



“Given to Us in Christ Jesus Before
Time Began”

2Timothy 1:8-10

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- “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 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,*** 10 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”

“Given to Us in Christ Jesus Before Time Began”

- From whence did Jesus Christ come?
- When did He begin to be?
- What did God plan to give to us through Jesus Christ before the world began?
 - John 5:19-20 - “Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

The Eternal And Pre-Existent Christ

- John 1:15 - “John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”
- “Preferred before me” addresses order; Jesus is greater than John
- “He was before me” addresses time; Jesus existed before John

The Eternal And Pre-Existent Christ

- Jesus has been since before “the beginning”
 - John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- “The Word” denotes Jesus
 - John 1:14 - “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.”
- “The beginning” denotes creation
 - Gen. 1:1 - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus is Deity
 - John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- “The Word (Jesus) was God,” not was a god.
- The verb tense of “was” is “Past Perfect Progressive. “Past perfect progressive tense describes a past, ongoing action that was completed before some other past action.”
(leo.stcloudstate.edu/grammar/tenses.html; St. Cloud State University)

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- John 8:58 - "Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
- "I AM" ("not I was" or "I have been"); this is the emphatic present - "I Myself AM"
- "I Am that I Am" (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה, ehyeh ašer ehyeh) is the first person singular imperfect form (Ex. 3:14). It connotes existence without beginning or end. "I always was, I currently am, and I always will be." Existence apart from time.

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- While we are eternal beings, that is, our soul will live forever, we have a beginning point.
- God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have no beginning point. They have always existed, currently exist, and always will exist.
- Even the beings of power and angels of heaven have a beginning or creation point

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus is Co-Creator with the Father
 - John 1:3 - "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."
 - Col. 1:16 - "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."
 - Heb. 1:2 - "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"

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus is the **Condescending** (stooping, self-abasing) God
 - **Condescending?** “Generally, this word is used negatively. Perhaps we think of someone who is rich mistreating someone who is poor. Maybe we think of someone highly educated thinking the rest of the world to be less enlightened. This word means, “To descend to the level of one considered inferior; lower oneself” (Dictionary.com). People who act in a condescending manner toward others are viewed in a negative way because we recognize we are all on the same level. We are all human beings regardless of our economic or educational levels.” (<http://www.renewedinspirit.org/2010/06/condescension-of-god.html>)

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus was not a man before His advent into this world. He was God who became a man.
 - “The Son of God became a son of man, so that sons of men could become the sons of God.” (W. Frank Walton)
- God the Father condescends to humankind:
 - He created us and provides for our needs impartially
 - He sustains us providentially and hears and answers our prayers
 - He wants a relationship with us and wants us to live in His home
 - He sacrificed His Son in order to impute the state of righteousness to obedient believers

