

What Jesus Believed Part 2  
What Jesus Believed About Himself  
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Bo Weaver at The Bridge in Wilder, KY

Watching this video takes me back to a Saturday morning in Dallas, Texas when as a second year Bible School student a friend and I decided to go to the campus of Southern Methodist University for the purpose of sharing Jesus with students.

Our tactics were simple and direct.

We would knock on the door of a dorm room and when someone opened the door we would say:

***"We're here to talk about the claims of Christ, can we come in?"***

We were pleasantly surprised by how often students were open to our coming in and talking to them about Jesus.

We were not so pleasantly surprised by what many of these students actually believed about Jesus.

I remember how after being invited in to one dorm room that no sooner had we sat down one of the students piped up and said, ***"I don't believe Jesus was God, or that He claimed to be God."***

Before this I had never really been challenged with regard to the divinity of Christ.

I assumed anyone who believed Jesus had come into this world accepted that He was the Son of God.

I didn't know there were alternative views.

Since coming to the Lord just a couple of years earlier I had not read the Bible to learn how to defend the faith, but rather how to grow in the faith and so I was not well prepared for this challenge.

But it so happened that earlier that morning I had been reading in John chapter ten and there was one verse that came to mind.

I said to him, ***"Are you aware that Jesus said in John chapter ten and verse thirty that, 'I and the Father are one?'"***

He said, ***"No, I didn't know that."***

This experience taught me two things:

- 1) People form very strong opinions about Jesus
- 2) Many come to conclusions about Jesus having never examined His own words.

A lot of people who are into the **New Age** (which is not new at all – but is mostly just **recycled Hindu and Buddhist thought**), define Jesus in ways completely inconsistent with the Bible.

Writing in his book, **The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ**, **Levi H. Dowling** has this to say about Jesus:

“As a child Jesus differed little from other children only that **in past lives** he had overcome carnal propensities to such an extent that he could be tempted like others and not yield...

“... **for by ages of strenuous preparation he was qualified to be an avatar**, a savior of the world, and from childhood he was endowed with superior wisdom and was conscious of the fact that he was competent to lead the raid into the higher ways of spiritual living...”

“(Just as King) Edward was not always king, and Lincoln was not always president, and Jesus was not always Christ. **Jesus won his Christship by a strenuous life.**”

This differs little from **Hinduism** with its focus on repeated incarnations as the means to attaining to a higher spiritual plane.

In his book, **Reflections on the Christ**, **David Spangler** writes:

“What is the Christ? Within all life there exists a quality, an energy, which has as its basic characteristic irresistible growth, irresistible and inevitable expression of divinity. It is a quality which says that whatever form I am enclosed in, **I will not be held a prisoner by that form, but I will transform it into a greater revelation of divinity.** The Christ is the basic evolutionary force within creation.”

The New Age movement says we all just need to realize, to attain to our godlike nature by means of multiple transmigrations through this world – just as Jesus did.

**Spangler speaks further of Jesus:**

“The true birth of Christ was not the birth of Jesus. Jesus was an individual who himself had to recapitulate certain stages. He built upon the pattern the Buddha had established... He himself had to become awakened. He had to, in his consciousness, touch this Christ pattern.”

This kind of New Age thinking has permeated our culture to such an extent that in many churches and among many so called “Christians,” the true Jesus of the Bible has been hijacked and re-cast into a more highly evolved human being – a man who achieved god status.

Although a core teaching of the Christian faith is the divinity and perfection of Jesus Christ, tens of millions of “Christians” do not accept that Jesus was without sin.

In a survey conducted by the **Barna Group**, more than **one-fifth (22%) of self-identified Christians strongly agreed that Jesus Christ sinned when He lived on earth, with an additional 17% agreeing somewhat.**

**This means:**

**39% of "Christians" agree or strongly agree that Jesus sinned**

**Only 46% of professing Christians strongly agree that Jesus lived a sinless life**

Here at The Bridge we have embarked on a year-long quest to discover what it really means to follow Jesus.

If we are going to follow Jesus we need to settle once and for all whom it is we are following.

**Was Jesus just a man, a highly evolved individual who attained a higher state of consciousness?**

**Or was He God, come in the flesh?**

Did Jesus even claim to be divine, or was this view concocted by His followers after His death and foisted upon a gullible and undiscerning world?

