

## ONCE AND FOR ALL!

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Christ is **"better than" the best; and not just the best at that time**, but the best **FOREVER!** His "credentials," seen in **Heb.1:1-3**, bear this out.

Jesus is God's go-between to sort out a **"better testament"** (covenant/agreement) on **"better promises"** (Heb. 8:6). It says that Jesus brought a **"better way;"** *"a new and living way,"* made through His blood (Heb. 10:19-23). **Hebrews** clarifies that the blood of animals (as the high priest offered) could never take sin away, but Jesus' blood does! It's all sorted!

The high priest offered the same sacrifices over and over, year after year, and was replaced when he died. Jesus offered **"one sacrifice forever,"** then, after His resurrection and ascension, **"sat down"** in majesty! (Heb.1:3, 13; Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:34; Mk. 12:36). His long-foretold work was done. **"It is finished,"** Christ said triumphantly from the Cross (Jn. 19:30). Clearly, no other person and no other work was needed beyond Christ and what He **did AND does. Forever! Finished! Final!**

God commanded Moses to make a huge, thick veil-curtain for the Tent of worship. Only the high priest could

go behind that curtain, and, he, only once a year, to bring peace between a sinning people and a holy God. That huge, thick curtain, later located in the Jewish Temple, was supernaturally torn from top to bottom when Jesus died (Mk. 15:38). **Hebrews 10:20**, explaining this event, says that we all now have access into the presence of God through "the torn veil" of the "torn" body of Christ!

The Tent of worship, the altar, the sacrifices, the high priest, the veil-curtain...*all of these...*were ordered by God and indispensable in man's approach to God. **The Book of Hebrews** makes it clear that these things, which God commanded Moses to begin, were temporary. Christ *was* and *is* the God-planned and God-ordained replacement for them all, forever. **Why?** Because Christ alone could make the perfect, acceptable and well-pleasing sacrifice to God for the sin of man.

Christ's work was a finished work, with no need or room for improvement. **Even if it *did* need improvement,** no one but HE could do it. **Why?** Because, as **Heb. 1:1-3** shows, Christ has credentials that no others can equal or surpass; even putting 1000 of "the world's best" together! Christ is **"Better Than"** them all! **Hallelujah, What a Saviour!**

**RESPECT? "IT WAS HILARIOUS!!!"** During the mock trial, the beating, then the crucifixion itself, Jesus was ridiculed as no other has ever been, especially when you consider WHO He is, and WHAT He came to do for us. They slapped Him and spit in His face. With a laugh, they told Him that if He came down from the Cross, they would believe that He was really the long-promised Messiah-Saviour. In love, Jesus had told them that Jerusalem would be destroyed...and it was; less than 40 years later, by the same government they enlisted to crucify the Lord. It is now approaching 40 years since Britain laughed its head off...and many others with them...enjoying "the most classic British comedy ever produced." And its focus?—mocking Jesus; even the Crucifixion. Jerusalem was totally destroyed 40 years after they rejected and mocked the Saviour. Britain's clock is ticking. Signs are clearly visible. The big blow is coming. Only spiritual awakening and revival can possibly divert God's Judgment. I'm not joking. **REPENT!**

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## London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

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## FAR GREATER THAN "RESPECT"

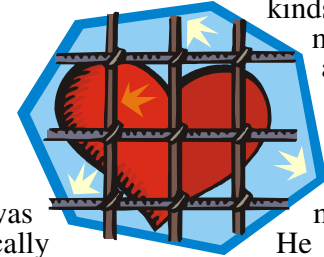
Gabriel L. Mancino

**"RESPECT!"** That word was often used some years ago; typically with the touching of fist with fist.

Tragically, **"Respect"** became linked to brutal attacks and murders among youths...because someone supposedly got **"disrespected!"**

**Respect** has now become joined to the demand to **respect** other people's religion, and even more so, their sexual preferences. Like many other things, **respect** has been turned on its head.

However, there is something that is far greater than **respect**. It doesn't replace **respect**, but goes deeper and is far more powerful and effective. "Good Friday" and "Easter" help us to see what this is!



Throughout Jesus' ministry, He faced **disrespect** of the worst kinds, as He was mocked, hounded, and rejected. His words were twisted and used falsely against Him. The many mighty miracles

He did to help others in practical ways helped them little in the ways He desired most—*spiritually and eternally*. He came to bring His people, *and us*, to God.

At the end, Jesus was betrayed, denied and abandoned by His own disciples. He was unmercifully beaten until His body was torn in pieces. The religious "Steering Committee" determined to see Jesus found guilty in a mock trial, then killed—by crucifixion...at the hands of others, of course. It was a supremely appalling scene.

But there was beauty in the ashes. They made a mocking crown of

(continued inside)

**Are we blind to the benefits of the death and resurrection of Christ? Here are some blind people in the Bible. Jacob, Abraham's grandson, was blind to God's presence as he ran from death. Balaam, that mysterious prophet, was blind to God's angel, as he stubbornly travelled toward death. Mary Magdalene was blinded by tears as she searched for Him Who triumphed over death. Saul of Tarsus was blinded by Jesus, as he travelled to bring death...to God's people. God wonderfully helped these people to see. He can help us to see, too. Do we want our eyes opened...and kept open? (Rev. 3: 17-22).**

## FAR GREATER THAN "RESPECT"

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thorns for this "King of the Jews," but a rose was amid those thorns!

