

A Great Description of Christ By Trey Sullins

Descriptions are an important part of life that often we take for granted. They not only identify things but help us to understand characteristics of something. There are many times in the Bible where various descriptions are used with great effect to paint a clear picture of exactly who someone is. In Revelation 1:5 there is a list of these given to Christ. By studying these them, we can better understand exactly who our Savior is.

Jesus is called the faithful witness. This is a reference to Jesus' witnessing of God's will. A witness is someone who observes something and then can give testimony of it. This is exactly what Christ did with the will of God. Matthew 24:14 confirms this when Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." The adjective "faithful" helps us to understand that this His witnessing is true and accurate. In secular legal systems when you need to call upon a witness, you seek a faithful one or one who is going to speak only the truth.

If Christ was a faithful witness of the will of God, then we cannot ignore His testimony. Consider John 12:26 which says, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor." Here Jesus was pointing out that when you serve Him you are doing what God the Father wants you to do; Therefore, Jesus faithful witness leads us to obedience to the Father. Once more in John 3:33 the Bible says, "He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true." How well do we receive His testimony?

Jesus is called the firstborn from the dead. The term firstborn usually means one of two things in the Bible. It can mean that someone came first in time. It can also mean that someone is preeminent or first in importance. In this case the Bible reveals that Jesus was not the first person to be raised from the dead. However, Jesus is the preeminent one to be raised from the dead. When you compare Him to all the others throughout the entire Bible who were raised, He certainly is greater than the rest. He is most important because He is the Son of God. He is also first in importance because His death and resurrection are major parts of our salvation.

Christ's resurrection should bring us comfort. In 1 Thessalonians 4:14 Paul was explaining some of the things that are going to happen in the end times. One confirmation that He uses as proof to show that we will be raised is Christ's resurrection: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus." In verse 18 Paul wrote that this should comfort Christians. Why would this bring comfort? If we know that Christ raised Himself from the dead, then we can believe without any doubt that we will be brought to heaven in the end as long as we are faithful to Him!

Jesus is called the ruler over the kings of the earth. This refers to His position as the head of all things. Jesus is called the King of kings in 1 Timothy 6:15. This phrasing is a superlative in some ancient languages indicating the best or the highest degree. The point is that when you compare Jesus to the leaders on the earth, He is above them all. This is because Jesus is the head and has authority over all the earth.

Christ's authority confirms our Christians walk. Because Jesus is the ruler over all kings then we can know that service to Him is the most important thing that we can do. Jesus loved us enough to make us kings and priests for Him (Revelation 1:6). We must hold to our calling by remaining pure and being obedient to the authority which He has.

Knowing whom you serve is a very important thing for the Christian. It would even be impossible for a Christian to serve properly if they did not know who their leader was. This is why studying the descriptions of our savior is so important. But when we do know Him, then we can truly serve Him as a "king and priest."