**To do this we are going to go to the very words of Jesus Himself.**

Based on the words of Jesus, we are going to look at **six claims Jesus made about Himself.**

### **1. Jesus claimed to be the unique Son of God**

When Jesus was just **12 years old** Joseph and Mary had taken Him to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover.

When they went to return to Nazareth in Galilee, Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem.

Supposing him to be with the company of people that were making their way back home, Joseph and Mary went a day's journey before realizing Jesus was not with them.

I can just imagine the conversation between Joseph and Mary.

Mary says to Joseph: *"You're telling me you've lost the Messiah!"*

*"We are in so much trouble!"*

They go back to Jerusalem where they find Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking questions.

The Bible says, ***"...all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."***

<sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, **"Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."**

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? **Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"** – Luke 2:49

This is the first indication that Jesus understood God was His Father. It wouldn't be the last.

In **John chapter 5 Jesus healed a crippled man.**

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, "**My Father** has been working until now, and I have been working." <sup>18</sup> **Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. – John 5:16-18**

Some today may claim Jesus was only speaking of God as His Father in a general way, in the sense that all people are sons and daughters of God.

That's not how Jesus' enemies took it.

They understood that Jesus was calling Himself the Son of God.

## **2. Jesus claimed to be the eternal, self-existent God of the Universe**

In **John chapter 8 Jesus was once again in conflict with the Pharisees.**

In **verse 56 Jesus said:**

<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

<sup>57</sup> Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**" <sup>59</sup> Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. – **John 8:56-59**

**Here Jesus goes so far as to use the very words by which God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush. (Exodus 3:13-15)**

"**I AM**" comes from the Hebrew verb *hiyah*, which means "*to be,*" or "*to exist.*"

**It speaks of God's eternal, uncreated, self-existent nature.**

Everything else in the universe *is* because of God.

The earth exists because God created it.

You and I exist because God created Adam and Eve.

Nobody made God.

God just is.

God owes His existence to nothing and no one.

**Here in John 8 Jesus is saying that like the Father, He simply is.**

He is the uncreated, self-existent, eternal God of the universe.

No evolving through countless previous incarnations.

No becoming the Christ.

He is the ***"I AM that I AM"*** of the Old Testament.

**While this claim to deity may be lost on New Agers today – it was not lost on the Pharisees.**

They knew exactly what Jesus was saying and for this reason they took up stones to stone Jesus because they understood He was equating Himself to God – which they of course considered to be blasphemy.

In **John chapter 10** Jesus made another claim to deity when He said quite unambiguously;

*"I and My Father are one."*  
- **John 10:30**

**Once again the Jewish religious leaders took up stones to stone Him.**

<sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." – **John 10:32-33**

This remains a stumbling block to Jewish people to this day.

If you are Jewish and you wish to immigrate to Israel, you can be of any faith you like.

You can be a Hindu, a Buddhist; or you can be of no faith at all.

You can be an atheist and that's fine.

The one thing you cannot be is Jewish person who professes to believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

If you are a professing Christian and you are a Jew you are not getting in.

Observant Jews still consider confessing Jesus as the Son of God to be blasphemy.

**And yet, Jesus' claims to deity are substantiated by many other places in Scripture.**

- **In John chapter one Jesus is seen as the creator of the Universe**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. – **John 1:1-3**

<sup>14</sup> 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. – **John 1:14**

Jesus claimed to be the eternal, self-existent God of the Universe.

Other indications that Jesus considered Himself to be God:

- **Jesus accepted worship**

... all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. – **John 5:23**

**In Luke 19 we read of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.**

<sup>37</sup> Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying:

*"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." <sup>40</sup> But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

– **Luke 19:37-40**

If the Jews agreed on anything they agreed that only God was worthy of worship.

Jesus allowed His disciples to worship Him because He knew He was God.

