



**Jesus,  
the full picture**

## A great image of Jesus

### **Colossians 1:15-22**

*15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

*He existed before anything was created  
and is supreme over all creation,*

*16 for through him God created everything  
in the heavenly realms and on earth.*

*He made the things we can see  
and the things we can't see —  
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers,  
and authorities in the unseen world.*

*Everything was created through him and for him.*

*17 He existed before anything else,  
and he holds all creation together.*

*18 Christ is also the head of the church,  
which is his body.*

*He is the beginning,  
supreme over all who rise from the dead.*

*So he is first in everything.*

*19 For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,*

*20 and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.*

*He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

*21 This includes you who were once far away from God.*

*You were his enemies, separated from him  
by your evil thoughts and actions.*

*22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself  
through the death of Christ in his physical body.*

*As a result, he has brought you into his own presence,  
and you are holy and blameless  
as you stand before him without a single fault.*

## A great image of Jesus

*Jesus Christ made God visible to us.*

We tend to have a sense that there is something out there.

A supreme being of some sort.

That feeling or sense causes us to want something more,  
but it all feels very elusive and unseen.

Jesus Christ is the visible person for that inner desire.

*Jesus Christ created us and everything else.*

The breadth of Jesus' creative power is limitless.

The physical, the spiritual, the intellectual,  
the relational, and the dimensional.

If Jesus Christ is to be the visible image of God,  
he has to be over everyone and everything.

He has to be the source of life for everyone and everything.

*We are created through Jesus Christ,  
but also for Jesus Christ.*

The major oversight in understanding Jesus Christ  
has not been whether he is our creator and God.

It has been what we are created for!

We are created for Jesus Christ  
and his incredible plans and purposes  
for the people and planet he created.

*Jesus Christ rose from the dead.*

We are eternal beings and our life on earth comes to an end.

We put our trust in Jesus Christ,

because he declares the destiny of every person who dies.

He himself died and rose from the dead,

showing himself not limited by human mortality

and then declaring that through him we might too have eternal life.

*Jesus Christ seeks to make peace with us.*

Peace to Jesus Christ is a relationship with God,  
unhindered and with no barriers.

It is a life lived in intimacy with our Creator.

A life we aren't living now but were destined to live.

Jesus has made it possible.

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's God

*Jesus Christ is recognised as God.*

**By himself** when he said *"I and the Father are one."* (John 10:30)

**By God** who declared Jesus as his son when Jesus was baptised. (Matt 3:16)

**By many others** who were with him, such as Peter who said

*"You are the Christ. The Son of the living God."* (Matt 16:16)

and Thomas who said *"My Lord and my God!"* (John 20:28)

**By evil spirits** who shouted out *"You are the Son of God."* (Mark 3:11)

*Jesus Christ taught as God.*

His predictions came true,  
such as when he predicted his death and resurrection (Luke 9:22).

His wisdom is recognised worldwide to this day.

But in his teachings his plan was not to be another teacher,  
but to reveal himself as the God of all things.

*Jesus Christ displayed God's power:*

power over **nature**, as he stilled storms and walked on water (Matt 8:27),

power over the **spiritual world**, whether evil (Mark 1:27)  
or angels (Heb 1:4),

power over **sickness**, as he consistently healed people in the bible  
and does so still today,

power over **death**, as he secures eternal life for all humanity  
who choose to accept his gift of eternal life.

The bible says *"For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life  
so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living."* (Rom 14:9)

*Jesus Christ is seen as God through people's lives.*

Jesus Christ has inspired martyrs, movements,  
people moving powerfully with prayer through him,

people with unexplainable peace,

people with a confidence about life after death,

people with answers to life's deepest questions, tragedies and purpose.

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's God

### *We all worship something!*

In Australia, worship is an unusual term because we don't seem to have a major religion that is synonymous with our culture.

To worship is to ascribe worth to something and submit to what it asks of us, knowing it is best for us.

Even though we don't find ourselves ascribing worth or submitting to a God-figure, we certainly worship and adore many things, because the human being is designed to naturally get devoted or ascribe worth to something.

