

## THE "I AM'S OF CHRIST

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 14:1-6**. From Roy H. Enoch (02-12-1995).
  - B. Jesus was a unique teacher.
    - 1. In Jn. 7:46, the officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"
    - 2. He spoke as one who had authority in Himself (Mk. 1:22; 12:37).
  - C. One of characteristics that made His teaching effective was His use of figures of speech.
    - 1. E.W. Bullinger, FIGURES OF SPEECH USED IN THE BIBLE, "Introduction" defines a figure of speech.

"Applied to words, a figure denotes some form which a word or a sentence takes, different from its ordinary and natural form. This is ALWAYS for the purpose of giving additional force, more life, intensified feeling and greater emphasis." p. vi.
    - 2. We must be very careful to let the context and other Scriptures interpret the figures.
    - 3. Bullinger warns of man giving his own interpretations:

"A man may admire a sun-dial, he may marvel at its use, and appreciate the cleverness of its design; he may be interested in its carved-work, or wonder at the mosaics or other beauties which adorn its structure: but if he holds a lamp in his hand or any other light emanating from himself or from this world, he can make it any hour he pleases, and he will never be able to tell the time of day. Nothing but the light of God's sun in the Heavens can tell him that. So it is with the Word of God." loc. cite.
  - D. One of the common figures of speech that Jesus used was the "metaphor."
    - 1. Simply stated, a metaphor is "a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them." *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed.
    - 2. Today we want to briefly look at 10 metaphors that Jesus used to describe Himself.
    - 3. One can gain a clearer picture of our Lord when looking at several of these together.
- I. **"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA..." (Rev. 1:8).**
- A. Jesus often referred to His eternal nature (Jn. 1:1-2).
    - 1. He is w/o beginning or end (Rev. 1:8).
    - 2. He was dead and is alive forevermore (Rev. 1:18).
    - 3. He was before Abraham (Jn. 8:58).
  - B. He is GOD, and called THE ALMIGHTY.
- II. **"I AM...THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR" (Rev. 22:16).**
- A. Stars were used to guide.
    - 1. A star that was bright was more easily identified and followed.
    - 2. "Morning" indicated when one could expect to see it and being bright would let them use it when fainter stars had faded.
    - 3. A star guided the wise men from the east after the birth of Jesus.
  - B. Jesus is pictured by this figure as our guide that is prominent and reliable.
    - 1. We should chart our life by His direction.
    - 2. We will be judged eternally by His instructions. John 12:48
- III. **"...I AM HE WHO SEARCHES THE MINDS AND HEARTS..." (Rev. 2:23).**
- A. Jesus is often pictured as knowing the hearts of men.

1. He knew the apostles' hearts (Mk. 2:8).
  2. He knew the hearts of all men (Jn. 2:24-25).
- B. At Thyatira He tells them that He knows their conditions, and what they had done (Rev. 2:19,23).

**IV. "...I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE..." (Jn. 6:35).**

- A. Bread represents food to sustain life.
1. He said that He was that bread that came down from heaven (Jn. 6:50).
    - a. This referred to the manna that the children of Israel ate in the wilderness.
    - b. As God sustained them, so now does Jesus sustain us.
  2. He also claimed it gave eternal life, so He was not referring to the physical body (Jn. 6:51).
  3. He promised no blessing on those who would not eat him as bread. John 6:53
- B. His word is milk and solid food (1Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12).

**V. "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE" (Jn. 14:6).**

- A. We approach God only through X.
1. "...No one comes to the Father except through Me."
  2. On the other hand, no one can come to X except the Father draws him (Jn. 6:44-45).
  3. We are drawn by learning the word to come to the Father through X.
- B. Jesus is the "truth."
1. He is the word (Jn. 1:1) and "...Thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17).
  2. He is the judge and His word is the standard of judgment.
- C. Jesus is the life (1Jn 5:12).

**VI. "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" (Jn. 8:12).**

- A. Just as the sun is our physical light, the Son of God is our spiritual light.
1. Those who stay in His teachings, are in the spiritual light (Jn. 8:12; 1Jn. 1:7).
  2. God's word is light (Psa. 119:130). Jesus is often pictured as the Word.
- B. Jesus continues to cleanse us when we walk in the light (1Jn. 1:7).

**VII. "I AM THE TRUE VINE..."**

- A. Jesus never claimed to be the only vine.
1. He described the Jewish teachers as other plants (Mt. 15:13-14).
  2. He is the only TRUE vine.
  3. His church is the only TRUE church, which is His body.
- B. We must stay in Him to have the blessings of a branch.
1. If we leave Him, we will be cut off as a branch and die.
  2. Those cut off, are burned (Jn. 15:6).

**VIII. "I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP" (Jn. 10:7-10).**

- A. The door is the proper way to enter.
1. Those who try to enter some other way are thieves (Jn. 10:1).
  2. Jesus is the door to the church and kingdom (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27).
  3. When we are baptized into X, we are born of water and of the Spirit, and the Father adds us to the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).
- B. Those who try to get into X by any means other than baptism in water are trying to avoid the Door.

**IX. "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" (Jn. 10:11).**

- A. A good shepherd cares for the sheep.

1. He will lead them to water and pasture.
  2. He will protect them from robbers and wild animals.
  3. He is willing to give his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:15).
- B. A good shepherd knows the sheep.
1. He calls them by name.
  2. They follow Him.
  3. The same is true for elders of the church.
    - a. They care for the members.
    - b. They know the members and call them by name.
    - c. They seek those who stray.
    - d. They give themselves for the members.

X. **“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE” (Jn. 11:25).**

- A. He is our pledge of being resurrected (1Cor. 15:23).
- B. Those who believe Him enough to do what He says, will live w/Him forever.

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. These beautiful pictures of Jesus show His love in the things that He does for us.
- B. We should trust Him enough to do what He commands us without having to understand why.
- C. We should love Him enough to want to do anything that pleases Him.
- D. We must become dead to the practice of sin as we are dead in sin.
- E. The man dead in sin is buried in the watery grave of baptism as Christ was buried in His death.
- F. See Rom. 6:4.