

TRUTH & LIGHT

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WHAT JESUS IS TO ME

If someone asked you to explain what Jesus means to you, what would you say? For most of us, I suspect that's a challenging question to answer, not because we don't have an answer, but because we have many answers, some of which are difficult to articulate.

But since we are expected to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15), I'll share some of my answer — as much as space allows — with you.

Jesus is **my Light** (John 1:7-9; 8:12; 9:5). He is the means by which I can find my way in this dark world, and see the pathway out of

it into eternal life. If I walk in His light, His blood cleanses me from all my sin (1 John 1:7).

Jesus is **my King and my Lord** (1 Timothy 6:15). He is the authority of my life (Matthew 28:18), the One to whom I look *"for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16). His being my Lord means I am duty-bound to do His Father's will (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus is **my Rock** (1 Corinthians 10:4). As long as I listen to His word and obey it, my spiritual house has a solid foundation on which to stand (Matthew 7:24-25; Luke 6:48).

Jesus is **my Friend**, because He demonstrated His love for me by sacrificing His life for me: *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”* (John 15:13). He also proves His friendship by revealing to me through His word all that His Father would have me to know (John 15:15). To be a friend to Jesus, I must do as He commands, because that’s what His friends do (John 15:14).

Jesus is **my Shepherd**. The good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep (John 10:11), and goes searching for them when they are lost, that they might be found (Luke 15:3-7). Jesus has done both for me; therefore, as His sheep, I must hear His voice and follow it (John 10:27).

Jesus is **my High Priest**, who sympathizes with my weaknesses, and allows me, despite those weaknesses, to approach His Father’s throne confidently to obtain His grace and mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16). He makes propitiation for me with God (Hebrews 2:17-18; 1 John 2:2), meaning that

He turns aside from me God’s righteous anger over my sins.

Jesus is **my food, the Bread of life** (John 6:35, 48, 51). He is the source of spiritual sustenance that strengthens me for life’s trials and hardships. As long as I am hungry and thirsty for His righteousness, I am filled with everything I need (Matthew 5:6).

Jesus is **my sacrificial Lamb**, who has taken away my sins by being slaughtered on my behalf (John 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Like the scapegoat of the old Law, He has carried my sins away into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:8-22).

Jesus is **my Savior**, who has rescued me from the penalty of my sins and has given me citizenship in His heavenly kingdom (Philippians 3:20-21).

And in the words of Charles Wesley’s timeless hymn, Jesus is **the Lover of my soul** — the One who loved my soul enough to

surrender His own life in humiliation and torment to preserve it (Ephesians 5:2, 25; Revelation 1:5).

That's some Jesus I have, wouldn't you say?

— Michael D. Rankins

The Window through Which We Look

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

'That laundry is not very clean,' she said. 'She doesn't know how to wash correctly..

Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.' Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

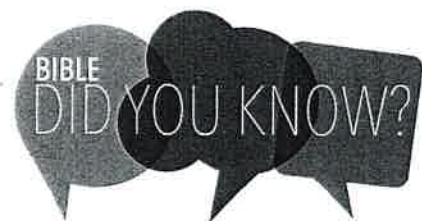
Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: 'Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this.'

The husband said, 'I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.'

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others often depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

— Author Unknown



The sin of being a “busybody” is listed in the same category as murderers and thieves. This seems fitting, as often they steal information that doesn't belong to them and use it to murder people's reputations. “Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”

1 Peter 4:15-16

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. To whom did God say: "Prophecy upon these bones."?

- a) Isaiah
- b) Samuel
- c) Jeremiah
- d) Ezekiel

2. According to Proverbs 18:7, what is a fool's destruction?

- a) His enemy
- b) His mind
- c) His mouth
- d) His wealth

3. Who was the mother of Esau?

- a) Rebekah
- b) Sarah
- c) Naomi
- d) Jezebel

4. What event caused Jesus to desire solitude in a boat?

- a) Temptation in Wilderness
- b) Sermon on the Mount
- c) Death of John the Baptist
- d) Transfiguration

5. Who cut off a man's ear while Jesus was being arrested?

- a) Andrew
- b) Judas
- c) Matthew
- d) Peter

6. Who killed a lion with his bare hands?

- a) Samson
- b) Nathan
- c) Dwight
- d) All the Dan's

7. What did Jesus offer the woman at Jacob's well?

- a) Bread
- b) Money
- c) Living Water
- d) Coupons

8. Vashti was queen over what land?

- a) Egypt
- b) Persia
- c) Assyria
- d) Jerusalem

9. Who was the husband of Abigail prior to David?

- a) Jonathan
- b) Saul
- c) Nabal
- d) Abner

10. Who kept her race a secret in order to marry a Persian king?

- a) Cher
- b) Madonna
- c) Malania
- d) Esther

- 7) C, Reference: John 4:10
 8) B, Reference: Est. 1:1-9
 9) C, Reference: 1 Sam. 25
 10) D, Reference: Es. 2:17-20
 1) D, Reference: Ez. 37:4
 2) C, Reference: Prov. 18:7
 3) A, Reference: Gen. 25:21-28
 4) C, Reference: John 14:13
 5) D, Reference: John 18:10
 6) A, Reference: Jdgs. 14:6