

# Participant Guide For The Christ Institutes Video Series

**Exploring and Experiencing the Spectacular Supremacy of God's Son** 

"Meet Him Again, For The First Time"

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**Note**: This guide to *The Christ Institutes Video Training Series* (TCI) offers help for *individuals* taking the <u>55-day guided email and video Journey</u> (which draws upon these nine videos), or working through the teaching videos at their own pace. It is equally useful for *groups* that want to explore and discuss the teachings together, whether following a nine-week schedule or using TCI to shape a weekend retreat.

For any approach, a valuable, widely respected follow up book is available to help sustain the personal changes you will experience from your TCI adventure. Written by David Bryant, the developer and presenter of the TCI curriculum, it is titled *Christ Is ALL! Join in the Joyful Awakening to the Spectacular Supremacy of God's Son.* 

To supplement these videos, <u>www.ChristNow.com</u> provides a rich <u>variety of timely resources</u> to equip TCI "graduates" for effective follow-through on all they have learned.

#### **Introduction to TCI**

Conducted for many years nationally and internationally as live, 48-hour intensives, now <u>David Bryant</u> and *ChristNow.com* brings to the Church **The Christ Institutes (TCI)** in an exciting newly produced video format series.

**SERIES.** Throughout its <u>nine one-hour video sessions</u> the focus of the TCI curriculum offers something found nowhere else on the web. With its compelling presentations, creative visuals (over 3,000 slides) and clear applications, **The Christ Institutes** maintain a consistently singular focus on the vastness and majesty of God's Son. It explores major themes that inspire participants to think in whole new ways about Christ and His supremacy and about what He means for us today.

Through the TCI experience students enter into a life-changing adventure. TCI defines this personal transformation as a "<u>Christ Awakening</u>" In turn, the TCI impact can lead to church-wide, ministry-wide and community-wide Christ Awakening *movements* – which is the ultimate hope for our nation and beyond.

**GOALS.** Whatever approach to TCI you choose, the teaching series is designed to fulfill four main goals for everyone:

- (1) **CHRIST.** To help you explore a grander vision of Christ's glory and greatness for all of us today by digging into seven major Biblical dimensions that help define what Christ and His supremacy is all about right now.
- (2) **CRISIS.** To help you confront the greatest crisis facing the Church today a crisis about how we see and relate to Christ; and to discover ways to reverse it and cure it.
- (3) **AWAKENING.** To guide participants into their very own "Christ Awakening" experience and then empower them to foster Christ Awakening movements among other believers right where they live, to help renew today's Church.
- (4) **DISCIPLESHIP.** To motivate each TCI "graduate" to continue their journey into a daily Christ-driven discipleship that springs from a growing intimacy with Him in His supremacy.

**PROMOTION.** (10) 2-minute <u>overview videos</u> summarize all that awaits you with *The Christ Institutes Video Training Series*. The first one presents an <u>overview of the entire TCI experience</u>. The other (9) 2-minute videos offer a brief summary of each of the nine TCI sessions.

These introductory videos provide tools to help you share the TCI opportunity with other believers as well as encourage them to take advantage of the TCI teaching, either at an individual level or with a group.

For example, you might show one introductory video each week for ten weeks in your Sunday School classes or during announcements on Sunday morning, creating a "teaser campaign" for TCI. Then, invite people to sign up for the TCI opportunity, either on their own or in groups.

In addition, two other informal videos from David Bryant provide valuable background on two of the most important TCI emphases: (1) "The Crisis About The Christ" (12 minutes); and "A Consequential Vision of Christ" (17 minutes). These can also be used to recruit fellow believers into a TCI experience:

As another way to promote TCI, you might want to share the session outlines for essays that appear later in this document.

**CHOICES.** As mentioned, you can choose to participate in the nine TCI teaching videos in two main ways: (1) on your own or (2) with a group. Let's look at each approach briefly.

#### Two ways to enjoy the TCI adventure on your own

(1) AS A JOURNEY. One way to benefit from TCI is by signing up for the free <u>55-day</u> guided email and video Journey. A clip from a teaching video will be emailed to your inbox daily for 55 days to help you explore and experience on a *daily* basis this larger vision of God's Son. Pick the most convenient time slot in your daily schedule to view it. For many that means doing so at the beginning of each day.

