

Eight Roles and Titles of Christ

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When Jesus Christ gives us a key to salvation, I think we all know that we best pay attention to that. With that in mind let's go to John 17:3. We have read this scripture many times in the past, as we learn more about God the Father and His Son. To start things off let's refresh by reading this scripture. It is out of the New King James version. We will come back to this section in just a moment. There is a great deal in these scriptures but we are just going to read verse 3 for now.

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life ... (NKJV)*

Our antennas should go up, our ears should perk up.

3 continued) ... that they may know You [He's referring to His Father], the only true God, and [now referring to Himself] Jesus Christ whom You [the only true God] have sent. (NKJV)

Over the past few years, God Almighty has revealed to His children, a greater understanding of who He is. He has opened our minds—we don't deserve it as we are not more brilliant than anybody else—He just opened our minds to greater understanding of who He is. For those who understand that, it has brought a closer relationship with Him. For those who accept this understanding, it has brought a closer relationship in ways that we could not have imagined previously. Sadly, some have rejected that understanding and that revelation and that knowledge. In doing so, they have accused the Pacific Church of God of diminishing Christ because we understand the Father a little bit better—in fact not a little bit but a whole lot better. They have accused us of somehow diminishing Christ. Some have even knowingly spread false information claiming that we teach Christ is a created being. Both of which we have never done. We have never diminished Christ and have never taught, do not believe, will never believe, that Christ is a created being. It's simply not true.

In fact, over the last several years we have talked much about Jesus Christ. Notice the glory of Christ—we just read verse 3 of John 17, let's read verse 4.

4) I have glorified You on the earth [remember He came to reveal the Father]. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (NKJV)

Notice verse 5.

5) And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (NKJV)

So, we see that Christ, as an eternal Being, has always had great glory, because He was at the right hand of the Father. While on earth, the Father glorified Jesus Christ. In 2 Peter 1:1 Peter is writing to us and looking back and he is making a point. This is out of the NIV.

2 Peter 1:16 *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

17) He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory [meaning the Father, from His throne], saying, This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (NIV)

So, while Christ walked on this earth, and after He was baptized the Father spoke to give His Son glory in the front of other human beings. Then after Christ's death and His resurrection, the Father restored Him to the glory that He had before He became a human. Let's see that in Hebrews 1:1. Christ had glory before He became a human being, God glorified Him while He was a human and then the Father restored Him to His former glory after He was resurrected.

Hebrews 1:1 *God, who at sundry times and in divers' manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things [what glory, what honor, to appoint His Son, heir to all things], by whom also he made the worlds; (KJV)

The Son was involved in the creation.

3) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person [referring to the Father's person], and upholding all things by the word of his [His Father's] power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (KJV)

That means He sat down on the right hand of His Father, who is the most Majestic of all—on His right hand, in the great honor that He had had before. So, the scriptures tell us that the Father bestowed upon Jesus Christ, His Son, majesty, honor and glory by placing Him on His right hand. For us as human beings, that glory is something we cannot comprehend—the glory of the Father and the glory of His throne and the glory He has bestowed on His Son, at His right hand. As humans we don't have the senses or the ability to see the spiritual realm and we just get “a grain of sand” view of the total glory of the Father and the glory that the Father has bestowed on His Son. It's incomprehensible to us as humans.

The question is, as we introduce the title for today, beyond sitting on the right hand of the Father, how did the Father further glorify His Son in addition to placing Him on His right hand? What other glory has the Father bestowed upon His Son. That's what we want to look at today. Specifically, we want to look at some of the roles and titles that

Jesus Christ has. Roles and titles that the Father has bestowed upon His Son, befitting the honor due Him. That leads to the title for today:

Eight Titles and Roles of Christ

This is not comprehensive; we are just going to look at eight today. Hopefully it will give us a picture of the honor and the glory that the Father has bestowed upon His Son and the honor and respect that we should have toward Jesus Christ.

The first point—the first honor—the Father has given to the Son is:

1. Christ is honored as our Savior.

Let's go to Luke 2:8. Christ is honored as our Savior and we need saving; we need to be rescued from who and what we are. This is a very familiar scripture.

Luke 2:8 *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

9) *And, lo, the angel of the Lord [this has to be referring to the Father] came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: (KJV)*

Can you imagine if you were a shepherd out in the field and all of a sudden this happened? And this glory was somehow manifested. It would be interesting to see how that was manifested. It shone round about them so there was obviously a light.

