



The Jesus that won
Paul's Heart 1

Rublev



1 Timothy 2:4

'God desires everyone
to be saved,
and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.'

An aerial view
of ancient
Babylon.



Samaritan priest





Jerusalem Temple

Jude mit Tora



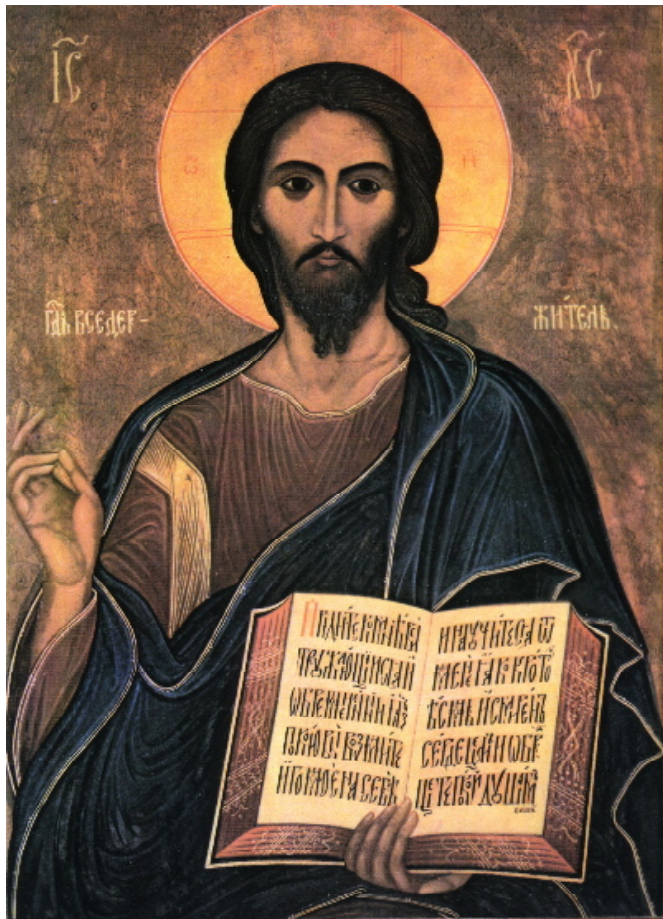
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Nazareth market

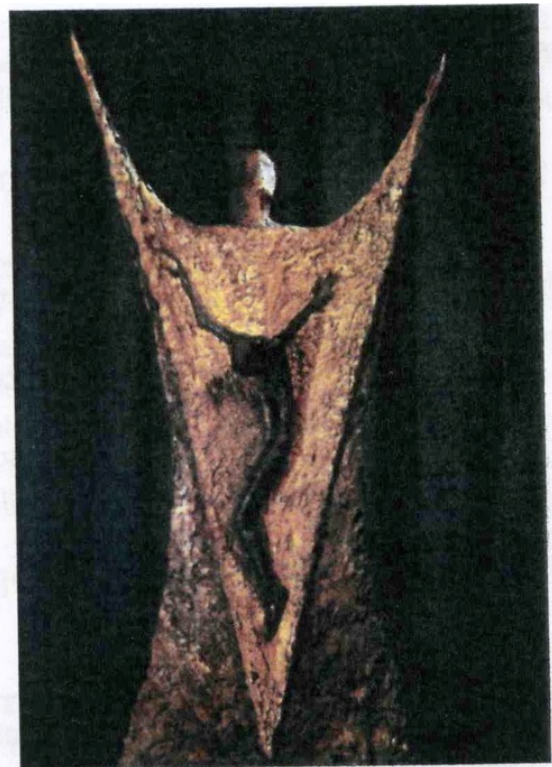


Jesus of Nazareth

He is the climax of God's self-giving to the human race, and the climax of our response.



Jesus calls Matthew to follow him (Carravaggio)





Tintoretto 1592

33 Jesus is crucified

34 Paul's Enlightenment on the road to Damascus



‘I received the Gospel through a revelation of Jesus Christ’ (Galatians 1:12).

‘God was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles’ (Galatians 1:15-16).

‘Have I not seen the Lord’ (1 Cor 9:1).

‘Last of all, as to one untimely born, he was seen also by me’ (1 Cor 15:8).

Caravaggio



- **34AD** Paul's enlightenment at Damascus
- **37AD** short visit to Jerusalem, then home to Tarsus.
- **45AD** in community at Antioch
- **47-48AD** Journey to Southern Galatia

47-48

Missionary Journey to Cyprus and Southern Galatia

Acts 13:1 – 14:28
(see 2Timothy 3:11)



48 'Certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved'(Acts 15:1) See Galatians 2:4

It is this same group who have been instilling fear into the Galatians.

'It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised – only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh'(Galatians 6:12-13).

