

The background is black with several thick, bright orange curved lines that sweep across the frame, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern. These lines appear to be part of a larger, continuous design that is partially cut off by the edges of the image.

the incomparable Christ

the call to follow

why are we here today?

why would we want to follow
Christ?

1. the incomparable character of Christ



Instinctively we do not class Him with others. When one reads His name in a list beginning with Confucius and ending with Goethe we feel it is an offence less against orthodoxy than against decency. Jesus is not one of the group of the world's great. Talk about Alexander the Great and Charles the Great and Napoleon the Great if you will... Jesus is apart. He is not the Great; He is the Only. He is simply Jesus.

Nothing could add to that... He is beyond our analysis. He confounds our canons of human nature. He compels our criticism to overleap itself. He awes our spirits. There is a saying of Charles Lamb...that if Shakespeare was to come into this room we should all rise up to meet him, but if that Person (i.e. Jesus) was to come into it, we should all fall down and try to kiss the hem of his garment.

-Carnegie Simpson.

“When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.”

(Revelation 1:12–16, NLT)

**In Christ we are never without hope for
humanity.**

2. the incomparable authority of Christ



Statistically speaking, the Gospels are the greatest literature ever written. They are read by more people, quoted by more authors, translated into more tongues, represented in more art, set to more music, than any other book or books written by any man in any century in any land. But the words of Christ are not great on the grounds that they have such a statistical edge over anybody else's words.

They are read more, quoted more, loved more, believed more, and translated more because they are the greatest words ever spoken. And where is their greatness? Their greatness lies in the pure, lucid spirituality in dealing clearly, definitively and authoritatively with the greatest problems that throb in the human breast; namely , Who is God? Does He love me? What should I do to please Him? How does He look at my sin? How can I be forgiven?

Where will I go when I die? How must I treat others? No other man's words have the appeal of Jesus' words because no other man can answer these fundamental human questions as Jesus answered them. They are the kind of words and kind of answers we would expect God to give, and we who believe in the deity of Jesus have no problem as to why these words came from His mouth.

-Ramm

“Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it. Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.

*But one of the twenty-four elders said to me,
“Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of
Judah, the heir to David’s throne, has won the
victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its
seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb that looked as
if it had been slaughtered, but it was now
standing between the throne and the four living
beings and among the twenty-four elders. He
had seven horns and seven eyes, which
represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is
sent out into every part of the earth.*

He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne...And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.””
(Revelation 5:1–10, NLT)

**In Christ we are never confused about God,
life and truth.**

3. the incomparable reach of Christ



He was too great for his disciples. And in view of what he plainly said, is it any wonder that all who were rich and prosperous felt a horror of strange things, a swimming of their world at his teaching? Perhaps the priests and the rich men understood him better than his followers. He was dragging out all the little private reservations they had made from social service into the light of a universal religious life.

He was like some terrible moral huntsman digging mankind out of the snug burrows in which they had lived hitherto. In the white blaze of this kingdom of his there was to be no property, no privilege, no pride and precedence; no motive indeed and no reward but love. Is it any wonder that men were dazzled and blinded and cried out against him? Even his disciples cried out when he would not spare them the light. Is it any wonder that the priests realized that between this man and themselves there was no choice but that he or priestcraft should perish?

Is it any wonder that the Roman soldiers, confronted and amazed by something soaring over their comprehension and threatening all their disciplines, should take refuge in wild laughter, and crown him with thorns and robe him in purple and make a mock Caesar of him? For to take him seriously was to enter upon a strange and alarming life, to abandon habits, to control instincts and impulses, to essay an incredible happiness... Is it any wonder that to this day this Galilean is too much for our small hearts?

-HG Wells

Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders.

*No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. They have told no lies; they are without blame.”
(Revelation 14:1–5, NLT)*

In Christ we are never alone.

4. the incomparable love of Christ



This utter disregard of self in the service of God and man is what the Bible calls love. There is no self interest in love. The essence of love is self sacrifice. The worst of men is adorned by an occasional flash of such nobility, but the life of Jesus irradiated it with a never-ending incandescent glow. Jesus was sinless because he was selfless. Such selflessness is love. And God is love.

-John Stott

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ ” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”

(Revelation 19:7–9, NASB95)

In Christ we are never unloved.

5. the incomparable power of Christ



Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?

Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? ” (Exodus 15:11)

Well may the saint trust such a God! He is worthy of implicit confidence. Nothing is too hard for Him...He is clothed with omnipotence, no prayer is too hard for Him to answer, no need is too great for Him to supply, no passion too strong for Him to subdue; no temptation too powerful for Him to deliver from, no misery too deep for Him to relieve. *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ” (Psalm 27:1)*

-AW Pink

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. (Revelation 19:11–16, NLT)

**In Christ we are never the victim, but part of
the great army of God that overcomes evil
with good.**

6. the incomparable influence of Christ



This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all the philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished more themes for sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.

-Phillip Schaff

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

*And the one sitting on the throne said,
“Look, I am making everything new!” And
then he said to me, “Write this down, for
what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” And
he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha
and the Omega—the Beginning and the
End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely
from the springs of the water of life. All who
are victorious will inherit all these
blessings, and I will be their God, and they
will be my children.”*

(Revelation 21:1–7, NLT)

**In Christ we never stay the same, but are
endlessly growing to become like Him.**

growing in Christ

1. To follow Christ in Scripture
2. To follow Christ in prayer
3. To follow Christ in fellowship