9 continued) ... and they were sore afraid.

10) *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

11) *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (KJV)*

Scriptures referring to Christ as being our Savior occur thirteen times in the New Testament for emphasis. The Greek word for *Savior* is Strong's #4990 and it's spelled *soter* and it means a deliverer and I'm quoting now from Strong's:

“A deliverer that is God or Christ”.

So, by His birth, Jesus Christ, as a human, is destined at that time to be a Savior or a deliverer. With that in mind, look at what the apostles said in Acts 4:10. We are breaking into the account where Peter is speaking before the Sanhedrin after he had healed a man who had been lame from birth. The Sanhedrin did not like that because it drew attention away from them and drew attention to this upstart, Jesus Christ and to those who followed Him. This healing occurred after Christ had obviously been crucified and resurrected and now His followers are healing people—God Almighty, through them. So, Peter is answering the Sanhedrin.

Acts 4:10 *Be it known unto you all, [all of you grandiose members of the Sanhedrin] and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. (KJV)*

This lame man from birth is now totally healed.

11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (KJV)

Here is the point, verse 12.

12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (KJV)

Notice the honor and the glory the Father has bestowed upon the Son, as a result of His willingness to sacrifice Himself by going through agonizing torture and excruciating death. We now see the great honor the Father is giving His Son by saying and inspiring this to be said, *there is no other name by which you can be saved*—Jesus Christ.

Now, in the next chapter, chapter 5:29, the apostles are back in front of the Sanhedrin. They were let go and thrown into jail and after miraculously being released from jail, they went back to the Temple and started preaching and now they are dragged in front of the Sanhedrin again. This is out of the NIV.

Acts 5:29 *Peter and the other apostles replied: We must obey God rather than human beings! (NIV)*

They were told not to preach about Jesus Christ, not to preach about Him or that He was the Savior of mankind.

30) The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead ... (NIV)

Who is the God of our fathers? It has to be God Almighty—pretty plain and simple. How could Jesus be the God of our fathers if the God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead? Interesting question people should ponder.

30 continued) ... —whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. (NIV)

There is a word missing from the translation, it is the Greek word *ho* and it means “the” and it’s dropped in the New Testament in many instances due to trinitarian emphasis.

31) [It should read] “the” God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. (NIV)

The apostles now confirmed that Christ is indeed our Savior. Remember the Greek word for *savior*—*soter*—can refer to both God or Christ. Let's see the word *savior* referring to the Father. 1 Timothy 1:1. The same title can refer to both the Father and the Son. They are not mutually exclusive. There are other titles that follow suit as we'll see. This is out of the New Living Translation.

1 Timothy 1:1 *This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus, who gives us hope. (NLT)*

This is pretty clear that there are two Beings referred to—God and Christ—and we are told that God is also our Savior. The Father is our Savior because He was willing to offer His only begotten Son, to watch Him be tortured and die and He had to go through that. He is our Savior by willingly offering His Son to pay the penalty for mankind's sin. Christ is our Savior because He was willing to die for the very same reason. To pay the penalty for mankind's sins. We see that Christ is honored as our Savior.

That leads us to the second point.

2. Christ is honored by His Father as our Redemption.

Let's go to Romans 3:23. This is the first memory scripture, I think, that I ever had coming into the church in the mid '60's. Romans 3:23 was pounded into all of our heads in those days.

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)*

We know that, but notice verse 24.

24) Being justified freely by his grace [God's grace] through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (KJV)

The Greek word for *redemption* is Strong's #639 and it means a "ransom in full". In this case for our sins. It can also mean "deliverance". So, we have had the ransom paid by Christ, who delivers us from the penalty of sin. Let's go to the next book, 1 Corinthians 1:26. We are very familiar with this scripture referring to the fact that our Father calls the weak of the world. Let's look at it from the fact of Christ being our redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:26 *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

27) But God hath chosen [the Father does the choosing] the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen [mentioned three times], yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (KJV)

Verse 30 is out of the NIV.

30) It is because of him [referring to the Father] that you are in Christ Jesus, who [referring to Christ] has become for us wisdom from God—that is, [Christ has become] our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (NIV)

Christ is our redemption. How did that occur? Let's go to Ephesians 1:7. Also, for reference there are two other verses that basically say the same thing—Colossians 1:14 and Revelation 5:9.