Every day's video also suggests certain portions of the "TCI Reflections Guide" (included in this document and online) to help you process and apply its teaching for that day, encouraging you to end in prayer. If your schedule allows, plan on spending five additional minutes doing so.

This kind of "daily discipline" will be unlike any approach to "discipleship" you've experienced. It truly is a "journey" taken over many days and covering some of the vast vision that makes up Christ's spectacular supremacy today. However, traveling through the TCI teachings during this 55-day process gives you an adventure that leads into a growing, deepening "Christ Awakening" lasting long after the TCI experience has concluded.

**(2) AT YOUR OWN PACE.** Or, tackle each of TCI's **(9)** <u>one-hour teaching video</u> <u>sessions</u> at a pace that fits your life situation. This way you view as much of a session's teaching as time allows, doing so when it fits most conveniently into your schedule.

As you do, it is suggested that you incorporate the following activities in conjunction with the video:

**Reflect**: The "TCI Reflections Guide" is helpful with this approach, as you use some of its suggestions to conclude your experience for each segment of study.

Don't forget to make use of the "**Selah**" moments that appear a few times in each video.

Selah" is a Hebrew word found in some of the Psalms. It instructs the worship leader to cease the music to allow worshipers a brief time of reflection on what was just sung.

Similarly, in the TCI videos whenever "Selah" appears it means you have come to a "planned interlude" designed to allow participants (whether individually or in a group) to press pause in order to reflect for a few moments on what was just been presented. Or, use the Selah to spend a minute in praise or prayer related to what you're exploring about the spectacular supremacy of God's Son.

**Respond:** If time allows, before you begin the video at the start of a particular session – or if you're taking the "Journey" approach then on the day you begin the first of the series of short videos for a particular Session – you might want to set aside an additional five

minutes to recite out loud the three brief readings that make up the "Adore Him Guide" for beginning each Session.

In the same vein, whenever you finally complete one session (whatever approach you take) you might find it valuable to think through some of the questions found in the "Group Interaction Guide." Though designed for small group discussion you'll find them equally valuable for personal reflection.

When you're on your own, what might be the best way to *conclude* each TCI teaching time? Many choose to spend a few moments kneeling in worship before a chair, as if it were the Throne from which Jesus reigns. This also creates an opportunity to listen quietly for what the Father may want to share with you personally as a result of what He has given you through what you've just heard.

**Benefits:** Setting your own pace gives you creative freedom in a number of ways: For example, at any moment you like you can pause the video to reflect and pray – or reverse the video to review content. Maybe you would want to stop to write down a key point to remember. Or, if you have no more time that particular day, then push stop and go on about your business – ready to come back to where you left off the next time your schedule allows.

#### Enjoy the TCI video adventure as a group

There are at least four options for how people might experience TCI *as a group*: Sunday School classes, weekly Bible study groups, special nine-week events, or weekend retreats.

(1) Nine Week Class or Group. Whether your meet in a Sunday School class or Bible Study group you can join together for an hour for the video and 30 minutes for discussion and prayer.

However, with a Sunday school class you may have only one hour, which will require choosing between one of two other approaches:

- If you decide to cover one full video each week for nine week, then your TCI experience will only allow for an opening prayer, followed by viewing the full video session, concluding with final prayer (a total of approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes).
- However, if 70 minutes also proves too long for the length of time your class meets, you can create *eighteen 45-minute sessions*. Do this by breaking each video in half (at approximately 30 minutes) and shortening the discussion and prayer component (15-30 min).

Incidentally, the "Selah" segments that appear in each video session provide a variety of logical breakpoints for this approach.

Taking the tactic of turning nine sessions into eighteen allows time for valuable discussion and prayer with each presentation – giving everyone a more meaningful engagement with the teaching.

If you do schedule time for discussion and prayer consider the helpful suggestions of either the "TCI Reflections Guide" or the "Group Interaction Guide," which are both included in this document.

Some groups have taken one of two alternative options. Both are equally effective:

(2) 9-Week Special Event. Some have organized a special 9-week event where they come together for two hours each week. This may take place on a weekday evening or during a Saturday morning. For those who choose this option, here is a good way to construct your 120 minutes:

#### **Two-Hour TCI Teaching Session:**

Worship Hymn or Song (5 minutes)
Adore Him readings (5 minutes)
Worship Hymn or Song (5 minutes)
Presentation (70 minutes approximately)
Group Interaction (20 minutes)
Group Prayer (7 minutes)
Private Reflection and Prayer (3 minutes)
Praises to the King (5 minutes)

(3) Intensive Weekend Retreat. Another meaningful approach is to organize a special weekend retreat – a 48-hour gathering at a conference or retreat facility, in order to concentrate on completing the entire TCI at one time. Consult the "Suggested Intensive Schedule" for one practical approach for a retreat experience.

