

**Foundations of the Faith 103**  
**Systematic Theology**  
**“Christology”**  
**Pt. 15**

**Introduction** - Christology is the study of or doctrine respecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

John F. Walvoord said in his book, *“Jesus Christ Our Lord,”* *“Christianity by its name has always honored Jesus Christ as its historical and theological center. No other person has been more essential to its origination and subsequent history and no set of doctrines has been more determinative than the doctrines of the person and work of Christ. In approaching a study of Christology, one is therefore concerned with central rather than peripheral theological matters. One’s faith in and understanding of Jesus Christ involve the most important issues anyone can face.”*

Walvoord also said, *“The riches of divine revelation embodied in Jesus Christ are as measureless as the ocean and His perfections as numberless as the stars. To attempt to state in complete theological form all that should be said about Jesus Christ leaves the writer with a sense of futility. He has dipped but a cup from the ocean of infinite glory and perfections of his Lord and Saviour.”*

The place of *Christology* in Systematic Theology!

So where do you start? John 21:25

Charles Wesley, *“O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.”*

## **I. The Pre-Existence of Christ**

### **1. What does pre-existence mean?**

- It means that Christ existed before His birth.

### **2. Why is it important?**

- Jesus would not be God.
- No trinity exists.
- Christ lied, because He claimed to have pre-existence.

### 3. The Evidence for Christ's Pre-Existence

A. Micah 5:2

B. Isaiah 9:6

C. The theophanies in the Old Testament.

- Genesis 18 & Genesis 32:30, Jacob wrestles with God.
- Joshua 5:13-15, "Captain of the Lords of Host."
- Daniel 3:25, four men in the fire.

D. The "angel of the Lord" (Jehovah)

- Genesis 16:7, 13
- John 20:28

### Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ

Reference to the Angel of the Lord	Common Activity or Attribute	Reference to Christ
Gen. 16:7, 13	Called, "Lord"	John 20:28
Gen. 48: 15-16	Called, "God"	Heb. 1:8
Exodus 3:2, 5, 6, 14	Claimed to Be "I Am"	John 8:58
Judges 13:15, 18	His Name Was "Wonderful"	Isa. 9:6
Exodus 23:20	Sent from God	John 5:30; 6:38
Exodus 14:19	Guides God's People	Matt. 28:20
Isa. 63:9	Loved and Redeemed His Own	Eph. 5:25
Joshua 5:13-15	Commander of Lord's Army	Rev. 19:11-14

*“In Genesis 24:7, the angel is “sent” from God, and in Zechariah 1:12 there is a conversation between the “LORD” and the “angel of the LORD.” That this angel of the Lord is Christ in the Old Testament is clear from the fact that He is distinguished from God, sent from God, does the work of redeeming and guiding His people, all of which are the ministries of Christ as known from the New Testament. And once Christ is born, the angel of the Lord no longer appears.” - Norman Geisler*

#### E. His Heavenly Origin

- John 3:13, 31 & 8:58

#### F. His Work as Creator

- John 1:3
- Colossians 1:16
- Hebrews 1:2

#### G. His Equal Glory with the Father Before the World Began

- John 17:5

#### H. His Relation to John the Baptist

- John 1:15, 30

## **II. The Eternality of Christ**

### **1. The Meaning of Eternality**

Eternality means not only that Christ existed before His birth or even before Creation but that He existed always, eternally. Usually eternity and preexistence stand or fall together, though Arius taught preexistence of the Son but not His eternity. He insisted that if Christ was the Only Begotten He must have had a beginning. Jehovah's Witnesses today have an Arian - like Christology which denies the eternity of the Logos.

### **2. Why is it important?**

- Jesus would not be God.
- No Trinity exists.
- Christ lied.

### **3. The evidence for Christ eternity.**

- Micah 5:2
- Isaiah 9:6
- John 8:58..... “Before Abraham was “I AM.”
- John 1:1-5 & 15-18, Study it!
- Hebrews 1:4-14, key text verse 8.
- Colossians 1:15-19 & 9, Jesus Christ is God.
- Philippians 2:5-11, again, Jesus Christ is God.

### **III. Summary**

- 1. Christ existed before His birth in Bethlehem.**
- 2. Christ is eternal God.**
- 3. The doctrine of the Trinity is true.**