Ephesians 1:7 [Referring to Jesus Christ] *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (KJV)*

Here we see that Christ is the redemption and that redemption occurs by the shedding of His blood to pay the penalty for our sins. I was shocked a few years ago in studying God and Christ, when I was studying the word *Redeemer*—who is our Redeemer—that the word does not occur in the New Testament. It only occurs in the Old Testament. It's not found in the New Testament. Why? If you look at all those scriptures—that's a sermon in itself—the fact is, those scriptures referring to the word Redeemer in the Old Testament, all refer to God Almighty—Yehovah. Let's go to Isaiah 54:5 and just see one as an example. The Father is the Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:5 *For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; (KJV)*

We have much material on our website as to who Yehovah of hosts is, who LORD of Hosts is, who the Almighty is, who the Most High is and it all refers back to God Almighty—Yehovah of Hosts.

5 continued) ... and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. (KJV)

Notice verse 8.

8) In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. (KJV)

That refers to God the Father. So, the scriptures, if you look at all of them, they clearly reveal that the Father is the Redeemer and His Son, Jesus Christ is the actual Redemption. There is a discernment—a difference—between the two. The Father is the Redeemer, Christ is the Redemption—He is honored as our Redemption.

That leads us to the third point.

3. Christ is honored as our High Priest.

Christ is referred to, sixteen times in the book of Hebrews as our High Priest. Let's look at four of them. We will go briefly through Hebrews. Let's go to Hebrews 2:17 to start. It's very obvious that Christ is our High Priest. That is a title and a role that the Father has given Him to honor and glorify His Son.

Hebrews 2:17 *Wherefore in all things it behoved him [referring to Christ] to be made like unto his brethren [to be made a human], that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (KJV)*

Which the High Priest did in the Tabernacle and while the Temple was still standing. Next chapter, Hebrews 3:1 out of the NIV.

Hebrews 3:1 *Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. (NIV)*

Then the next chapter, Hebrews 4:14.

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities [because He lived as a human and understands]; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (KJV)

So, we see that Christ, understanding what it's like to be a human and what it's like to be tempted, comes to the Father as our High Priest on our behalf. Now chapter 9:7; referring to the second veil here.

Hebrews 9:7 *But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:*

8) The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all [the holy of holies where God resides] was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9) Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

10) Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers' washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. (KJV)

The coming of the New Covenant.

11) But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (KJV)

Which was standing at the time this was written.

12) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (KJV)

Remember He is the redemption. Through His blood, He redeemed us. As High Priest, Christ fulfilled His role as our redemption by coming before the Father.

That comes to the fourth role and title that Christ is honored by.

4. Christ is honored as our Mediator.

He is the Mediator; in other words, the one who reconciles us to God Almighty. He reconciles all mankind to God Almighty. Let's go to 1 Timothy 2:5 and see that He has this specific, this very special honor bestowed upon Him. Obviously written by Paul who was schooled at the feet of Gamaliel, so he should know what he's talking about when it comes to matters of the law.

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God [he's referring to the Father], and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (KJV)*

There are two Beings—the Father and the Son. One is *THE* God and the other is the Mediator between mankind and God Almighty.

6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (KJV)

The Greek word for *mediator* is Strong's #3316 and Strong's says: "By implication it means a reconciler or an intercessor". Christ does both; He reconciles us to the Father—remember the veil was rent when He died and His blood was shed and He's also our intercessor—the High Priest going through the veil to the Holy of Holies. He is our Mediator. What is He a Mediator of? Let's go to Hebrews 9:15—remember Hebrews mentions sixteen times that Christ is our High Priest. Understanding that context, then Hebrews 9:15 makes things very clear. It tells us what He is the Mediator of.

Hebrews 9:15 *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called [all of us] might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (KJV)*

He is the Mediator of the New Testament. 2 Corinthians 5 gives us more information on this. We'll read just one verse, verse 18. There is so much in God's Word on the subject of Jesus Christ and His titles and roles and this is by no means comprehensive on every title and role He has been given, in honor and glory.

2 Corinthians 5:18 *And all things are of God [referring to the Father], who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (KJV)*

The English word *reconcile* is made of two Latin words. The English word *reconcile* is composed of the Latin word *re* which means “back” plus the Latin word *conciliar* which means “bring together”. So, when we say *reconcile* it means “to bring back together; parties that were estranged or separated”. When they reconcile, they come back together because it takes two parties to reconcile.

