

# WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, LORD



The scriptures tell us that through the redeeming, atoning blood of the Lamb of God, those who receive, believe in and deposit their total trust in Jesus are now called “sons of God.” This is exactly what John 1:12,13 says, “*But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them*

*that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” This, of course, is fantastic and of course it is the “Good News” - the simple Gospel message.

In 1Corinthians 1:23, Paul puts the Gospel message, what the Good News is, in just two words. He states that what he preached to the Corinthian listeners, without any rhetorical eloquence or fancy persuasive philosophical speech, was simply the message “Christ crucified.” 1Corinthians 1:23 states, “*But we preach **Christ crucified**, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness...*” He reiterates it again in 1Corinthians 2:2, “*For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus **Christ**, and him **crucified**.*” He states that this was a stumbling block for the Jewish people and foolishness to the Greeks. Why was it a “stumbling block” to the Jewish leadership and people and why would it be “foolishness” to the wisdom of the great philosophical and logical Greeks?

To find out, let’s take a closer look at Paul’s simple two word Gospel message. He preached “Christ crucified.” If you take each word of this “Gospel message” by itself, you would get a better understanding of the dilemma both the Jews and the Greeks had. The word “Christ,” is the Greek form of the Jewish term, Messiah, which as we know means the “Anointed One” who was to be sent by God to deliver and free the Jewish people from their bondage by the Roman occupation (or any other occupier) and restore the land of Israel back to the Jewish people. It implies and points to “victory” for the Jewish people, led by their Messiah, being victorious over and freed from the bondage of their task masters – the Romans or any other Gentile occupier of the Land of Israel. The Greeks would understand this concept as well, being knowledgeable of all philosophies and religions of that time, whether they believed in them or not.

The term “crucified” implies a most horrible death for the purpose of showing total humiliation to the one who was crucified. It was to express total defeat at and by the hands of those who did the crucifying. To the Jewish people this was totally unacceptable that their Messiah would be crucified which meant defeat. Another reason was that their scriptures declare in Deuteronomy 21:23, “*...for he that is hanged is accursed of God...*” The term “Christ crucified” would mean that the one who was to be their Victor and bring them victory would be humiliated in total defeat – ergo, their stumbling block. To the Greeks it was a totally illogical term. The concept that a “god” who was “anointed by the gods to bring victory” would end up being totally humiliated by humans is complete foolishness and is totally illogical. In other words, the term “Christ crucified” is an oxymoron. The two words are complete opposites of each other. It is like saying “fried ice,” “jumbo shrimp” or “organized confusion.” It can be thought of in the natural understanding as if Paul was saying “the Victor is the defeated.”

However, to God and to all who believe, “*Christ crucified*” means and declares total victory - total victory over spiritual death; total victory over the bondage of sin – total, total VICTORY!!! Paul states that even though the term “Christ crucified” was offensive to the Jew and made no sense to the Greek, “Christ crucified” was actually the manifestation of the **manifold wisdom** of God, planned and established before the foundations of the earth for the purpose of setting Man free from bondage, not of the Romans or any other natural bondage, but free from the bondage of sin and separation from God.

“Christ crucified” was what would be required to satisfy the dilemma of separation from God and eternal damnation. God fulfilled the requirement, on our behalf, of the once and for all final sacrifice necessary for the atonement of sin by making Jesus the propitiation for all our sin. The requirement needed to pay the

debt was “paid in full” by and through the blood of Jesus. Not only was Christ crucified, but He rose from the grave as the “first fruit of many” and ascended to now be at the right hand of the Father in which the scriptures encourage us by stating that now, “... *as he is, so are we in this world.*” (1John 4:17) This “Good News,” this “Gospel” was, is and always will be, “*the power of God unto salvation.*” As stated earlier, to those who receive and believe, it gave them power to become “sons of God.”

Now that God made this wonderful salvation available and given to all those who believe and receive, is there anything now that we are to do? Obviously, the answer is that there is nothing more we can or need to do concerning the wonderful gift of redemption and salvation. We believe and we receive.

However, the scriptures do tell us what God requires of those who are now His sons and daughters. In Deuteronomy 10: 12, 13 it tells us, “*And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God **require of thee**, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*”

The above thought is again expressed in the Book of Micah. In Micah 6:7, the people mockingly and sarcastically ask the prophet this question, “*Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*” In other words the people were asking “What does God want from us now? Does He want more sacrifices? Does He want more offerings? Does He want my firstborn? The prophet Micah responds to this rather disparaging question concerning God by saying in Micah 6:8, “*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” In other words, Micah was telling them that they should already know what God requires of His people. He has already showed them and expressed to them through His Word, the scriptures, what is good and pleasing to Him.

In the two preceding scriptures, Deuteronomy 10: 12, 13 and Micah 6:8 we see a “common thread” being expressed by God concerning what He expects and desires His people, His sons and daughters to now walk and live. Of course prior to Jesus doing what He did, there was no one who could do this. However, now through receiving and believing in all that Jesus did by Him satisfying the required payment for our debt, and with the power of the Holy Spirit now dwelling within us, we are now able to walk in this lifestyle that delights the heart of our God.