King Solomon called the coming Messiah "*the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys.*" Solomon summed up, in one word, the relationship between the coming Messiah-Saviour and those that truly follow Him. That one word is **love**. "*His banner over me was love,*" said the rescued lover. The "*banner*" was the flag of the victorious conqueror. In *this* prophetic scene, the banner is **love**. This love comes only from God, yet through His Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit...and it *had* to come by way of the Cross (Heb. 9:14; 10:5-10).

A crown of thorns was forced down upon the Conqueror's brow (Col. 2:13-15), who hung on the cross and died there for our sin. They showed Him no **respect**. He responded with **love**, compassion and forgiveness. To all that surrounded that horrific scene, regardless of their role, He *embodied* and *expressed* absolute **Divine Love**.

Remember, the article title refers to "**Respect**." Jesus prayed as He was nailed to that cross: "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" (Lk. 23:34). Why did Jesus pray for people who showed Him such outrageous, monstrous and unparalleled **disrespect**? The answer: **Divine Love**.

It was not because God *respected* us that Jesus came, lived among us and then died for the sins of the world. Jesus came because God *loved* us. He *loved* where He could, by no means, **respect** us.

God has no **respect** for sin. Sin

ruined this world. Present sinning is destroying it further. Yet, in the Cross, "*God demonstrates His love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us*" (Rom. 5:8); and "*when we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son*" (Rom. 5:10). God could not possibly have **respect** for us as "**sinner...enemies**," yet He had **love**, and He fully showed it at the Cross. In one way, sin cannot be **pardoned**. It must be **punished**. Jesus took our sin's **punishment** that we may be **pardoned** (Rom. 3: 23-26).

It can be shocking when we begin to "see" our sinful condition, without the grace of God. We would, then, have these choices: 1) Suppress or deny the evidence 2) Drop all weapons of resistance and self-defence, and turn to Christ in repentance and faith (Mk. 1:15; Acts 20:21).

Yes, God **loves** us regardless of our sin, and showed that **love** supremely in Christ's death. This fact removes any real basis for egotism, but lays the foundation for true humility, repentance, faith, obedience and gratitude.

Do we grasp the significance and truth of this very first step? Here is the summary: **A)** Jesus *was* not and is not **respected**...*there at the Cross, nor now at the Crossroads of modern man.* **B)** God cannot **respect** us in our sin. **C)** YET, God came to us, in Christ, in order to show His **love** for us and save us *from* our sin (Jn. 3:16,17). **WHAT LOVE!**

**If God takes the "h" out, some people could become one of the world's greatest "treats," rather than one of the world's greatest "threats." Let Him do it...now!**

## ONCE AND FOR ALL!

Gabriel L. Mancino

God told Moses to set up unique and vital things in the life of the people. Many of those things were temporary; supremely intended to illustrate and foretell the coming of Christ: God's promised Messiah. Jesus clearly confirmed and explained this fact on more than one occasion, as when He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection.

**Luke 24:27 says,**

*"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He [Jesus] expounded [explained...interpreted] to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."*

**In that same chapter (Lk. 24),**

*"He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' Then He opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. And He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued [clothed] with power from on high.'" (Lk. 24: 44-49).*

Jesus' words, quoted above, tell us *at least* two things: 1) The central focus of the Old Testament is upon the one and only coming Messiah-



Saviour which God promised: Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin (Matt. 1:21). 2) Jesus tells of the coming "*Promise of the Father.*" He also referred to the "*Promise*" as "*The Comforter*" and "*the Holy Spirit*" (Jn. 14:26). They received this "*Promise*" within 50 days of the Crucifixion (Acts 2); not 600 years later!

Some Muslims quote Bible promises about Jesus and promises about "*The Comforter*," and say that those verses refer to Mohammed. The fact is, not one of the Bible verses they quote refer to Mohammed. As 2 Peter 3:16 says, they "*twist the Scriptures to their own destruction.*" God may be saying, as the Psalmist, "*Every day they twist my words!*" (Ps. 56:5).

**As Jesus said** (see Lk. 24 at left), **HE** is who God designed the Old Testament system to foretell. **The New Testament Book of Hebrews**, more than any other book of the Bible, gives stunningly specific examples, showing how Jesus Christ fulfilled the designed purpose of the system God Himself began with Moses.

As a "starter," in **WHATEVER Bible versions you read Heb. 1:1-3**, it is clear that no one...human or angel... can equal or surpass Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews** is about 15 pages long. The author's comparisons show that **Christ is "better than"** the angels, **than** Moses, **than** Moses' brother, Aaron (the first high priest); **"better than"** the 1500+ years of the God-ordained priesthood; **even "better than"** the "Tabernacle" (the Tent of worship), where God chose to uniquely show His presence. Christ was not being compared to rubbish, but to God's best...and all by God's design!

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*We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.*