**After the resurrection when the disciples came with the report that Jesus was alive, Thomas was not buying it.**

### John 20

<sup>24</sup> Now **Thomas**, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, **"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."**

<sup>26</sup> And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be

unbelieving, but believing.”<sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.” - **John 20:26-29**

- **Jesus forgave sins**

### **Luke 5 – Jesus forgives – and then heals a paralytic**

<sup>18</sup> Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. <sup>19</sup> And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. <sup>20</sup> **When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”**

<sup>21</sup> **And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”**

<sup>22</sup> **But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’?”**

<sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

<sup>25</sup> Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”

There can be no doubt but that Jesus understood Himself to be fully God.

### **3. Jesus claimed to be without sin**

In **John 8:46** Jesus asks:

Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?  
- **John 8:46**

Can anyone here issue that same challenge?

At His trial **Pilate** examined him and said, **“I find no fault in this Man”** (Luke 23:4).

Truer words were never spoken.

**Other Scriptures that support this sinless nature of Jesus are:**

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. - **2 Corinthians 5:21**

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. - **1 John 3:5**

*"Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in His mouth"*  
- **1 Peter 2:22**

Jesus had to be without sin in order to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sin.

John the Baptist called Jesus, ***"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."***

The sacrificial lambs of the Old Testament had to be without spot or blemish in order for it to be an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

Jesus, who bore the sin of the whole world, was that perfectly spotless, sinless Lamb of God.

Because of this here are **three things you will never hear Jesus say:**

***"My bad."***

***"I'm sorry."***

***"Nobody's perfect."***

Jesus claimed to be without sin – and those closest to Him backed up this claim.

#### **4. Jesus claimed to be the giver of life**

<sup>25</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>  
**For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.**

- **John 5:25-26**

**After the death of Jesus' friend, Lazarus, Jesus went to the home of Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters.**

#### **John 11**

<sup>21</sup> Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup> Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me

shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- **John 11:2-27**

Anyone can say they are the resurrection and the life... but Jesus proved it when he raised Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus claimed to be the giver of life.

### **5. Jesus claimed to be the Way to the Father**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- **John 14:6**

Jesus did not say He is one of the ways.

He did not say there are many paths to God, choose one.

He said He is the only way to God the Father.

Some people bristle at the narrow claims of Christianity.

They say it's not fair that there is only one way.

I don't complain that there is only one way to God – I'm just grateful there is a way to God – and that way is through Jesus Christ.

In **John chapter 10** Jesus said:

"I am the door to the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.<sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

- **John 10:7-9**

When I was in Bible College there was a young man enrolled in school from Nepal.

Nepal is the world's only Hindu kingdom.

Hinduism is a religion that claims millions of different gods.

You worship the god of your choice and hope for the best.

One day I asked my classmate, "*What is the difference between Hinduism and Christianity?*"

He summed up the differences this way.

He said, "*Hinduism is working and hoping; while Christianity is trusting and knowing.*"

When you trust the Savior you know your sins have been forgiven, you know you have passed through the door that leads to eternal life.

Jesus claimed to be – and made no apologies for being the way to God.

## 6. Jesus claimed to be the judge of the world

### John 5

<sup>24</sup> “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.** <sup>25</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

<sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup> and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, **because He is the Son of Man.** <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

<sup>30</sup> I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Those who claim that Jesus never claimed to be the Son of God have obviously not read the Bible.

**This was the central issue at Jesus’ trial.**

### Matthew 26

<sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, <sup>60</sup> but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, “This *fellow* said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”

<sup>62</sup> And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?” <sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “**I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!**”

Here it is, the million dollar question.

***“Are you, yes or no, the Son of God?”***

Jesus has been interrogated throughout the night.

He had been blindfolded, beaten about the face and head.

He’s had a crown of thorns pressed into His scalp.

Soldiers have taken turns punching him, slapping Him, ripping out His beard.

After hours of what we would call today, "enhanced interrogation," Jesus is one last time given the chance to recant His claims to being God.

If He recants and says, "*No, I am not the Son of God,*" there is a chance He'll be set free.

If He says, "*Yes, I am the Son of God,*" certain death awaits Him.

We see His answer in **verse 64**:

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*"

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! <sup>66</sup> What do you think?"

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

<sup>67</sup> Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

### **What is meant by this title, the Son of Man?**

This term, "Son of Man," seems to downplay Jesus divinity.

In fact there is no contradiction.

### **An examination of Scripture reveals that the phrase "Son of Man" carries broad significance.**

*Son of Man* was Jesus' favorite term for himself.

