

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

JESUS BEGINS HIS REDEMPTIVE WORK

Mark 1:9-11 “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

John the Baptist, sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus to carry out His redemptive work, was out in the wilderness “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4) He preached, “After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.” (Matthew 3:11) To Him came Jesus of Nazareth of Galilee to be baptized. (Mark 1:9)

God, through John baptizing Jesus, inaugurated His Son into His public ministry and redemptive work. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, did not need a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Rather, Jesus explains His baptism by John as “. . .fitting to fulfill all righteousness.” (Matthew 3:15) After being baptized God the Father spoke saying of Jesus, “You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11)

God publicly anointed Jesus at His baptism for His redemptive work. Acts 10:38 says, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.” Through His baptism, Jesus was set apart by God to start His journey to Calvary’s cross. As true man, God poured out the Holy Spirit upon Jesus to empower Him to carry out His saving work.

While Jesus was on earth, many struggled to decide who Jesus was and what He was doing on earth. Is this not still the case today. We know in the United States most adults—not quite six in 10—believe Jesus was God (56%), while about one-quarter say he was only a religious or spiritual leader like Mohammed or the Buddha (26%). The remaining one in six say they aren’t sure whether Jesus was divine (18%).

If or when Satan plants seeds of doubt in your mind and heart that Jesus is The Christ (set apart by God to save you), His Son, you have God's word that tells you He is. He is the one God sent as Savior of the world. (Mark 1:11) God does not lie! (Numbers 23:19-20) His word is true! (John 17:17)

Prayer: Jesus, You came to earth to save sinners of whom I am chief. Grant unto me an unshakeable faith, never doubting You are the one sent by God to save me from my sins. I ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!
(LSB 571)