So what does God expect of His children? As we discuss this we must understand that God is not expressing this as a mean, taskmaster but rather it is being expressed that this represents the kind of lifestyle that the son and daughter of His should now be manifesting in their lives for others to see. It’s the lifestyle and manner of behavior that we as the children of God should desire to walk in and live in so that we can now truly delight the heart of our King. They are aspects of a lifestyle that were role modeled to us by the Son of God, Jesus, as He walked this earth.

Actually, the word “require” used in these scriptures comes from two Hebrew words, “*sha'al*” and “*darash*” which literally mean “to plead and beg, ask of and seek after.” Therefore, these scriptures are telling us that it is God who is pleading, begging, asking and seeking after us to walk in these ways. Why? Because as we do, we will walk in and receive, in fullness, the wonderful blessings found in the Kingdom. Why? Because as we do, we delight the heart of our Father and He in turn, delights in blessing His children. It is the lifestyle and character of the Kingdom.

We must grasp the fact that our heart should be one that understands that we are not to live this type of lifestyle because “we have to or else...” Rather we live this lifestyle out of a pure love for our Father, God and with a pure desire to simply “bless the heart of our King.” If these things bless our Father’s heart and He delights in seeing His children live and walk out this type of lifestyle, then why wouldn’t we desire to delight the heart of our Father. The thing is, is that through Jesus, we have been given His Spirit that now dwells within us. Therefore, we have the ability to live and walk in this lifestyle that pleases our God. The fact of the matter is that now as Children of God through what Jesus did for us – this is who we really are. This is who I now am in Christ.

Oh, I know that when we hear the phrase, “Who I am in Christ,” it immediately brings to mind that we now can and are to walk in all the power and authority of a child of God, just as Jesus did. This is very, very true. However, it also means that we are to act in our manner of behavior and lifestyle as a child of God – just as Jesus did. I believe this sometimes gets lost in the message of “Who we are in Christ.” Notice, in the above scriptures, nowhere does it mention anything about power and authority and doing the “works of the Kingdom.” What they do speak about, and speak to, is the manner of behavior and lifestyle that God delights in seeing His people walking and living in. This is what delights His heart just as much, and I believe even more than when we are doing the works of His Kingdom.

Let’s itemize what these scriptures tell us that our God “requires” and desires for His children to manifest within their lives.

#### **Deuteronomy 10: 12, 13**

- To fear the LORD thy God
- To walk in all his ways
- To love him
- To serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul
- To keep the commandments of the LORD
- (To Keep) His statutes

#### **Micah 6:8**

- To do justly
- To love mercy
- To walk humbly with thy God

David understood what God desired from him when he prayed in Psalm 51:16-17, “*You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*” This sounds a lot like “walking humbly before your God.” This echoes Micah’s response to those who mockingly asked God what was He expecting from His people.

You may be thinking, “Well this is Old Testament stuff. We are in New Testament times and a new dispensation.” This is very true when we discuss the way of salvation and restoring a relationship back with our God. However, when the relationship has been restored through the atoning the blood of Jesus, the New Testament writers carry this same theme of what God desires and seeks after for His children to walk in and manifest the lifestyle of a true child of God. The New Testament refers to it as a lifestyle of sanctification, consecration and holiness.

- Romans 12:1, 2 – “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***”
- Romans 12:1 – “*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and **holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.***”

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, **and be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, **and ye shall be my sons and daughters**, saith the Lord Almighty.”*
- 2 Corinthians 7:1 – *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**”*
- 1 Peter 1:14-16 – *“As **obedient children**, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so **be ye holy in all manner of conversation**; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”*

The main concept to grasp is that God is not seeking great worship music. He is not seeking after magnificent buildings. He is not seeking after wonderful ministries. He is not seeking after those who do the great works of the Kingdom. He is not seeking after great preaching. These are all wonderful and there is nothing wrong with them per se. However, what God is truly “seeking after” are those that worship Him in “Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) These are those who He specifically calls His “true worshippers.” The true worshipper is one who lives and walks in the lifestyle role modeled by Jesus. The true worshipper is one whose attitude of heart desires to simply bless the heart of their God by “presenting” and offering unto Him what He truly delights in by, in and through the Holy Spirit and in His truth, His Word.

It is time that many of us stop being like Cain. He came and presented to God what he thought God should delight in. It was all about him and how wonderful **his** offering was and it didn’t matter what God thought or wanted. He came to God with his own works which he thought was so beautiful and wonderful. However, it was not what God would have delighted in. The attitude of Cain’s heart was all wrong. God does not delight in our wonderful works but rather He delights in the correct attitude of our heart. He delights when His children walk in what He has already shown them through His Word what truly delights His heart. The main issue for Cain was that when confronted with His fault he refused to “own up” to it and repent. This clearly expressed the true attitude of his heart towards God. It was an attitude of rebellion and pride. It is important to note that when we do “mess up” and we will, that we simply “own up to it” and repent and we are assured that our Father is, “...*faithful and just to forgive us of our sin.*” (1John 1:9)

Yes, He has shown thee O man; Yes, He has shown you O child of God; Yes, He has shown you O disciple of Jesus – what is good and what the Lord requires, asks and pleads with us, and seeks for His people to walk and live by. He has shown us through His Word what He delights in. He delights when His children delight in doing what is just. He delights when His children delight in mercy. He delights when His children delight in walking humbly with their God.