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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

Whom was born Jesus who is called Christ

A Message for Adults

Week of Sunday 30 July, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 7 Av, 5777

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- People with inquiring minds have to know. When you hear something astounding, witness someone remarkable, or want *bona fides* about something or one; have you ever raised the question "Who is that?" Certainly you have. Tabloid newspapers exist only because you have the right to know, and they obtain truths hidden from the world that are revealed only to their investigative reporters.
- Indulge in the pretense that you live two thousand years ago under Roman authority in a

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district of Palestine. You are an investigative reporter for the *Roman Inquirer*, on assignment and want to obtain truths hidden from the world about whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ (Matthew 1: 16 ASV). This is your finished column:

- **Text:** Hebrews 1: 1-5 ASV

God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of

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all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the effulgence [(radiantly bright)] of his glory, and the very image of his substance, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become by so much better than the angels, as he hath inherited a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said God at any time? Thou art my Son, This day have I begotten thee? I will be to him a Father, And he shall be to me a Son?

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- The writer of this column must have been trained in Greek oratory. The basic idea that whom was born Jesus who is called Christ alone brings to men the full revelation of God, and that He alone enables men to enter into the very presence of God. So the writer begins by contrasting Jesus with the prophets who had gone before. He talks about Jesus coming in the end of these days. The Jews divided all time into two ages; the present age and the age to come. In between they set the Day of the Lord.

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The present age was wholly human and wholly bad; the age to come was to be the golden age of God. The Day of the Lord, in between, was to be the birth pangs of a new age. This writer says, "The old time is passing away; the age of incompleteness is gone; the time of human guessing and groping is at end; the new age of God has dawned in Christ." He saw the world and the thoughts of man enter, as it were, into a new beginning with Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God had entered humanity, eternity had invaded

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time, and things could never be the same again.

- He chooses to begin contrast with Jesus with the prophets, for the prophets were always believed to be in the secret counsels of God. Long ago Amos said: surely the Lord Jehovah will do nothing, except he reveal His secret unto His servants the prophets. Amos 3: 7 ASV God uses the prophets and interpreters as instruments to reveal to men that which He wills. God could not reveal more than men could understand.

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God's revelation comes through the minds and hearts of men. The investigative reporter obtained truths hidden from the world that were revealed only to him. That is exactly what the writer reported.

- The writer says the revelation of God, the truth, which came through the prophets, was in many parts. From age to age the prophets had spoken, always fitting their message to their age, always seizing that facet of the truth which was relevant to men to whom they spoke. It

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was never a static worn out thing. It was never out of date and irrelevant and incomprehensible. It was adapted to the need of every age. At the same time, the revelation was fragmentary. Each prophet, out of his experience of life, and out of the experience of Israel, had grasped and expressed a part of the truth of God; but with Jesus it was different. Jesus was not a part of the truth; He was the whole truth. He was not a fragmentary revelation of God; He was the full revelation of

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God. In Him God displayed not some facet of His truth; God displayed Himself full revealed to men. The prophet had to use human methods to transmit his part of the truth of God. Again, it was different with Jesus. Jesus revealed God by being Himself. It was not so much what He said and did that shows us what God is like; it is what He is. The revelation of the prophets was great and manifold, but it was fragmentary and presented in such methods as they could find to make it effective; but the revelation of God in

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Jesus was complete, and was presented in Jesus Himself. The prophets were friends of God; but Jesus was the Son. The prophets grasped part of the mind of God; but Jesus was the mind of God.

- It needs be noted that this writer had no part to belittle the prophets; it is his aim to establish the supremacy of Jesus Christ. He is not saying there is a break between the Old Testament revelation and that of the New Testament; he is stressing the fact there is continuity.

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- This writer tells us six great things about Jesus.
 1. The glory of God belongs to Him. He is the effulgence of God's glory. The glory of God is not shattering power, but suffering love.
 2. The destined empire belongs to Jesus. The New Testament never doubts the triumph of Jesus.
 3. God created the world through His Son. The One who made the world will be the One who redeems the world.

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4. Sustaining power belongs to Jesus. He carries the doctrine of providence.

5. Jesus sacrifice has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows; was wounded for our transgressions, was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. He is the purification of sins.

6. Jesus is our mediator. At the right hand of God, He makes intercession for us.

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- Now we all know *bona fides* about whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. People with inquiring minds have to know.

You are invited to join us!

We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

We study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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- Who has believed our message? Complete the questionnaire to find out to whom has the arm of Jehovah been revealed?

Answer each: GUILTY or NOT GUILTY

1. Have you known some remarkable providence where you received favor from God for which you never exercised gratitude or have not been thankful enough? (Exodus 20: 2-3)

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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2. Have you given your heart to other loves offending Him?