As you can see, there are a variety of group situations – from a living room, to a Sunday school classroom, to a sanctuary, to a retreat center. Each allows you to have the full TCI benefit by expanding or contracting the nine video teaching sessions to fit into your scheduling constraints.

**Follow-up.** Remember, in whatever ways you come at it, once your group has completed the TCI curriculum, you can continue on growing your vision of the glory of Christ by spending another seven weeks working through David Bryant's Christ Is ALL! Using the free small group discussion guide available at <a href="https://www.ChristIsAllBook.com">www.ChristIsAllBook.com</a>.

#### The Christ Institutes

#### **Video Teaching Series**

**Exploring and Experiencing Together The Spectacular Supremacy of God's Son** 

### Outline of Nine Sessions

**SESSION ONE** 

#### **Introduction:**

#### **Christ, Crisis, Christ Awakenings**

#### Worship Presentation

- "Saturation Transformation"
  - "Supremacy Intimacy"
  - Putting on "Jesus Glasses
- Three reasons for The Christ Institutes
  - (1) The Spectacular Supremacy of Christ
    - Attention to the Ascension
  - (2) The "Crisis of Christology" Among Us
    - Monarch or Mascot?
    - (3) The Hope of a Christ Awakening
  - What a Christ Awakening Looks Like:
  - Waking Up to a Consequential Christology
    - TCI Schedule and Sessions Overview

#### **SESSION TWO**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### TO Us - Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- The Supremacy of His Identity
- His Intimacy with the Trinity
- The Perfection of Revelation
  - The Picture in Scripture
  - The Claims of His Names
- Our Identity and Our Destiny
- The Majesty of His Supremacy *Personal Prayer Huddle Prayer*

Open Discussion
Praises to the King

**SESSION THREE** 

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### FOR Us - Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- The Supremacy of His Remedy
- The Invasion of His Incarnation for Us
- The Mission of His Crucifixion for Us
- The Re-Creation of His Resurrection for Us
  - The Coronation of His Ascension for Us

#### **SESSION FOUR**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### **OVER** Us – Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- The Supremacy of His Sovereignty
  - Over the Workings of Creation
- Over the Unfolding of World History
  - Over the Designs of Global Rulers
- Over the Destiny of Earth's Peoples
- Over the Rebellion of Evil Powers
- Over the Building of His Church

Personal Prayer Huddle Prayer Open Discussion Praises to the King

#### **SESSION FIVE**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### BEFORE Us - Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- His Supremacy and Our Expectancy
- Moving Ahead of Us into the Future of God
- Moving Ahead of us into the Presence of God
- Moving Ahead of Us into the Promises of God
- Moving Ahead of Us into the Mission of God

#### **SESSION SIX**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### WITHIN Us - Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- Supremacy Manifested In Intimacy
- Manifested Individually and Corporately
- "Within Us" Surveying the Biblical Proposition
- New Testament Teachings on Christ Within Us
  - Temples and Bodies
  - How the Spirit Reveals Christ Within Us
- The Whole Christ Dwells Within Every Congregation

Personal Prayer Huddle Prayer Open Discussion Praises to the King

#### **SESSION SEVEN**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### **THROUGH Us - Now!**

#### Worship Presentation

- His Supremacy Extended Through Our Ministry
  - It Begins With A Vision of the "Whole Christ"
  - His Ministry Through Us Is Without Limits
- New Testament Emphases On Who Christ Is Through Us
- Two Key Ways He Ministers Through us: Prayer and Martyrdom
- Every Day Our Ministry Must Be Raised From The Dead With God's Son

#### **SESSION EIGHT**

#### Awake to who Christ is

#### **UPON** Us – Now!

#### Worship Presentation

- The Finality of His Supremacy
- "Upon Us" Surveying the Biblical Phenomena
- Who Christ is Upon Us in the Consummation
  - Who Christ Is Upon Us In Approximations
- Christ Upon Us: Living With Daily Anticipations
  - Inviting Christ To Come Upon Us

Personal Prayer Huddle Prayer Open Discussion Praises to the King

#### **SESSION NINE**

#### Responding to the

#### Spectacular Supremacy of God's Son

#### Worship Presentation

- Christ is NOW!
- Responding daily to the supremacy of Christ
  - Seven Essential Responses:

See, Seek, Savor, Speak, Show, Serve, Share

- Becoming Messengers of Hope
- Seek and Speak as a Way of Life
  - Forming a C.A.S.T.