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

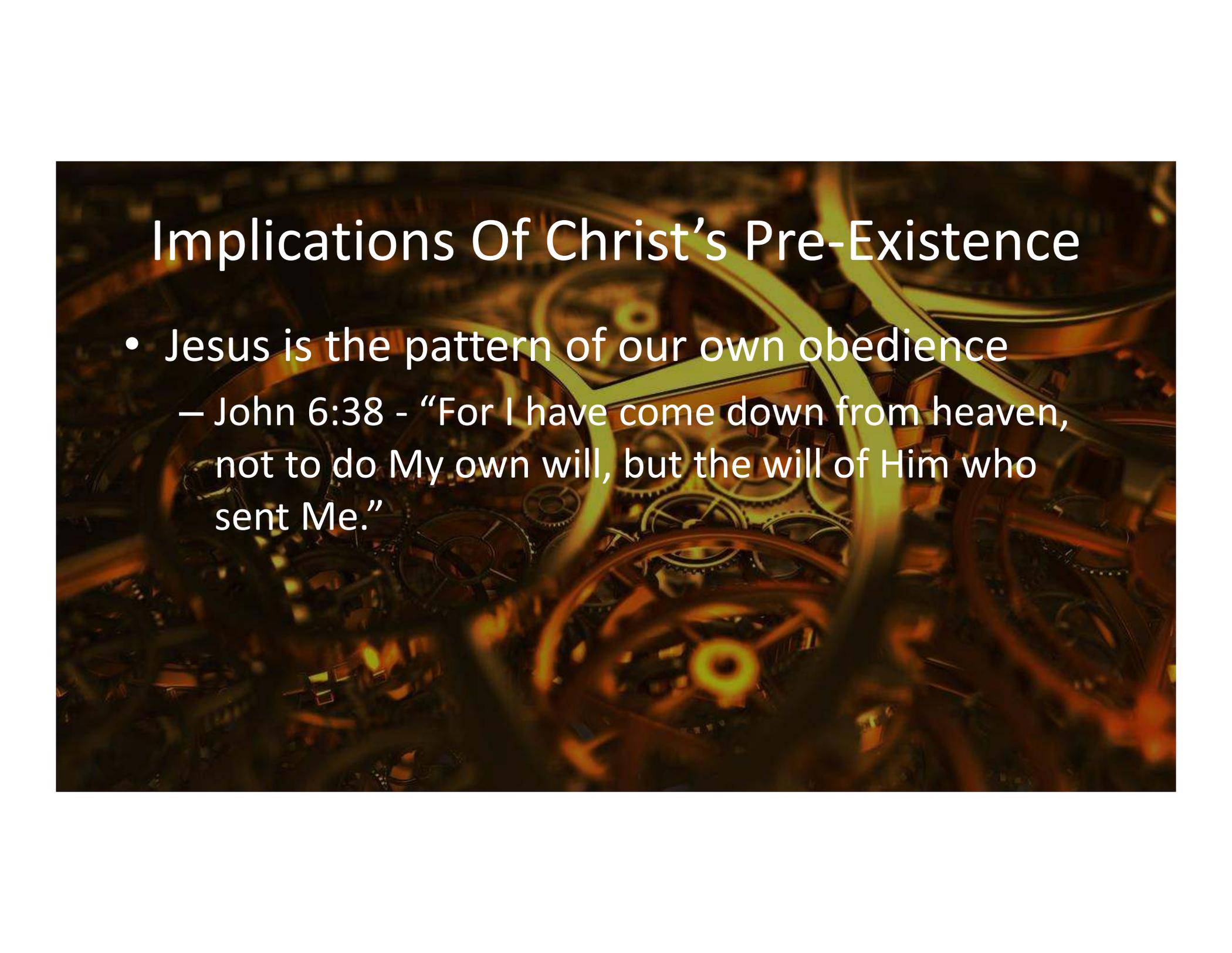
- Psalm 113:5-9 - “Who is like the LORD our God,
Who dwells on high, 6 Who humbles Himself to
behold The things that are in the heavens and in
the earth? 7 He raises the poor out of the dust,
And lifts the needy out of the ash heap, 8 That He
may seat him with princes-With the princes of His
people. 9 He grants the barren woman a home,
Like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus condescended fully in His Being. He went from being God the Son in heaven to become Jesus the son of man on earth.
 - Phil. 2:6-8 - “Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.” (ASV)

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- He had equality with God (eternal existence), but He became poor so that He could die in our place. As the eternal, pre-existent God, He could not die. He had to become a man to do this.
 - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
 - John 17:5 - “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”



Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Jesus is the pattern of our own obedience
 - John 6:38 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- We are a statistically oriented people. We measure ourselves numerically against each other.
- The only acceptable means of measuring ourselves is against the example of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2Cor. 10:12 - “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- Had He not existed prior to His conception, He could not have “come down from Heaven” nor could He have been “sent” by the Father.
- Had He not been perfectly obedient, He couldn't have been our atonement offering
 - Heb. 5:8-9 - “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