It is used some 80 times in the gospels.

By means of this somewhat mysterious phrase Jesus revealed and concealed His true identity.

The term "Son of Man" spoke of Jesus' humanity, of His coming to enter the human race as a man.

And yet, for those who knew their Bible they would have recognized that this term comes straight out of Daniel 7 and that it speaks of Jesus' divinity, as well as His humanity.

The term blends the heavenly and earthly aspects of Christ.

**In Daniel 7, the prophet Daniel had a vision of events that would take place at the end of the age.**

While some may not have immediately grasped what Jesus meant by this title, Jesus used it to claim authority, demonstrate power and assume responsibilities no other man could.

### Daniel 7

<sup>9</sup> "I watched till thrones were put in place,  
And the Ancient of Days was seated;  
His garment *was* white as snow,  
And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool.  
His throne *was* a fiery flame,  
Its wheels a burning fire;

<sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued  
And came forth from before Him.  
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.  
And the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup> I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, *One* like the **Son of Man**,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!  
He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought Him near before Him.

<sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.  
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And His kingdom *the one*  
Which shall not be destroyed.

- Daniel 7:13-14

**This is a scene of final judgment.**

This would not have been missed by the Jewish religious leaders.

They were familiar with Daniel 7.

They understood that the Son of Man spoken of was none other than God Himself coming to judge the earth.

By affirming that He was indeed the Christ, the Son of God, and then coupling that with this reference to the "Son of Man" in Daniel chapter 7, Jesus was saying.

**"You guys are judging Me now, but the day will come when I will come to judge you!"**

**Revelation 20** speaks of this day.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.

And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**There can be no doubt, Jesus understood Himself to be the Christ, the Son of God, the judge of the earth.**

**What are the implications of this?**

Folks, we aren't following a man who came into this world to give us some nice things to consider.

We are following the Creator God, the Redeemer God and Judge of the Universe.

We dare not add Jesus to our life like some kind of good luck charm.

We dare not consider His teachings to be mere suggestions for our consideration.

He has made us.

He has redeemed us from our sin by suffering and dying on a cruel cross.

Three days later He came back from the dead having triumphed over death, hell and the grave and He is returning to judge the world in righteousness.

And now we have the privilege of knowing Him.

We have the privilege of loving Him.

We have the privilege of serving Him with our life.

During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on into the 1900's, Charles T. Studd was a servant of Christ who faithfully served His Saviour in China, India, and Africa.

As in the forward to the Alfred Buxton book titled *C.T. Studd: Cricketer & Pioneer* by Norman Grubb states:

"C.T.'s life stands as some rugged Gibraltar — a sign to all succeeding generations that it is worth while to lose all this world can offer and stake everything on the world to come. His life will be an eternal rebuke to easygoing Christianity. He has demonstrated what it means to follow Christ without counting the cost and without looking back.

Charles Thomas Studd was born in England in 1860, one of three sons of a wealthy retired planter, Edward Studd, who had made a fortune in India and had come back to England to spend it. After being converted to Christ during a Moody-Sankey campaign in England in 1877, Edward Studd became deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of his three sons and influenced them for the cause of Christ before his death two years later.

By the time C.T. was sixteen he had become an expert cricket player and at nineteen was captain of his team at Eton College. He was further educated at Trinity College, Cambridge where he was also recognized as an outstanding cricketer.

C.T. was saved in 1878 at the age of 18 when a visiting preacher at their home caught C.T. on his way to play cricket. "Are you a Christian?" he asked. C.T.'s answer not being convincing enough, the guest pressed the point and C.T. tells what happens as he acknowledges God's gift of eternal life received through faith in Christ: "I got down on my knees and I did say 'thank you' to God. And right then and there joy and peace came into my soul. I knew then what it was to be 'born again,' and the Bible which had been so dry to me before, became everything." His two brothers were also saved that same day!

But there followed a period of six years in a backslidden state. C.T. relates: "Instead of going and telling others of the love of Christ, I was selfish and kept the knowledge to myself. The result was that gradually my love began to grow cold, and the love of the world began to come in. I spent six years in that unhappy backslidden state." The Lord in His goodness worked in his life and after a serious illness of his brother and his going to hear D.L. Moody the Lord met C.T. again and restored to him the joy of His salvation.