("Christ Awakening Servant Team")

- Resources Available to Help You
- The Life Time Commitment of Every Messenger of Hope
  - Final questions for TCI graduates

**Open Discussion** 

Before the Throne Together
Consecrating Christ (I Peter 3:15)
Consecrating ourselves as Messengers of Hope

## Session-by-Session Summary Essays

#### Video Session 1 of The Christ Institutes

#### The Christ, the Crisis and the Christ Awakening

*Let me ask you three questions:* 

If someone were to place you in front of a microphone to take 3 minutes to broadcast to the entire nation your understanding of who Jesus Christ IS – not what He has done for you but rather who He IS, whether you exist or not – would you be able to fill even just 3 minutes?

Here's a related question: If you took the next three Sundays to walk around your church and listen to what your fellow believers are talking about, how often do you think you would hear the name of Jesus even mentioned in their conversations? You would be shocked at how little He's mentioned!

Last question: After nearly three decades of an unprecedented international prayer movement across the Body of Christ focused on seeking God for a Christ-awakening movement among God's people, where are the *answers* to these millions of concerted prayers?

These are the three critical questions, addressed in that order, in Session 1 of *The Christ Institute*. Let me explain:

First of all, **Session 1** begins to unpack the person of God's Son and what His current reign is all about, in whole new ways. I'll introduce you to seven major dimensions that summarize everything the Bible teaches about the spectacular supremacy of Christ.

Secondly, **Session 1** begins to uncover what many leaders believe is the greatest crisis we face inside our churches today -- a crisis of Christology – that is a deadly shortfall in how most Christians see, seek and *speak* of God's Son for ALL He is. *The Christ Institute* helps you confidently confront and help cure that crisis wherever it's found – even in your own life.

Finally, **Session 1** shows you that many of the answers to the global prayer movement actually *have* been granted. They're sitting in our pews every Sunday morning – right now – ready to spring into life! This portion of the session will fill you with fresh hope about a Christ Awakening movement already bearing down on top of us.

These three issues – What Christ's supremacy really involves, what damages the crisis of Christology is doing to Christian discipleship, and why all of this proves how we desperately need a Christ Awakening movement in our generation – are the reasons I invite *you* into Session I. It lays the foundation for the journey that is ahead -- a journey we call *The Christ Institutes*.

A journey that will take you into an experience of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son you've been looking for all along. A journey into an exciting "Christ Awakening."

#### Video Session 2 of The Christ Institutes

#### Wake Up to Who Christ Is TO Us

What would you say is the most neglected doctrine in many churches today? In other words, of the whole panoply of evangelical truths that most Christians hold to, which one is rarely ever mentioned, let alone celebrated?

I suggest to you it is the doctrine of the Ascension. Consider this a moment: When was the last time your own church celebrated the Ascension the way we celebrate Christmas, Good Friday, or Easter? And yet, the Ascension – when God's Son took His place at the right hand of the Father on the throne of the Universe – the Ascension is the capstone of all the rest. Without the Ascension, everything else Jesus accomplished by His incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection would be null and void.

Ephesians 4 tells us that Jesus ascended into highest Heaven in order – and these are the words the Bible uses – in order to fill the entire universe with Himself. Right now, Jesus the Christ is filling the universe with His presence, His sovereignty and with His activity.

That's one way to describe the central theme of The Christ Institute – as we explore and experience this spectacular supremacy of God's Son. We look at who Christ is – right now, in His ascension – in seven dimensions: Who He is to us, for us, over us, before us, within us, through us and upon us.

In **Session 2**, we dig into what the Bible teaches about who Christ is in the first dimension – who He is TO us, right now. In other words: What distinguishes the Lord Jesus from all other persons in the universe in terms of His nature, His qualities, His characteristics – in terms of His very being as both God and man? Who is He in Himself, quite apart from anything He is *doing*?

