

## Key Words and Phrases

*We can easily review the totality of Christianity by thinking through the key words and phrases in which the story of Christ is expressed.*

*The Godhead:* The name “God” might be thought of as a divine family name. The Godhead, or Trinity, is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Spirit. God is one in essence and purpose, but three in personality and function (see 2 Corinthians 13:14). For example, at Jesus’ baptism, Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16, 17). See Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9 in the KJV.

*The holy Scriptures:* The Bible is made up of sixty-six books (thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament) that were given to us through the guidance and supervision of the Holy Spirit. They portray what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do with those who want to be His children. The Old Testament is mainly divine history, while the New Testament is the last will and testament of Jesus for the Christian Age. See 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

*The incarnation:* Jesus, the second member of the Godhead, actually became a man and lived among us. He is the Messiah that God had promised to send. He left heaven and

became man without losing His identity as the Son of God. He was completely God and completely man. Only a God-Man could carry the burden of all the guilt of the world. See John 1:14; Philippians 2:5–8.

*John the Baptist:* God set this man apart to herald the coming of the Messiah. Through John's preaching, God prepared people for Jesus' coming. John personally identified Jesus as the Messiah. See Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20; John 1:29.

*The earthly ministry of Jesus:* At age thirty, Jesus began an earthly ministry. For three-plus years He laid the foundation for His coming kingdom and for His death for our sins. During this time, He preached the gospel of the kingdom, healed the sick, and demonstrated what God is like. See Matthew 4:17; 11:4–6; Mark 1:14, 15.

*Miracles:* Supernatural acts were referred to as "miracles," "signs," and "wonders." They confirmed the divine power that Jesus possessed. He raised the dead, restored sight to the blind, cast out demons, and performed many other miracles. No one denied the miracles that were worked by Jesus, His apostles, or other inspired men of the first century. See John 20:30, 31; Hebrews 2:3, 4.

*The fulfillment of prophecies (passion predictions):* Jesus often foretold His coming trials and crucifixion. He gave details about what He was going to experience for the salvation of the world. See Matthew 16:21–23; 20:18, 19.

*The Lord's Supper:* As Jesus ate the Passover with His apostles on the night of His arrest, He instituted a supper of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine that He asked His

followers to observe (Matthew 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:19, 20). The New Testament indicates that His followers ate of it regularly. This was done each Sunday, the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), when the early Christians came together for worship. In this service, they sang praises to God, prayed, participated in this Supper, considered His Word, and gathered a contribution for good works.

*Gethsemane:* Jesus frequently went to this garden to pray when He was in Jerusalem. Before His crucifixion, He went there to pray and finalize His plans to die for the sins of the world. His prayers in Gethsemane are the greatest prayers that have ever been prayed. See Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:39–46.

*The Jewish trials:* Rome had said to the Jews, “You may judge your own people, but you cannot put them to death unless they have violated your temple. If you seek capital punishment for anyone who has not violated your temple, you must get our agreement to carry it out.” Therefore, the Jews took Jesus first to their Jewish leaders—Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin—to put together a case against Jesus that they could present to the Roman authorities. They insisted that Rome agree with them and crucify Jesus. For Annas, see John 18:12, 13, 19–23; for Caiaphas, see Matthew 26:57; John 18:14, 24; for the Sanhedrin, see Matthew 26:59–68; 27:1, 2; Mark 14:53–65; 15:1; Luke 22:66–23:1.

*The Roman trials:* The Jews took Jesus to Pilate, who would be the representative of Rome. Pilate did not agree with their case, but he did not want a riot. He was pushed into a corner and finally gave in to their request. For the first trial before Pilate, see Luke 23:1–7; for Herod, see Luke 23:8–11; for the second trial before Pilate, see Luke 23:11–25.

*The crucifixion:* This was a cruel way of executing a criminal by nailing him to a cross, or tree, until he died (Galatians 3:13). Suffering was prolonged in some cases for days. A Roman citizen could not be scourged or crucified. The Jews normally used stoning as their means of executing someone; but in Jesus' case, they demanded crucifixion. See Matthew 27:33–54; Mark 15:20–39; Luke 23:32–47; John 19:17–30.

*The resurrection:* After being in the grave for parts of three days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), Jesus arose from the dead, demonstrating that He had power over death. His miraculous resurrection indicated that He was indeed the second member of the Godhead. See Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; 21.

*The ascension:* Forty days after Jesus' resurrection, He ascended to heaven. The apostles were present when He ascended through the clouds back to the Father's side. The Scriptures declare that He will return at the end of time in a similar way (Matthew 26:64). See Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9–11.

*The Day of Pentecost:* The Day of Pentecost was ten days after Jesus' ascension. This was one of the three main feasts of the Jews. On this day, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles as a sign of the coming of the new covenant and to equip them to speak and write God's message faithfully and accurately. When the gospel was preached, three thousand people repented and were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. On this day the church that Jesus promised came into existence. See Acts 2.

*Faith:* This is the attitude of accepting Jesus as God's Son, believing what God has said, and acting upon His words with trust and love. See Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1.

*Repentance:* The attitude of stopping behavior that we know to be evil or sinful and turning in obedience to the Word of God is repentance. The resolve of the penitent heart is to follow with joy and commitment what God teaches us to do in the Christian Age. See Acts 17:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10.

*Confession:* This is both a verbal declaration that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and a life-demonstration of His deity. See Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10; 1 John 4:15.

*Baptism:* One is baptized when he or she is immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is an act of faith and a re-enacting of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is the moment when Jesus adds the one who is immersed to His church. See Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38, 41, 47; Romans 6:3, 4.

*The church:* Also called the “body” or the “kingdom” of Christ, the church is Christ’s spiritual body that contains the saved. His body worships God and does His work in the world. Jesus did His work in an earthly body when He was here, but now He does His work through His spiritual body, the church. See Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:21.

*Sanctification:* The Christian is sanctified, or set apart by the Lord, at his baptism. He continues to grow in this sanctification throughout his life on earth. He becomes more like God in holiness and purity as he studies God’s Word, worships, prays, gives, forgives, and serves those who need his help. See 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2; Acts 20:32; Hebrews 2:11; 10:14.