"Still further, and what was better than all, He set me to work for Him, and I began to try and persuade my friends to read the Gospel, and to speak to them individually about their souls."

"I cannot tell you what joy it gave me to bring the first soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have tasted almost all the pleasures that this world can give ... but those pleasures were as nothing compared to the joy that the saving of that one soul gave me."

The Lord continued to work in his life, and led C.T. to go to China. C.T. seeking to comfort his mother wrote: "Mother dear, I do pray God to show you that it is such a privilege to give up a child to be used of God to saving poor sinners who have never even heard of the name of Jesus."

C.T. was one of the "Cambridge Seven" who offered themselves to Hudson Taylor for missionary service in the China Inland Mission and in February, 1885, sailed for China. Once there, they followed the early practice of the Mission by living and dressing in Chinese fashion. He and the others began at once to learn the language and to further identify themselves with the nationals by wearing Chinese clothing and eating with them.

It was while in China that C.T. reached the age (25 years old) in which according to his father's will he was to inherit a large sum of money.

Through reading God's Word and much prayer, C.T. felt led to give his entire fortune to Christ! "This was not a fool's plunge on his part. It was his public testimony before

God and man that he believed God's Word to be the surest thing on earth, and that the hundred fold interest which God has promised in this life, not to speak of the next, is an actual reality for those who believe it and act on it."

Before knowing the exact amount of his inheritance, C.T. sent £5000 to Mr. Moody, another £5000 to George Müller (£4000 to be used on missionary work and £1000 among the orphans); as well as £15,000 pounds to support other worthy ministries. In a few months, he was able to discover the exact amount of his inheritance and he gave some additional thousands away, leaving about £3400 pounds in his possession.

Three years after arriving in China, C.T. married a young Irish missionary from Ulster named Priscilla Livingstone Stewart. Just before the wedding he presented his bride with the remaining money from his inheritance. She, not to be outdone, said, "Charlie, what did the Lord tell the rich young man to do?" "Sell all." "Well then, we will start clear with the Lord at our wedding." And they proceeded to give the rest of the money away for the Lord's work.

They served the Lord together in inland China through many perils and hardships until in 1894 after ten years in China, ill health forced the Studds to return to England, where they turned their property over to the China Inland Mission.

In 1900 the Studd family went to South India where C.T. served as a pastor of a church in Ootacamund for six years. From the time of his conversion, C.T. had felt the responsibility upon their family to take the Gospel to India.

China, then India, and now the heart of Africa.

After their return home to England in 1906, C.T. was stirred by the need for missionary pioneer work in Central Africa. But again the path was not without obstacles.

Penniless, turned down by the doctor, dropped by a Committee of businessmen who had agreed to support him, yet told by God to go, once more C.T. staked all on obedience to God.

As a young man he staked his career, in China he staked his fortune, now he staked his life.

His answer to the Committee was; "Gentlemen, God has called me to go, and I will go. I will blaze the trail, though my grave may only become a stepping stone that younger men may follow."

Leaving his wife and four daughters in England, C.T. sailed, contrary to medical advice, for the heart of Africa in 1910, where he continued to work until his death in 1931.

C.T. bore much fruit for the Saviour while in Africa as he endured weakness and sickness; losing most of his teeth and suffering several heart attacks; but he endured hardness as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ!

In a letter home, C.T. gave a last backward look at the outstanding events of his life:

"As I believe I am now nearing my departure from this world, I have but a few things to rejoice in; they are these:

1. That God called me to China and I went in spite of utmost opposition from all my loved ones.
2. That I joyfully acted as Christ told that rich young man to act.
3. That I deliberately at the call of God, when alone on the Bibby liner in 1910, gave up my life for this work, which was to be henceforth not for the Sudan only, but for the whole unevangelized World.

My only joys therefore are that when God has given me a work to do, I have not refused it."

Shortly after 10:30 p.m. on a July day in 1931, C.T. Studd went home to be with His Lord whom he had loved so dearly and served so faithfully! The last word he spoke was "Hallelujah"!

C.T. Studd lived by this motto:

**"If Jesus is God and He died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."**

- C.T. Studd