



**CAPITOL[®]
COMMISSION**

Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders



Ron Comoglio, Alabama State Minister

Ron.Comoglio@capitolcom.org

PHONE: (334) 476-9333

WWW.CAPITOLCOM.ORG

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

How is Jesus “the Life”?

This is now the third look at this same verse: In October we looked at how Jesus is the exclusive, singular way to access the God of all Creation, we must all go through Him; in November we asked “What is Truth?” and learned that Truth is embodied in a person who has a name--Jesus. But now this last part of the phrase Jesus used in this great “I AM” statement zeros in on Him as the Life. As we enter into the Christmas season, His life—specifically His incarnation—is on our minds already. Having said that, do not make the error of thinking Jesus began His existence in that Bethlehem stable!

Life is not an insignificant topic. We all are embued with it, from our Creator as a gift. Thomas Jefferson wrote in our Declaration of Independence that we “are endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” God is the God of the living (Matthew 22:32) and commanded life in plants, animals, but more importantly, in human beings. Genesis 1:27 informs us God made man in His own image on the sixth day. Thus, we exist as embodied souls with a spark of the divine, setting us apart from all other forms of life--which is the crux of the creationist argument against evolution from a common animal ancestor. Getting our anthropology from Scripture may seem unscientific, however we must resist the urge to get caught up in a religious versus scientific framework—Creation is a non-observable and non-repeatable event and science is restricted to processes that can be replicated to test theories. Thus the origin of our species is ultimately faith-based, whichever argument is preferred. The choice becomes: In which will you place your faith?

From a historical perspective Jesus came into the world, born a human male to a human female (Mary) yet also the Son of God (Mark 1:11). But He did not begin to exist at that divine conception, He had already been,

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those working in state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office and available by email and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Romans 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Our desire is to witness God’s work in transforming hearts.

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as we shall see soon. Somehow, the second person of the Godhead stepped down from the heavenly throne room and was born into our world in a lowly stable, to a working class couple.

After His resurrection from the dead and ascension to the Father, the Apostle Paul writes of Him the following mind-blowing description:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

-- Letter to the Colossians, 1:15-17

This amazing text reinforces the understanding that Jesus pre-existed well before the first Christmas, even at creation! And the last phrase informs us that His continuing work holds all things together, which includes everything we sense (and things we cannot) but also means our physical bodies. Our very lives are in the hands of this authority. This ought to fill all humanity with a deep thanksgiving which ideally would be expressed in authentic worship of the One who holds us all together!

Interestingly, Jesus' great claims are backed up by His death and resurrection. In other words, the author and sustainer of life laid down His life to redeem us by paying for our sins with His own blood. This is the heart of the Gospel, that weak and spiritually dead sinners were bought by a perfect sacrifice—death on a cross—that satisfied God's just wrath (for further reading, see Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapters 3 and 5). Then, once established that we need saving and God provided a Savior, Jesus calls us to follow Him and lay down our lives for those we love. A great truth states that in order to save your life, you must lose it, a paradox found in all four gospels (Matthew 10:39; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; John 12:25), so it must be fundamentally important to our faith. The resolution comes with the same type of resurrection for us, to glory. Death is not the end of us, ensure your faith is a saving faith in the One who promises life eternal. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to serving you all in 2025!

Applications

1. When people discuss topics of life, how do you hear that? Does Scripture inform your definitions of life, death, eternal life?
2. When faced with extreme difficulties in life, some have opted for taking their own life. How might you help a struggling friend or family member to retain a higher view of this gift of life and avoid tragedy?
3. How do you understand the promised resurrection from the dead? There is a mystery to it, but there is a lot the Bible has to say about it, too.

I am available to discuss any biblical topic but especially to ensure all who read this understand how Jesus Christ is distinctively important to the entire world and to each of us individually.

NOTE: Plans are set for an in-house Bible Study during session: Tuesdays at 11:00 am in Room 123, starting on February 4, 2025. Bring a beverage, food will be provided.

A key facet empowering our ministry is prayer, especially prayer for our elected leaders. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 commands Christians to obediently pray for all in authority. A tool for America's churches to help consistently pray for you, our elected leaders, is available to all via:

www.Pray1Tim2.org - You can select Alabama and sign up for daily email reminders, courtesy of Capitol Commission