How did Christ do that? In Ephesians 2:12, Paul tells us. This master of the law, Paul, tells us in Ephesians 2:12. Paul starts off talking about there being a time when we didn't have Jesus Christ—He hadn't come to the earth.

Ephesians 2:12 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise [referring to the Gentiles], having no hope, and without God in the world: (KJV)*

A change occurs in verse 13.

13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (KJV)

Near to whom? In verse 12, it says without God. They were not near God, they didn't have God—referring to the Father. But they were made near by the sacrifice—the blood—of Jesus Christ.

14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one [once they are called, all humans and God the Father], and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (KJV)

Symbolized by the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the most Holy place. That symbolizes the barrier between us and the Father. That has been reconciled, mediated, by Jesus Christ. We see that Christ is our Mediator, our Reconciler, between we as humans and God Almighty, the Father.

The fifth title and role of Jesus Christ given to Him in honor and glory:

5. Christ is our King.

Let's go to John 17—we were in verse 3—but let's go to the first two verses. I purposefully left those out. There is a lot in the first three verses of John 17.

John 17:1 *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You ... (NKJV)*

Notice verse 2.

2) as You have given Him authority over all flesh...

[that is something we need to take to the bank because we are told—Christ tells us directly, that His Father has given Him authority over all flesh],

... that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. (NKJV)

Meaning those You have called. So here in this one verse—verse 2—it tells us that the Son has been given authority over all flesh. The Father does the calling, we are told that, and He gives those who are called into His Son's care—as the Good Shepherd and we'll get to that in just a minute. We see there is much here in verse 2. Authority over all human beings, over all flesh, He turns those He has called over to His Son, the Good Shepherd.

With that in mind let's go to the next chapter, John 18:37; this is later the same night. Christ is before Pilate.

John 18:37 *"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. (KJV)*

He was born to be King—very clear. Now let's go to the end of the Bible—Revelation 17—and see what happens. Revelation 17:12, we'll start and read verses 12 through 14. A prophecy of things yet to pass.

Revelation 17:12 *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. (KJV)*

As mentioned in the announcements, conditions are coming to pass whereby the beast takes control and power.

*13) These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.
14) These shall make war with the Lamb [can only be Jesus Christ], and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (KJV)*

The context of all these verses show us that Christ is King. These clearly reveal that He is King of kings of this earth; He is King of human beings. It does not mean that He is King over His Father as some people fantastically asserted—which I can't believe. Some people say that. That somehow Christ is anointed King over His Father. That makes no sense at all according to the scriptures. It clearly reveals that Christ is King of

kings and Lord of lords over this earth. He is King over all flesh. He is not King over His Father.

Now let's go to the sixth honor and glory of Christ.

6. Christ is honored as the Good Shepherd.

Thankfully we have someone over us who is a Good Shepherd. Let's go to Zechariah 13:7 and read this one verse out of the Old Testament. Yehovah is speaking and He's referring to His Son. These scriptures are so clear about who is whom. And who is the Father and who is the Son and who is Yehovah and who is not.

Zechariah 13:7 *Awake, O sword, against my shepherd [Yehovah has a Shepherd; God Almighty, the Most High God, has a Shepherd], and against the man that is my fellow ... (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *fellow* means "a comrade or a kindred man—a relation".

7 continued) ... saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: (KJV)

So, we see clearly that Jesus Christ, the Son of God Almighty is referred to as Yehovah's Shepherd. His Shepherd, to do the Father's bidding, which, as we are going to see, is to take care of the sheep that the Father entrusts into His care. Now let's go to John 10:1. At the beginning of John 10:1, Christ is instructing those around Him (they were all familiar with a sheepfold; they were basically made out of rock, to keep the sheep in a pen. We would have made it with barbed wire). He says in verse 1 that if you don't enter by the door, you're a thief and a robber. But He notes in verse 2 that He that enters by the door is the shepherd. In verse 3, He tells them that:

3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (KJV)

In other words, He knows them individually and leads them out. In verse 4:

4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. (KJV)

In verse 5 Christ says, they don't follow a stranger because that's a different voice. They will flee from a stranger; they don't know the voice of strangers. So, He told them this parable in verse 6 and they didn't understand.

7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9) *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *pasture* means, “the act of feeding”. What Christ is saying is, they will be fed by Me—they will be nourished—they will be fed, they will find pasture. Obviously, He is referring to a spiritual pasture and being spiritually fed.