Paul writes from Antioch to the churches in Galatia

'Paul an apostle *sent* ... by Jesus *Christ* and God the Father'(Galatians 1:1)
See Acts 13:1-4



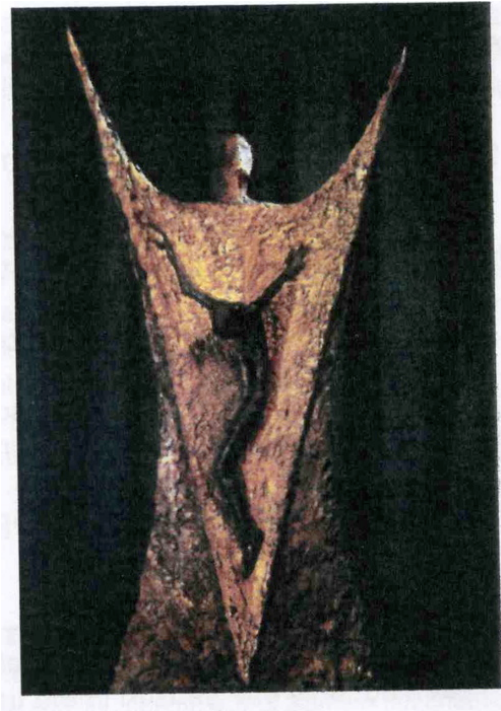
Caravaggio

Galatians 1:3-5

'Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age,

according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.'



Paul's core experience was of being loved by Christ

(**he gave himself** ^{1:4}),

Only God's love, the love of Christ poured into our hearts by his Spirit, has the power to transform the world.

‘There are some who are frightening you
and who want to pervert the gospel of Christ’(Galatians 1:7).

‘God was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I might
proclaim him among the Gentiles’(Galatians 1:16).

‘A person is justified not by the works of the law but
through the faith of Jesus Christ’(Galatians 2:16).

This is Paul’s earliest statement of what he calls

‘the gospel we proclaimed to you’(1:8),

‘the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles’(2:2),

‘the truth of the gospel’(2:5,14),

the essence of what he

‘received through a revelation of Jesus Christ’(1:12),

the central insight that God gave to Paul when

‘he was pleased to reveal his Son in me’(1:16).

We are free to accept or reject God's gift

(**'the faith of Jesus Christ'**, 2:16).

We accept in by "believing in" (directing our faith towards) Jesus'.

'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me'(Galatians 2:20).

'I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death'(Philippians 3:10).

To the presbyters at Miletus he says:

'I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace' (Acts 20:24).

‘Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying ‘Abba! Father!’(Galatians 4:6).

‘For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’(Galatians 5:1).

‘In Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love’(Galatians 5:6).

‘You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’(Galatians 5:13-14).

‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’(Galatians 5:22).

To ‘belong to Christ’(3:29) we must die with him on the cross,
die to our selfishness (‘ego’) (5:24)
nurture our true selves
and give ourselves in love for others.

It is to live ‘in Christ’(2:16-17; 3:26-28; 5:6).

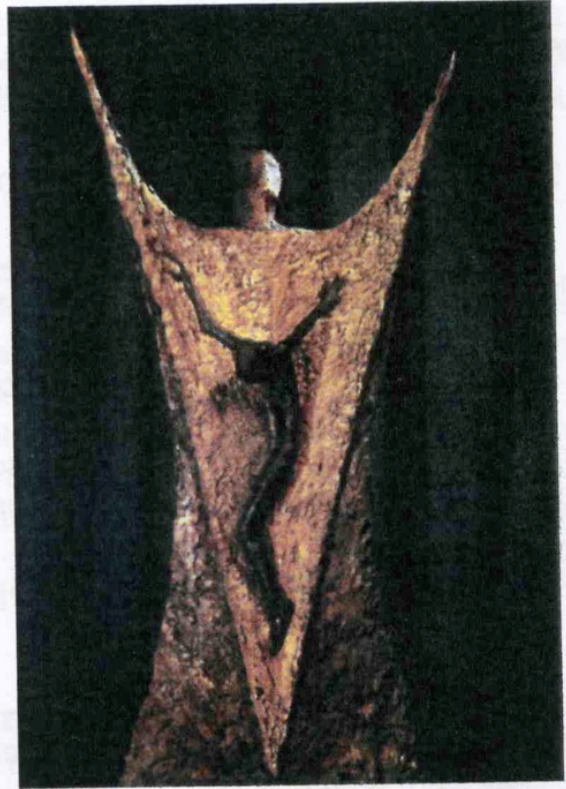
It is to be ‘clothed with Christ’(3:27).

It is to have Christ as our Lord (1:3,10)

our Redeemer (1:4; 2:20; 3:13; 4:4-5; 5:1).

It is to live by his Spirit (4:6).

‘I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world ... a new creation is everything!’(Galatians 6:14-15).



Hear Paul saying to the Galatians

‘My need for communion with God took me to the law.
I was committed to observing every last detail of it.

Then, in his mercy, God revealed God’s Self to me in Jesus.

I realised that the answer to my need was communion with Jesus.

I was attracted to him. I wanted to share his secret.

I wanted to share his life.

I wanted to be able to give my life in love the way I saw him giving his.

The law did not make this possible.

When he embraced me from the cross and poured his Spirit into my heart, my fascination with the law died. I fixed my eyes upon him.

I saw that the purpose of the law has been achieved in the faith of Jesus.

In giving me his Spirit, he gave me a share in his faith.

Now I can live for God.

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The love of the Father into which I have been invited,
the embrace of the Son,
the communion in the Spirit
 issuing from the pierced heart of my crucified Lord,
has put to death in me the distracted desires
 that dominated my existence.

The law of God has been written now in my heart,
 and with it the power to keep it.

For I am a child of God,
 living already through his Spirit the life of his Son.

May nothing separate me from this love.

And may nothing separate you, my dear Galatians. Amen.'

Will you love me? (singles)