” He wrote that they “once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” That’s the sin nature passed from Adam to every human through the millennia. The answer to this problem?

The Sacrificial Atonement

The word “atonement” in Hebrew is *kaphar* and means “to cover over, pacify, make propitiation.” It is connected with the word *kopher*, which means “a covering.” The Greek translation of the Old Testament (Septuagint) uses the word *hilaskomai*. The meaning of the word is “propitiation, appeasement, satisfaction.” The idea of the word in ancient Greek culture was to appease the gods through a sacrifice.

We see the word used in Hebrews 2:17 where it speaks of what Jesus accomplished for us through His suffering and sacrifice:

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. NKJV

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ESV

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. NIV

Therefore, it was essential that He had to be made like His brothers (mankind) in every respect, so that He might [by experience] become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things related to God, to make atonement (propitiation) for the people's sins [thereby wiping away the sin, satisfying divine justice, and providing a way of reconciliation between God and mankind]. AMP

The word *exilaskomai* is a more intensive form of *hilaskomai* and is used almost 90 times in the Septuagint. The word in English is “atonement.” Here’s an example:

So Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun. Numbers 16:46

Sacrificial atonement began after God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden. Adam and Eve taught their children how to make offerings to God. Even though Cain killed his brother Abel because God didn’t accept Cain’s offerings, Adam and Eve didn’t give up.

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.’ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord. Genesis 4:25-26

Men called (*qara* – proclaim, call) on the name of the Lord again. The worship of God continued through Seth and his son Enosh. As we know from studying Genesis and Luke, Seth and Enosh are in the direct lineage of Jesus Christ. Noah, who we saw in the last part of our series, was in the lineage of Seth and Enosh and it was through Noah that God kept the human race alive following the devastating Flood. Noah and his wife, along with their three sons and their wives, stepped off the Ark and built an altar to the Lord. Noah took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, “and offered burnt offerings on the altar” (Genesis 8:20). That pleased the Lord.

Hundreds of years later, God chose a man named Abram to leave his home in lower Mesopotamia and travel to the land of Canaan (now known as Israel). Abram was from the lineage of Seth and Enosh and God used Abram to keep the Sacrificial Seed moving forward. Abram and his wife Sarai would have a son named Isaac: “for in Isaac your seed shall be called” (Genesis 21:12). We know from the genealogies listed in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 that Jesus was in the lineage of Abraham and Isaac. This was all part of God’s **eternal plan** to bless the nations of the world through Abraham (Genesis

12:1-3). God is doing that today through Jesus Christ as the Gospel of Christ is preached (e.g. Mark 13:9-11; Acts 1:8).

Jesus Our Propitiation

Another important word in the Septuagint and New Testament is *hilastérion*. It's the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *kapporeth*. We see the words used in Exodus 25 for the "mercy seat."

You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak

with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel. Exodus 25:17-22

Keep in mind that the “mercy seat” was placed in the Holy of Holies – where God dwelt with His people.

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat. 1 Chronicles 28:11

The Greek word *hilastérion* and the Hebrew *kapporeth* concerned the covering and removal of sin. Israel’s high priest sprinkled the atoning blood on the *kapporeth* (*hilastérion*) on the Day of Atonement.

The word *hilastérion* is used twice in the New Testament. The NKJV translates it as “propitiation” and “mercy seat.”

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Hebrews 9:1-5

A similar word, *hilasmos*, also translates as “propitiation” and “atoning sacrifice.” The Apostle John used the word twice in his writings.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
1 John 2:2

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

Notice that John said that Jesus Christ “is the propitiation for our sins.” He said that twice in one letter. John didn’t write that Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for “His sins.” John said Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for “our sins.”

Propitiation, the atoning sacrifice, is what God says it is based on His eternal plan. It's not what man wants it to be or twists it to be.

Christadelphia's Compounded Errors

The false teaching of the Christadelphian cult has compounded its errors. That's true of all cults. Their errors are like a giant ball of dirt rolling down the mountain side picking up more and more dirt as it approaches the bottom of its pitiful fall.

First, the Christadelphians say that Jesus is not God. Error #1

Second, the Christadelphians say that Jesus did not exist before He was born to Mary. Error #2

Third, the Christadelphians say that the blood sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross was for Himself, not for us. Error #3

Those errors lead to another major error that we will look at in the next part of our series – people have to work for their salvation. That is the error of every false religion, every cult, every false teacher.

Salvation Is By Works?

As we've done in previous parts of the series, we will hear first from the Christadelphians.

*We reject as unbiblical the idea that Christ could die as a replacement sacrifice for us, thus covering all our sins forever with that one act. Certainly it is through his sacrifice that we may be forgiven, but only if we walk the path of self-denial that he marked out for us. **The Christadelphian Faith***

*The way to enter the kingdom of God is by faith. This involves belief in the Bible and obedience to its requirements that men and women confess their sins, repent, be baptized and follow Jesus faithfully. **The Way of Salvation***

Repentance is the first step towards pleasing God. The way of salvation is only open to those who have repented for their past and are determined to please God in the future ... When we are baptised, we are

*then participants in the New Covenant, having forgiveness of sins and a hope of eternal life in God's Kingdom. **Baptism and Repentance***

