



As a tiny tot, when my steps stumbled,
 Learning to speak, at my first words – I fumbled,
 Even then it was 'He' who held me & made me stand
 My silent prayers, only my 'Abba' could understand.
 So I say- whatever may come - Storm, worry or leopard,
 I firmly believe that I have by my side – a good shepherd.
 Ohh how great a joy !! – I have not a care in this world.

When tears ran down my cheeks,
 Times when for this wicked world, I was a person too meek,
 A wandering lost sheep like me – he came to seek,
 This bad world nailed him to the cross,
 b'coz they thought to show this big a love – he must be some freak.
 So I say- whatever may come - Storm, worry or leopard,
 I firmly believe that I have by my side – a good shepherd.
 Ohh how great a joy !! – I have not a care in this world.

I sometimes felt so lonely, All that I did was seen as folly,
 But, always by my side – stood someone so holy,
 He was there to take my pain & make me forever jolly.
 So I say- whatever may come - Storm, worry or leopard,
 I firmly believe that I have by my side – a good shepherd.
 Ohh how great a joy !! – I have not a care in this world.

QUIZ TIME

1. Which prophet's sons were greedy, and took bribes?
2. Who offered Delilah silver to find out the secret of Samson's strength?
3. Upon whose head did the woman of Thebez drop a millstone?
4. Who said, 'Am I my brother's keeper'?
5. Who was known as "The voice of one crying in the wilderness"?
6. Whom does Paul describe as "My own son in the faith"?
7. In which city were people/disciples first called Christians?
8. Whose four daughters prophesied?
9. What did the Midianites call Gideon?
10. Which group of Israelites were not to cut their hair?



Winner of May Ablaze Quiz :

SISTER GRACE ROY

[Sharon Fellowship Church, Sabarmati]

Answers : Hosea, Nebuchadnezzar & Pharoah, Isaiah, Paul, Zerubbabel, Joseph, Absalom , Hazael , Phinehas, Paul



Dear Ablazers,

With each passing month, we're getting to hear from newer people and better reviews about Ablaze. We can't thank our Lord enough for the strength and guidance he has given so far. Our God is BIG and all he does is BIG. We all wait for miracles in our life. Beyond human logic and possibilities, we have a small belief that God is capable of changing the situation. And what happens when God's answer is not what we wanted to hear? How quickly do we forget his promises and question him back? Surely God is capable of working miracles. All he needs us to keep is Faith and Patience. We, the edorial team @ Ablaze, want you to believe that something BIG is going to happen soon. We're praying for it. Please pray with us. Christ is Mighty and we'll witness it !

With this issue of Ablaze, we bring you a Miracle of Roby - a living witness of the Lord and the special message he has for the youth today; an article that talks about His unique qualities that not many of us have thought about; and a beautiful poem by Rini that is about the worthless cares of this world.

Do not forget to answer the quiz and share your ideas on the Food for Thought section. We'd love to hear from you !

EDITORIAL TEAM,
 BLESSY ROSHAN, ANNIE ROYSON, NISI SAMUEL



CHRIST – HIS UNIQUENESS

BEJINI SAJAN

Is Christ really unique? Is He the world's only Saviour and Redeemer? Is He is really God or was He one like us? Is He the only way to Heaven and the only GOD? Or is He just a religious Leader? Have you ever wondered how unique our Lord is? Did it make us think at least for once that why do we call him the Saviour?

His uniqueness surpasses all as He died for us on the cross of Calvary. No other person or Saviour crucified his life and died for his lost sheep.

The Bible has portrayed enormous truth of the person and the work of Christ. It clearly speaks the uniqueness of Christ. In the book of Revelation it is mentioned that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. It also says that He is the way, truth and the life. He is the only mediator between God and mankind. He is the resurrection and the life. The Bible makes the claim that Jesus Christ is both God and Man. As God He created all things. As man He was sinless and came as the sinless substitute to die for mankind's sin. He was not half man and half God, but totally man and totally God united in one Person.

Few points that confirm the uniqueness of Christ are mentioned below:

1. UNIQUE AS THE ONLY SAVIOUR:

Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." God created a world which had no sin, but man discovered a lost world for himself and moved away from the manifestation of God. He chose to live a sinful life. God chose to redeem this lost world and restore it to himself through His Son. Hence Christ is the Only Saviour who came into this world to save lost sheep.

2. UNIQUE AS THE TEACHER AND MANIFESTATION OF TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Christ himself was true and righteous. He thought people around to be true and righteous. Being truthful and righteous is not seen these days. Man by nature is not righteous. We are all sinners. This is where Jesus provides the solution. We are made righteous through the atonement of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God".

3. UNIQUE AS THE ONLY WINNER OVER SATAN AND SIN:

The only purpose or mission of Christ to come into this world was to gather the lost sheep from the chains of Satan. The mission clearly was to reclaim the world from the Satan. Every miracle, every teaching, every message of Christ brought the message that He is the one to crush the head of the Serpent.