10) *The thief [Satan we know is the thief] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: (KJV)*

Permanently destroy us—that is his goal.

10 continued) [Christ said, to the contrary] *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (KJV)*

Then in verse 11, He introduces Himself.

11) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (KJV)*

A true shepherd—a true minister, an assistant shepherd to Jesus Christ obviously—should be willing to do the same thing; to give his life for the sheep.

12) *But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf [referring to Satan] catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. (KJV)*

We see that has happened over the last few decades.

13) *The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. (KJV)*

He cares for himself but not the sheep.

14) *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. (KJV)*

The sheep know Me, He says.

15) *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

16) *And other sheep I have [referring to those to be called yet in the future], which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. (KJV)*

Referring to all of those who will be called down through the centuries. The fact, in closing out this sixth point, is that we are so blessed to have a Good Shepherd, looking

over us as the ones the Father has called and looking over us as the flock of the Father. The Father's flock—the church of God—but we have this wonderful, good Shepherd that does everything for our benefit; that looks after us every minute of every day.

Now the seventh.

7. Christ is honored as our Judge.

The Father honors Him by turning judgment over to Christ. Not only to us but all humanity. We see that in John 5. Christ is honored as our judge. John 5:20, out of the New Living Translation, and Christ is speaking.

John 5:20 *For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished.*

21) For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.

22) In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge ... (NLT)

The Father turns over judgment to His Son. Why would He do that? Verse 23 gives us the answer.

23) so that everyone will honor the Son ... (NLT)

The Father wants His Son to receive glory and honor and He bestows glory and honor upon His Son, and has given Him the task of being Judge.

23 continued) ... just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

24) I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life [believe in God the Father, Yehovah, God Almighty]. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. (NLT)

Verse 30.

30) I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will. (NLT)

The Greek word for *judge* is Strong's #2919, it's the Greek word *krino*. It has an interesting meaning; it means "to distinguish between two things or to decide, either mentally or judicially". It can refer to either one. By implication to try—meaning to put on trial—to determine or to call into question. So, we see that the Father uses Christ as His judge, Christ judges according to the will of His Father because they have the same

mind, they have the same Spirit. They are in absolute unity in that regard because they understand the law perfectly and judge perfectly according to the law and so their judgment is the same. But Christ has been given the job, the task, the role, of being judge of mankind. Look at Acts 10:34. They have the same discernment, the same mind, Christ having been a human being. Notice the apostles reinforce this.

Acts 10:34 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (KJV)*

Notice verse 40.

40) Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; (KJV)

Verse 42 I'll read out of the New King James.

42) And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He [referring to Christ] who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. (NKJV)

The Father ordained His Son to that role and purpose. Let's see if that holds true in the future. Go to Revelation 19:11, a time yet future that we look forward to with all our being. To rid ourselves of this world that we live in that is increasingly evil and frankly unrecognizable to most of us who grew up in the '40's and '50's. You just cannot recognize it anymore.

Revelation 19:11 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [the horse] was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he [that sits on this horse] doth judge and make war.*

12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; (KJV)

Why would that be? Could it be that this Being riding this horse is King of kings of the earth and Lord of lords of the earth, therefore He has many crowns on His head.

12 continued) ... and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. (KJV)

There is no question that Jesus Christ is coming in the future and as we read at the end of verse 11, He is going to judge. He is also going to make war and it is the Word of God who will do so. These scriptures—and there are many others—that Jesus Christ has been given the honor, glory and role of judging mankind.

Now let's go to the last—the eighth.

8. Christ is honored as the Author and the Forerunner of our salvation.

To see that, let's start in Hebrews 2:9; there is a lot in Hebrews about Christ's role and Christ's titles and duties given by His Father. This is out of the NIV.

Hebrews 2:9 *But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (NIV)*

So that we don't have to taste eternal death.

10) In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. (NIV)

In the NIV it is termed *author*; in the King James and the New King James the word *captain* is used. That is Strong's #747 and it is the Greek word *archegos* and it means "chief leader", it can mean "captain, author or prince". We read the word *prince* as a title of Christ under point one—Acts 5:29, it's the same word. So, we see that Christ is the *author* of our salvation. He is the "leader" because He was first. Notice Hebrews 5:8. It reinforces it again.

