



# THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF CHRIST

Interlaken Study 2013

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The study of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ is indeed a fascinating endeavor. A part of the intrigue is figuring out how to unpack the four gospel accounts in order to make clear sense of the story of Christ. We live in the literary age of the biography and the lives of famous people are interesting topics of study. When we get the story sorted out, what we see is the life of a truly amazing individual who changed the world forever. The key to His success was His passionate commitment to the will of God even to the point of sacrificing His own life. Out of that death and subsequent resurrection has come the salvation of humanity and the transformation of the lives of millions of people.

## TOPICS OF STUDY:

SESSION 1 (Sunday)

- THEME: PUTTING THE STORY TOGETHER
- STUDY OVERVIEW
- BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE STORY
- TOOLS FOR ASSEMBLING THE STORY
- SKETCHING OUT THE STORY

How does one unpack the story of Christ? It is primarily a matter of proper treatment of the sources that center on the four canonical gospels. In this initial study we will explore the right way to approach understanding and assembling the story of Christ.

SESSION 2 (Monday)

- THEME: BEGINNINGS
- INFANCY NARRATIVES
- FORMAL LAUNCHING OF MINISTRY

What can we learn about Jesus' birth and early childhood? In BEGINNINGS we will take a close look at the two sets of infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke, as well as consider some of the later efforts to 'fill in the gaps' by Christian writers.

SESSION 3 (Tuesday)

- THEME: MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLE
- MINISTRY IN GALILEE
- MINISTRY IN JUDEA AND SURROUNDING REGIONS
- MINISTRY COMPONENTS: Words and Deeds

How did Jesus relate to people around Him? The key word here is *διακονία*, i.e., ministry. Both in what He said and did, Jesus reached out effectively to people.

SESSION 4 (Wednesday)

- THEME: TEACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
- SOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING KINGDOM MEANINGS

How and what did Jesus teach? The four gospels present His teaching largely around the concept of *τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ*, the Kingdom of God. We will explore the meaning of this idea.

SESSION 5 (Thursday)

- THEME: CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD
- PASSION WEEK / RESURRECTION & APPEARANCES
- SON OF MAN / SON OF GOD
- THE MESSIAH
- THE SAVIOR

Jesus' fundamental mission in this world was to provide God's salvation for all humanity. How He did this will be our concluding topic.

## STUDY LEADER:

For the past five summers I have been privileged to share insights at the IBC Interlaken summer experience. These have come out of a half century of ministry mainly as a seminary and university professor in Texas, North Carolina, and Germany. Along the way have been pastorates of three churches in Texas and Germany for twelve years, as well as countless interim pastorates, revival services, Bible conferences, and supply preaching.

A large reserve of this teaching is available free to the general public through my web site, cranfordville.com. The materials from this conference are also available in the *Biblical Insights Commentary* there.



Good Shepherd



Miracle Worker



Teacher



Savior



Son of God