All the miracles in the Bible were the victory of Christ over the dark powers of Satan. His uniqueness was that there was nobody else in all of history who completely overcame the power of Satan and sin. The final goal of Christ was to break the control of Satan.

Luke 13:32 says, "Behold I cast out demons, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day, I shall be perfected".

4. UNIQUE AS THE ONLY ONE WHO OFFERS RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL LIFE:

We all want to be free from pain, sufferings, guilt and shame. Everyone desires for a better life after death. Christ is the only answer for this. He is the centre of all our needs and desires. He provides resurrection and Eternal Life. Death is not the end of all. The chief goal of human existence is to know God, enjoy His fellowship and worship Him forever. Jesus Christ gives hope of life beyond the grave and a place in heaven with Him.

John 11:25 says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies".

Finally, Is Jesus the only God, only Redeemer, only Hope? In truth, He is. He is above all!

There is only Jesus and this uniqueness of His should enable us to spread Jesus and His Gospel to the places neither known nor believed.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Proverbs 3:9, 10 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops:
Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Here is a discussion that took place among the youths of our church after reading the above passage from the book of proverbs.

1. We should honour the Lord with the best of what we have, not what is left over after all our resources are exhausted.
2. As youngsters, we should find causes, where we can lend a helping hand (financially or in other ways), to support the Lord's ministry and help those in suffering and need.
3. These days Christians get away by paying just their tithes, saying that is all we need to do for the Lord. We should also give 1/10th of our time every day to the Lord rather than being fully immersed in the world.
4. In Malachi 3: 6-12 it says that those who do not bring in the full tithe are robbing God. God, here, gives an open challenge to test him, by bringing in to the house of God what is due to him, and see if he does not bless His people abundantly.

What do you think of this passage? If you have anything to add to this discussion, please do write to us at ablazeyof@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.



Ablazer of the Month

My Story, My Voice

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

I am happy to use this platform to share my life's experience of our Great Almighty God with you all. I was born in a Marthoma family, I grew up as a God fearing child. It was rather a feat to attend religious conventions and live close to the Marthoma environment. Christian faith built the habits and disciplines of my childhood. However, God had plans, plans that no one had ever imagined. While I was 10 years of age, I started having severe headaches. By evening it would become very painful. My parents were concerned and consulted a doctor for finding a cure to this illness. That was just a start.

For over a year, we went to different hospitals and consulted numerous Doctors. I hardly went to school. Every week there would be some incident where my mother had to rush to school to pick me up. Back at that time, the Kargil War was going on and my father being in the Army was away from home serving the country. All leaves were cancelled, so he could not come home. My condition was getting worse with each passing day. So we travelled to Kanpur (U.P.) where my father was stationed at that time. We went to one of the renowned hospitals over there for further diagnosis. A lot of tests were carried out but they were unable to find the main cause and suggested a set of medicines for long term use. Still under the same condition, a relative suggested us to consult the doctors in CMC Vellore. It was worth a try so my parents decided to take me to CMC. After the diagnosis doctors prescribed medicines for 2 years. They said it would improve my condition. I went back with the same condition and medicines.

On our way back home, we met some people with Bibles in their hands. My grandfather stopped by and requested them to remember me in their prayers. They suggested visiting their nearby Church. We rushed to the church and were warmly welcomed by the Pastor. We sat down in God's presence to pray. We wanted miracles to happen and indeed God's presence was there. I got healed. I could see everything clearly and my headache vanished. I removed my spectacles and was dancing with joy. My illness was cured. This incident changed our life. We had a crowd of concerned people gathered at our home to see us. We met them with a miracle. My whole family found Jesus. He died for us on the cross two thousand years ago to save us all. It changed our life. Later, my whole family including me accepted Jesus as our personal saviour and got baptised. Things started to change and it made more sense. Those who heard about this miracle were amazed and believed in the power of God, Almighty. This led us to grow spiritually and enabled us to share our testimonies to people so that they can see God's work in our lives.

Since that day, our lives changed and we started experiencing what it means to have Christ Jesus in our life. We grew in faith and experienced God's presence in countless ways. God is good all the time.

I conclude by reminding us all that Jesus is more like a friend. He guides you in the right direction when we are confused with all the circumstances. He takes you through tough times to make you strong. He leads you through harsh conditions to make you understand that his love is more than anything in this world. Leading a Christian Life is tough. Yet his ways are so amazing that we cannot imagine. He answers our prayers and leads us to the right things at the right time. He is an amazing God. You can put your burdens on him, He will never let you down and this friend, Jesus loves you more than anyone in this world. Thank God for everything that we have today. As the Psalmist says in Psalms 34:8 – O! Taste and see that the Lord is good! Let's taste and see this Lord because He has promised that He'll never leave us nor forsake us.

Note: The testimony by sis. Shashikala Shastri in the May issue of Ablaze contained 2 errors. The first line should have read " I was born in a Hindu family" instead of "Hindu Brahmin family". Also Bro. Dharendra Shastri passed away in the year 2009, not 2010 as mentioned in the testimony. The editors sincerely apologize for the errors.



Roby Varghese Issac
IPC Church, Hansol