*We wait therefore, the imminent return of Jesus Christ and acknowledge that..."...by grace are ye saved through faith, and, that NOT of yourselves....IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD"...(Eph 2:8) Even so, Paul stressed the need for an active faith, saying in Philippians 2:12...." Work out your own SALVATION with fear and trembling", confident in the promise that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Heb 11:6) Salvation may come to you and me when Jesus returns. "BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME to give every man according as his work shall be." ...(Rev 22:12) **Salvation***

*The gospel has the power to save us (Romans 1:16). To obtain salvation we must understand the gospel, believe it, and be obedient to its requirements. **The Gospel***

*God will not automatically “change us”, just because we say we believe in His Son. Nor is it because in some mystical way He will regard us as sinless for the sake of His Son’s self-sacrifice. It lies in His mercy and grace in forgiving sins, on certain conditions. The prime condition is that men and women who come to Him through Jesus must recognise the truth about themselves, and also see in the death of Jesus on the cross the vital atonement for sin. Then they must resolve to live their lives not according to the demands of their own nature for self-satisfaction, but according to the spirit of Jesus in “grace and truth”. Then God will “cancel the charges against us”, and will receive us into a right relationship with Himself. Only then can He treat us as His “sons and daughters”, members of His family, of which the head is Jesus, His only-begotten Son. **God’s Conditions***

Salvation – *is the gift of God given to those men and women who are obedient to his commandments, the first of which is to ‘repent and be baptized’. Belief and baptism allow us to share in the promises given to*

*Abraham and in the future age described in Bible Prophecy. It allows the forgiveness of sins and the possibility of resurrection and eternal life. **Our Beliefs***

*That baptism into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, after knowledge of God's plan, and a faithful walk therein, is essential to salvation. **Our Beliefs***

Man is mortal, having no existence when dead. The reward for the faithful is eternal life on earth after Jesus' return.

*Baptism is essential to gain this eternal life. **What We Believe***

When he returns he will rule the earth and give immortality to those who have tried to follow him and do the will of God. His followers will help him to rule.

Humans are 100% mortal, having no existence when dead. The reward for the faithful is eternal life on earth after Christ's return.

*Baptism is essential to gain this eternal life. **Summary of Christadelphian Beliefs***

*The punishment for sin is death, the end of all existence ... The way to enter the Kingdom of God is by faith in what God has promised and the one through whom God will fulfill His promises, Jesus Christ. This involves believing God's Word – the Bible – and obedience to its requirements that men and women confess their sins, repent, and be baptized, and follow Jesus faithfully. **Our Beliefs***

I could share more of the Christadelphian writings with you, but all of the ones I could find echo what you read above. The question is – are they right?

Do people need to work for their salvation?

Do they cease to exist at their physical death and can only hope that they did enough good works during their physical life to receive eternal life?

Can they be forgiven of their sins if they walk the path of self-denial that God marked out for them?

Are works necessary to be saved?

The short answer is NO. Here's a longer answer.

Salvation Is Not By Works

Salvation in the Bible is always based on God's Mercy and Grace. No one has ever been saved because of their personal efforts. No personal effort could ever meet God's standard. Why?

But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They

have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Romans 3:10-12

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23*

The Apostle Paul made it clear that everyone is dead and trespasses and sins, is under the control of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and by nature children of wrath. If everyone has fallen short of God's standards, what then is our hope?

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ

Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:4-10

Our hope is God! He is rich in mercy because He loves us with a great love. He saves us by grace through faith – “and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

NOT OF WORKS!

That’s about as plain a statement as you can get. What do the words mean from the original Koine Greek? NOT FROM (as a result of) WORKS. Same thing. God will not share His glory with anyone. No one can boast in any way about their salvation.

... being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present

time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Romans 3:24-28

Again, very clear that we are made right (just) before God (saved) “freely by His grace.” That comes “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood.” God is just in doing that and is “the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” So, where’s the boasting? “It is excluded.” The apostle then puts the capper on his proclamation – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

Salvation is not now, has never been, nor will never be by works! Salvation is by grace through faith, and that is not of or from ourselves. It is God’s “gift” to us. It is not something we can earn or deserve.

Does that then mean “works” have no place in a Christian’s life? Read on – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” We are God’s work “created in Christ Jesus for good works,” and notice this, “which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” We are not saved *by* good works, but we are saved *for* good works. There’s a huge difference between the two ideas.

The Christadelphian Error

As I've written before, the Christadelphians made a **monumental error** when they decided that Jesus was not the Eternal God. That error has led to so many others, including this idea that salvation is by good works.

The Christadelphians have made a grievous error similar in some ways to that of some in Galatia who tried to add works and personal merit to their salvation by grace through faith. The Apostle Paul called that a *perversion* of the Gospel of Christ and wrote – “if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:9). Paul had only one Gospel message – not several. There is only one Gospel about salvation and it is “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.” Anyone who teaches a different salvation message is preaching a false gospel.

Christadelphian teaching is false and perverted. The Christadelphian gospel is a false gospel. It's not good news at all. Nothing about it is good.

In Conclusion

I chose to focus on just four of the many false teachings of Christadelphia because they concerned the Person of Christ Jesus, the Work of Christ Jesus, and the Glory of Christ Jesus. Christadelphia has done great damage to all of them through their false teachings about Christ Jesus. That's why the Apostle Paul would say something so strong as, "let him be accursed."

If you are interested in other false teachings of the Christadelphian cult, [please contact me](#).

My prayer for anyone influenced by the Christadelphian heresy is that they will repent and believe the truth that is in Jesus Christ alone.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we

were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:6-11

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Faith and Self Defense © 2022

Faith&SelfDefense