Right now, consider honestly what it is you worship or adore?

### *Does that something provide important answers?*

As human beings, we are designed to grow and learn from outside ourselves.

No one comes fully equipped for life from the moment they are born.

We are not robots.

A God-figure must be more than mere human to be our guide and certainly must be more than a mere physical object or philosophical concept.

We need the something we worship to provide answers to questions like these:

What is our purpose in life?

How should we live our life?

What is the right and wrong way to act?

What are the attitudes and legacy we should be passing on to our children?

How do we figure out life after death?

Where did we come from?

Why has my life turned out the way it has?

What do I do to find liberation from past mistakes?

What do I do when I have climbed to the top of the tree in success?

What happens when I have achieved everything I have set out for?

How do I deal with the spiritual life?

### *Jesus Christ is meant to be the something we desire and need.*

We are meant to have a God. Jesus Christ lived to show us he is that God.

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's friend

### *Jesus Christ lived as a man.*

Jesus Christ is shown in the bible to be God visible on earth.  
However he came to be among us as a friend (*John 15:15*)  
and a fellow human being.

*"He made his dwelling among us"* the bible says. (*John 1:14*)

It is as a man he took on the role of mediator between us and God. (*1 Tim 2:5*)

It is as a man that he lived the perfect life —  
a model of what each human being should live and were destined for.

He is our example and even more importantly our substitute.

(More on this later when we look at Jesus our saviour.)

### *Jesus Christ as a friend understands us.*

*"Now that we know what we have — Jesus, this great High Priest  
with ready access to God — let's not let it slip through our fingers.*

*We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality.*

*He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all — all but the sin.*

*So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give.*

*Take the mercy, accept the help."* (*Heb 4:14-16*)

Jesus Christ knew work as a carpenter. (*Mark 6:3*)

Jesus Christ knew sorrow under pressure. (*Matt 26:36-38*)

Jesus Christ knew hunger. (*Luke 4:1-2*)

Jesus Christ knew childhood. (*Luke 2:39-40*)

Jesus Christ knew weariness. (*John 4:4-6*)

Jesus Christ knew family. (*Luke 8:19-21*)

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's friend

### *Jesus Christ knows us as we want to be known.*

We are in a world where we can find pleasure in every form.

We can have recreation to send us into raptures of joy  
with hobbies beyond count.

Sports as far as the eye can see and the television can report.

Food with such magnitude and variety

that we can choose whatever we want to eat and drink.

Entertainment on channel after channel, website after website,  
show after show, game machine after game machine, mobile after mobile.

We can buy substitutes for authentic love over our phones,  
on the internet, in magazines, fantasy novels,  
and even other people will sell us so-called love if we like.

Work can function as our wonderful place of escape  
and even become a retreat.

A perfect family can be looked upon as the ultimate goal  
and define relational success.

We can live without investing in a deeply wonderful friendship with God.

It is possible and people do it every day.

In fact, most people don't come to Jesus Christ and take him as their friend  
until they find the above things fail or become unfulfilling.

However, every person is meant to be significant and be known.

It is because Jesus is both God and man  
that we can have a friendship like no other available on the planet.

### *Jesus Christ lived how we need to live.*

Our destiny, according to God, was that we would choose  
to live in harmony with him and in worship of him forever.

We chose not to and walked away from all that.

That separation is called sin.

God then sent his son Jesus Christ

and he lived the life we were meant to live.

A life of harmony with God and worship of him forever.

He didn't indulge in the things that pretend to be what life's about.

He lived the real life we were designed to live.

Friendship with God.

He invites us to do the same with him.

No more separation from our destiny.

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's leader

### Jesus Christ is everyone's king.

Jesus said, "You are right in saying I am a king.  
In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.

*Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37)*

The bible also teaches "that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:10,11)

### Jesus Christ is everything's king.

Over the heavenlies and spiritual world because,  
"Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand —  
with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him." (1 Pet 3:22)

Over the created world where,  
"there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
through whom all things came and through whom we live." (1 Cor 8:6)

Jesus Christ is king over every single authority,  
"for by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;  
all things were created by him and for him.  
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Col 1:16-17)

### Jesus Christ is the leader of the church.

"And he is the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,  
so that in everything he might have the supremacy." (Col 1:18)

### Jesus Christ is the final judge at the end of time.

"This will take place on the day  
when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ,  
as my gospel declares." (Rom 2:16)

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's leader

### *Everybody follows somebody.*

In life we all follow somebody.

It can be as simple as the designer of the latest trend in sunglasses or shoes,  
to those who establish the laws and govern our country.

We have been put into positions to follow teachers, parents,  
friends, bosses and more.

Even when we get to the so-called top of the tree,  
there is always someone influencing the world we live in  
and the decisions we make with a new invention or even a new song.

Stop and think for a moment about  
who truly influences our lives and our thinking.

If our primary source of information and influence  
is a particular newspaper or television source,  
then their ideas and agenda is what is developing in us.

What goes into our minds and hearts is what forms who we are.

### *Jesus was meant to be our leader.*

We have learnt enough about Jesus Christ's credentials  
to know that he has more authority over the world than anyone else.

We have learnt that he has more knowledge of the world than anyone else,  
after all he created it.

So the question is why wouldn't we let Jesus Christ  
who is meant to be our God and our friend  
be our leader?

No one else who has ever lived  
has lived with the sole purpose of living and dying  
for every person in history.

### *Jesus would be a great leader.*

Imagine a leader who knows about life, death and eternity.

He has the power and love to walk us through triumph and tragedy.

He has the insight to guide us to those who provide things that benefit us and  
those who provide things that destroy us or even undermine our potential.

When you climb Mount Everest, everyone needs a guide.

The most amazing guide for our mountains of life is Jesus Christ  
and everyone was meant to follow him.

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's saviour

*Jesus Christ came to save us.*

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
will not perish but have eternal life.  
God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world,  
but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16,17)*

*Jesus Christ came to give us new life.*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor 5:17)*

*Jesus Christ came to make us right with God.*

*“This righteousness from God  
comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.  
There is no difference,  
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and are justified freely by his grace  
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.  
God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement,  
through faith in his blood.” (Rom 3:22-25)*

*Jesus Christ came to represent us daily to God.*

*He hasn't abandoned us in fact,  
“Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life —  
is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” (Rom 8:34)*

*Jesus Christ is the only saviour.*

*He is the only one who can save us  
and make us right with God,  
“for there is one God and one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim 2:5)*

*Jesus himself said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)”*

## Jesus is meant to be everyone's saviour

### *Do we really need saving?*

In the movie the Matrix, Neo is offered a choice of 2 pills.  
He knows something is not right about his existence.  
He knows that there is more to life but can't put his finger on what it is.

The choice of 2 pills presents Neo with the opportunity  
to take one which will return him back to his "normal" existence  
and live in ignorant bliss.

The other will illuminate the full picture.

Of course, we know he chooses to know the full picture.

The pill we have been offered is God's word  
which reveals we truly do need saving.

The world we currently live in is not the way God designed it to be  
and we are the major contributors to that.

We need to be saved from the plight we have set for ourselves  
which excludes God. It is called sin.

That choice we have made, whether consciously or somewhat unconsciously,  
not to make God the most important part of our lives  
is hurting us badly.

Every person can make a choice  
to confess their life has been lived without God in his rightful place  
as Creator, Friend and King.

They can give over their lives to him  
and he saves them from a path of eternity without him.  
A path of pain, sorrow and death.

### *This is heavy!*

I know that the above sounds dramatic, but it is dramatic.  
So dramatic that it cost Jesus Christ his life.

He is so desperate to save us he would do everything it takes  
including stimulating an unsettledness in us about the way things are.

But, in his love, he won't force us to be saved against our will  
but boldly invites us to enjoy his salvation.

To be saved by Jesus Christ is simply  
to believe everything we have learnt about him  
and allow the person Jesus to be in control of our life.

The bible, the church, prayer, baptism, communion, singing, sermons  
all exist to help us learn how to have Jesus be in control of our life.



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