(Exodus 20: 5) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

3. Remember when God's Word was not a pleasure? (II Timothy 3: 16)

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

4. Jesus prayed for and God promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to them that ask. If you have not believed nor expect to receive the blessing expressly promised, have you charged Him with lying? (John 14: 16-17) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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5. Think of the times you neglected secret prayer, family prayer, and prayer meetings.

(James 5: 16) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

6. Prayer offered in a worldly state of mind, and careless manner with want of feeling and want of faith was nothing but mere chattering of a wretch who did not deserve that God should feel the least care. Remember when you prayed in a way grievous to God? (James 3: 17)
GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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7. When you suffer trifling excuses that prevent your attending to the Lord's work have you neglected and poured contempt upon your means of salvation. (Jude 1: 21) **GUILTY – NOT GUILTY**

8. Think how you lived before your family. Have you prayed for them? What example have you set? What efforts have you made for their spiritual good? (Exodus 20: 12) **GUILTY – NOT GUILTY**

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9. Remember how little compassion you have felt for your friends and relatives. Have you made their salvation the subject of a single fervent prayer? (Mark 12: 31) **GUILTY – NOT GUILTY**

10. Many will do anything not requiring self-denial. Anything requiring them to deny themselves, is too much! They give of their surplus thinking they are doing a great deal. How soon will they find hell? (Matthew 18: 18-20) **GUILTY – NOT GUILTY**

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11. Christians are left in the world to be witnesses for God calling attention to God in their character and destiny. Has the Holy Spirit awakened the plan of salvation through you?

(Isaiah 43: 10) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

12. Are you laying in store for you or your family? Do you have the right to dispose of your worldly possessions as your own according to your own will? (Matthew 19: 23) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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13. Do you envy those above you in any respect? (Matthew 27: 18) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

14. Do you have a bitter spirit? (1 Corinthians 13: 4) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

15. Do you tell the truth with a design to injure? (Ephesians 4: 31) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

16. If you design to make an impression contrary to the naked truth, you lie. How innumerable are the lies told every day? (Proverbs 12: 22) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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17. When you deal with an individual, and have done to him that which you would not like to have done to you, that is cheating. (Matthew 7: 12)

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

18. Think of the hours squandered which God gave you to serve Him. How many souls are lost because of vain amusements or foolish conversations? (Malachi 3: 8)

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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19. Have you had a fit(s) with your husband, wife, children, relatives, workers, or neighbors?

(Proverbs 29: 11) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

20. A wicked servant not only loiters but hinders the rest! (Galatians 5: 7) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways;

and may demonstrate the following. (Proverbs 14: 14)

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21. Do you pray, or praise, or confess, or give thanks with your lips, so all can hear, but lacking earnestness? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

22. Do you enjoy saying and doing things that please those whom you most love? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

23. Are you like a dutiful, unloving wife, trying to do her duty to her husband, but failing utterly because she does not love him? Her painstaking to please her husband is constrained, not a spontaneous outburst of a

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loving heart. Her relationship and duties become the burden of her life. She is committed for life, and must perform her duties, but it is a burden. GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

24. Is your heart full of love, the temper chaste, sweet, and under control? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

25. Do you credit good professions, of those you love, to right motives, putting the best allowable construction upon their words and deeds? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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26. Is your spirit fault-finding, impugning motives of others, and fastening blame?

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

27. Has scripture become uninteresting and repulsive? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

28. Do you pray with out heart, make devotions short, are easily induced to neglect prayer?

GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

29. Is your heart most interested in conversion of souls? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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30. Do you find your conversation not focused on God? (Matthew 12: 34) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

31. Do you forsake fellowship with the saints? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

32. Are you disposed to gratify your appetite, and the lusts of flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind? (Ephesians 2: 3) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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33. Do you bargain by misrepresentation, deception, taking advantage of fellow businessmen and conforming to worldly habits?
GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

34. Is your heart filled with its own work, not works of faith and love which are acceptable to God? (Luke 16: 15) GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

35. Do you find peace, rest, and joy in the Holy Ghost? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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36. Are you vexed, and in such relations with persons you can not pray for earnestly and can not treat with common civility? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

37. Is your heart full of its own mistakes? Do you walk with God? Are you led by the Holy Spirit? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

38. Do you regard time, influence, reputation, and wealth as your own? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

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39. Are you full of disgrace? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

40. Are you condemned having forsaken Him? GUILTY – NOT GUILTY

Total the number of GUILTY verdicts:

Total the number of NOT GUILTY verdicts:

Bring it Wednesday night and share anonymously.