Hebrews 5:8 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

9) And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (KJV)

He is the *author*—this is a different Greek word and it means specifically "author". In the next chapter, Hebrews 6:20 it adds a new dimension to the word *author* or *captain* if you choose the translation by the King James or the New King James.

Hebrews 6:20 *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *forerunner* just means a "runner ahead"; a runner who runs in advance of everybody else. So, it's clear that God Almighty has given Jesus the title of

Author or Forerunner of our salvation

because He was the first and He died for our sins and the Father resurrected Him as the first of the Firstfruits. You can look up that down the road, but He is the Author, the Forerunner, being the first of the Firstfruits. It means that we have this incredible blessing that we are not the very pioneer. If you remember the stories of when the West was settled and coming out of Texas and Missouri, these wagon trains would head west. There were bandits and robbers, Indians that were dangerous to those heading west and they would send a forerunner—a scout—and they would map the best way to transverse the territory, to cross rivers, to go over mountains but also a scout to avoid those who might bring harm to the wagon train. So, you always had somebody running

ahead and blazing the trail and making the path and showing the way. That's exactly what Christ does for all of us. He's "been there done that", as we say today. He has blazed the path for us and leads the way by example so when we read of His words and His inspiration of His apostles, we have a path that we can follow. This isn't new territory. We aren't blazing a new trail, Christ has blazed the trail, established the trail and He looks back at us coming down over the centuries. The path is already there, it's in God's Word, it's been done by Christ as an example for all of us and we are following what should be a very familiar path by the Forerunner—the Author—of our salvation.

It also shows, Christ being the Author and the Forerunner, as the Father resurrected Him, the Father will resurrect us; we can count on that. It shows us that the end result, if we are faithful and true, will be our resurrection.

Let's conclude now. The Father has given His Son the honor, glory and power, second only to Himself. This honor and glory and power is frankly unimaginable to us as humans. We don't have the senses, the skills, the experience, the vision to understand the glory and honor given to Jesus Christ by His Father.

Why has the Father done that? We have covered eight reasons today. He is given honor because:

He is our **Savior**,

He is our **Redemption**,

He is our **High Priest** and **Mediator** of the New Covenant,

He is our **King**—King of kings, Lord of lords of this earth.

He is the **Good Shepherd** of those the Father has called.

He is our **Judge**. We do not want to fall into the condemnation of the Father or the Son.

He is the **Author** and He is the **Forerunner** of our salvation. The good news is, He has blazed the trail;

Christ was willing to die and willing to suffer for all of God's children and His sacrifice makes Him worthy of all of this honor and glory that the Father has bestowed upon Him.

We have just scratched the surface. If you want to do Bible studies on this, there are many other titles and roles that we haven't even covered today. **The Son of the living God**—Christ is given that honor. Also, **Prince** is mentioned several times. **The Creator** along with His Father. **The Rock**, along with His Father. Some people claim that the Rock only applies to Christ; that is not true, if you look up every reference to that, it clearly refers to Yehovah as well as His Son. He is also honored as the **bright and morning star**. He is also honored as **the Servant**; of His Father and all of mankind. He

is honored as **the Head of the church**. Today we haven't even scratched the surface on all of those.

Notice what Christ will do in the future. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 15 for a final scripture. We will begin in verse 23. This out of the New Living Translation.

1 Corinthians 15:23 *But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.*

24) *After that the end will come, when he [referring to Christ] will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.*

25) *For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet.*
(NLT)

This is appropriate because Christ is going to humble those enemies who have opposed Him, He is allowed to do this by His Father for what He has endured at the hands of His enemies when He walked this earth. It is only appropriate that He will put down all rebellion against Him and then He will turn the Kingdom over to His Father.

26) *And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

27) *For the Scriptures say, God has put all things under his authority.” (Of course, when it says “all things are under his authority,” that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) (NLT)*

I've heard some people say that Christ will have authority right there with the Father, meaning over the Father or co-ruling or somehow over the Father, superseding the Father. That's not what it says. It says He will be given “authority over all things”, it does not include God Himself, who gave Christ His authority.

28) *Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere. (NLT)*

It is pretty clear. We see that eventually, a loving Son will turn all things over to His Father and He does so willingly because He loves His Father, He honors His Father, He respects His Father and in turn, because of what Christ has done, His Father glorifies His Son with roles and titles and glory that is unimaginable to mankind or to humans. He has been given these roles to serve His Father and all of mankind. Let's be thankful that we have a glorious Good Shepherd to look after us and take care of us.