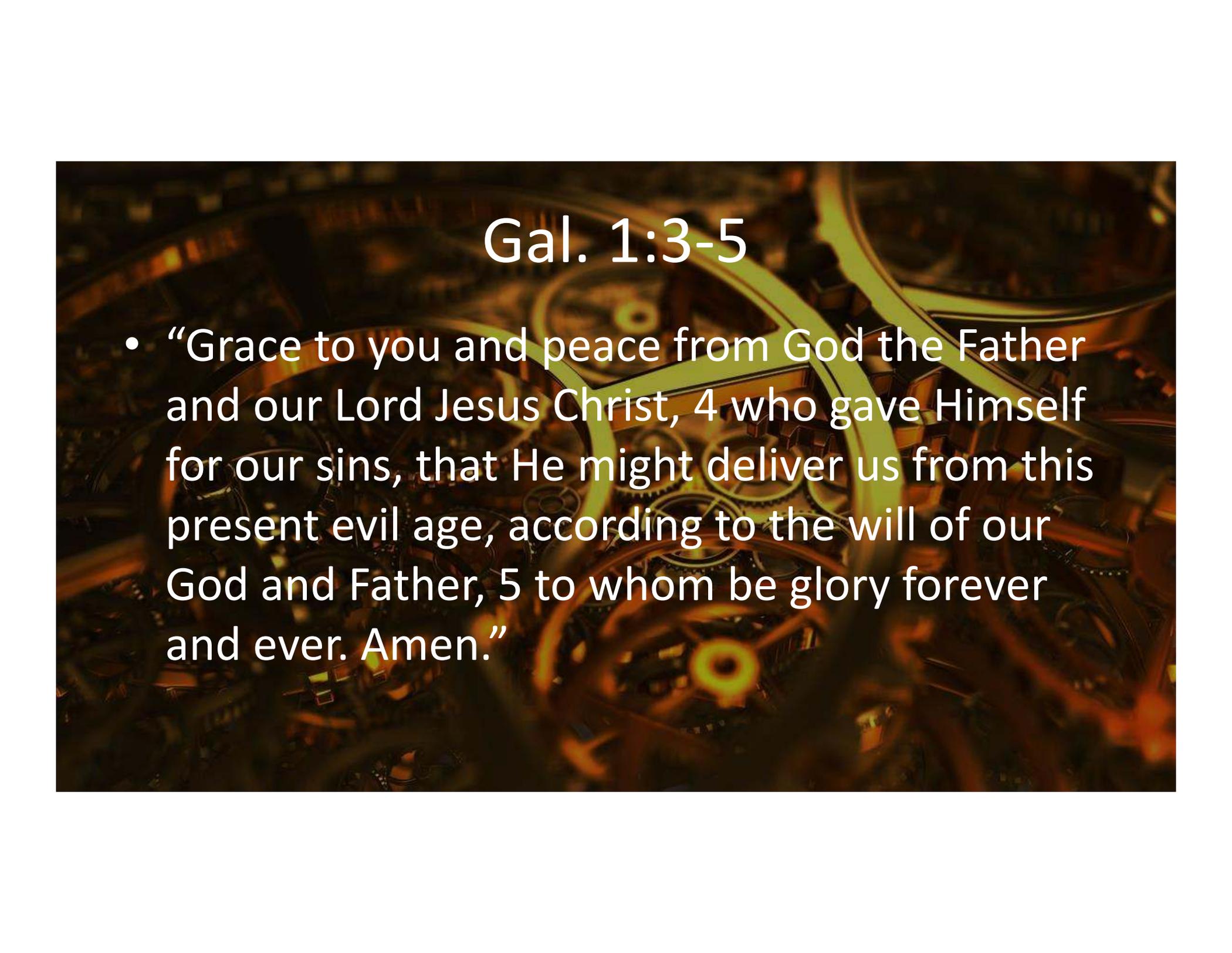
- Jesus is our Mediator
- We pray to the Father in the name of Jesus
 - John 16:23 - “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”
- We do not pray to Jesus. Jesus specifically said “in that day you will ask Me nothing,” meaning in the days of the new covenant you will not ask Me for things; you will ask the Father through Me

Implications Of Christ's Pre-Existence

- To effectively mediate between God and man, Jesus has to be both God and man
 - 1Tim. 2:5 - “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”
- An understanding of this is necessary for proper faith and acceptable prayer in His name
 - John 16:26-27 - “In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.”

Psalm 47

- “Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! 2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. 3 He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet. 4 He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah 5 God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet. 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! 7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. 9 The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.



Gal. 1:3-5

- “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”