

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. - 1 Peter 2:2

# THE SINCERE MILK OF GOD'S WORD

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... - Hebrews 4:12

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## Who Jesus Is

When studying God's Word, it is interesting to note the different roles, names, and titles Scripture applies to Jesus. Each of these teaches significant truths about who Jesus is and what He's done for us.

First and foremost, Scripture proves that Jesus is the Son of God.

In **John 20:29**, Jesus told Thomas, *"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed."* Just after the inspired writer records this statement, he explains how it is that one can believe on Jesus without having seen Him. Notice **verses 30-31**: *Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

By proving that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, Scripture shows that Jesus is deity. Notice what is said in **John 1:1-3**: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. Without Him, nothing was made that has been made.*

As deity, the Word (God the Son) has existed from eternity. He took part in creating the world. He selflessly humbled Himself by descending to earth (**Phil. 2:5-8**). When *"The Word became flesh"* (**John 1:14**), He walked the earth as fully God and fully man. This is alluded to in the name Immanuel, *"which is, being interpreted, 'God with us'"* (**Matt. 1:23**).

By coming to earth and living perfectly as a man, the Son of God became our Savior.

Though mankind can identify many problems we face, the greatest problem we all face is sin. Sin earns us eternal death in hell (**Rom. 6:23**). Our Savior made it possible to be saved from sin (**Matt. 1:21**) and its consequences (**Rom. 5:9**).

Saving us from sin is connected to Jesus' role as our Redeemer.

After sinning even one time, a person becomes enslaved to sin. The debt that is owed to be released from that bondage is too high for any of us to pay. Our Redeemer paid the debt we cannot pay through His death on the cross, thus allowing us to be released from bondage (**1 Pet. 1:18-19**).

When our Redeemer's blood was shed, it was *"precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish or spot, the blood of Christ"* (**1 Pet. 1:19**). This ties in with Jesus' role as the Lamb of God. By living perfectly as a man, Jesus was "qualified" to be offered as God's sacrifice for sin.

The significance of Jesus being *"the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"* (**John 1:29**) is better understood when considering the animal sacrifices that were a part of the law of Moses. A title of Jesus that is likewise better understood in light of things written in the Old Testament is that of Messiah, or Christ (cf. **John 1:41**).

This term, meaning "Anointed," alludes to Christ's rule, and also to His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Notice **Luke 24:44**: *[Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets,*

*and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.*” The Old Testament writings point to Jesus (cf. **Matt. 5:17**).

A specific prophecy that was fulfilled in Christ applies to His role as a prophet Himself. Jesus is the prophet like Moses who is deliverer and lawgiver for spiritual Israel, just as Moses was for the physical nation of Israel (**Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23**).

As our lawgiver, Jesus must be listened to and heeded (**Matt. 17:5**). The Father “*gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body*” (**Eph. 1:22-23**).

As the head of the church, Jesus is the One with authority to establish doctrine for the church, as He has done and revealed through His Word.

Jesus’ authority is further shown by His role as our good shepherd. In **John 10:11**, Jesus said, “*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*” In **verse 14**, He said, “*I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I’m known by my own.*”

Sheep need leadership, and Jesus provides this to us through His Word and His example. For sheep to be safe and secure, a shepherd is needed who is willing to sacrifice His own comforts to care for the sheep. Jesus has done this for His (spiritual) sheep by willfully laying down His life for us.

Jesus’ provision and protection of His sheep is also connected to His role as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The book of Revelation gives God’s answer to persecution for righteousness’ sake. The book emphasizes the superiority of Christ in comparison with the persecuting powers afflicting the seven churches who the letter was addressed to (**Rev. 1:4**).

**Revelation 17:14** teaches that these persecuting powers would “*war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings, and those who are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*” In other words, no matter what trials we face, we can trust that things will be OK as long as we allow the King of kings to rule our lives.

Jesus’ help provided to the faithful is further emphasized in His role as our great high priest (**Heb. 4:14**). Because Jesus is fully deity, yet also became fully man, He is perfectly suited to be intercessor (**Heb. 7:25**) and mediator (**1 Tim. 2:5**) for the faithful, both of which tie in with who He is as the great high priest.

Jesus is further described as the chief cornerstone (**Eph. 2:20**). He is the author and finisher of our faith (**Heb. 12:2**). He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (**Rev. 5:5**). He is the bread of life (**John 6:35**), the light of the world (**John 8:12**), the door to the sheepfold (**John 10:9**), the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25**), the way, the truth, and the life (**John 14:6**), and the true vine (**John 15:1**).

Much more could be said of who Jesus is, but these examples illustrate the greatness of Christ and how we should respond to Him. On the Day of Judgment, His role as judge of all will be seen (**2 Cor. 5:10**).

Those who faithfully obey Him will be prepared for that Day, and thus receive the salvation that the Son of God, Savior, and Redeemer of the world has made possible through the wonderful things He has done for us (**Heb. 5:9**).

**- Michael Hickox**