For example: How would you describe His intimacy with the Trinity, right now? Again, how would you explain the way He has become the summation of God's Revelation of Himself? Or, what do you make of the claims of His names (and there are over 350 given to Him in Scripture)? Or, right now, how has He become the picture of everything we read in Scripture? And, what does it mean that for every believer He has become both our identity and our destiny. Finally, why is it any of us can find absolute joy and fulfillment simply by experiencing the majesty of his supremacy – in other words, experiencing who He is TO us, right now?

These are some of the exciting insights into God's dear Son that await you in **Session 2** of *The Christ Institutes*. Let's get started!

#### Video Session 3 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ Is FOR Us

There's much unrest around the globe right now. Some even call what we're witnessing "awakenings" – political or social or religious awakenings. For sure, in most cases what's unfolding could be called *revolutions*!

So, are you currently part of a revolution?

For every Jesus follower the answer is: Definitely *yes*! From the moment you committed your life to God's Son, you became part of what I call His "irreversible, fourfold revolution." It is *this* revolution we explore together in Session 3 of *The Christ Institute* – as we wake up to more of Who Christ is FOR us.

Last time we saw who Christ is TO us. Next time, we'll focus on who Christ is OVER us. But for now, let's ask: Who is Christ FOR us through this four-fold revolution He has unleashed for us? **Session 3** breaks this question down into four parallel questions:

We ask: Who is He FOR us *by the invasion of His incarnation*? What difference should it make to us that He became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh – and that He will *remain* one of us for the rest of eternity?

Second, we ask: Who is He FOR us *by the mission of His crucifixion*? When He died for us He wasn't a victim; He was on a mission. So, what impact should His cross make on who I am and what I'm all about today? In what sense is the mission of His crucifixion not only about what He did for us, but also about what He is doing for us right now?

Third, we ask: Who is He FOR us by the recreation of His resurrection? In what sense when He walked out of the tomb did our risen Lord Jesus become the emergence of a whole new kind of life in the universe – a life destined not only to remake you and me into a new creation, to culminate in the renovation of heaven and earth?

Fourth, we ask: Who is He FOR us *by the coronation of His ascension*? What difference should it make to each of us on a daily basis that what He will be Lord of ultimately He is Lord of right now? That everything He ultimately will inherit belongs to Him His right now? That the glory He will one day display openly is the glory He claims as King of kings, right now?

Answering these four questions unpacks Jesus' irreversible, four-fold revolution – incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension. Combined, inseparable, potent, active among the nations, all four are impacting each of our lives right now. As his disciple you're automatically a part of this revolution!

So, dig into it with this video, as you become part of **Session 3** of **The Christ Institutes.** 

#### Video Session 4 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake To Who Christ Is OVER Us

Have you heard that the universe is under new management? And, that this includes your life, too?

There's a bakery down the street from my home that couldn't make it financially. So it closed its doors. But about three months later it opened up again, as a bakery. But there was a large banner placed above the front doors that read: "Under new management". On the surface, everything looked just like the old bakery. This time it became very profitable, and is still going strong. The difference? The person in charge! The manager.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven's throne, it was as if He hung a banner across the galaxies that said the message: "*Under new management*." That's why in **Session 4** of *The Christ Institute*: we explore the question. What does it mean to say that Christ is OVER us? And, what happens when Christians wake up to this glorious truth about who He is?

So far in TCI we've seen in who Christ is TO us, who Christ is FOR us. **Session 3** concluded with a brief look at Jesus' ascension – as part of what we called His irreversible, four-fold revolution. Now in **Session 4**, we look more closely at the implications of His ascension in order to better understand who Christ is OVER us. We want to explore some of the magnificent manifestations of His reign – of His superior, cosmic management going on everywhere, right now.

How would *you* describe who Christ is OVER us right now? For example:

- 1) How would you describe His active reign right now over the workings of all creation?
- 2) In what sense is His reign manifested, as well, over the unfolding of world history?
- 3) To what extent does He supremacy show itself right now *over the designs of global rulers*?
- 4) How fully do you think His Kingship today impacts the destiny of earth's peoples?
- 5) Where do you see evidence that He is currently and fully in charge *over the rebellion of evil powers?*
- 6) How would you describe Christ's sovereign sway over the building of His Church among the nations?

Answers to these six questions provide all we need to know about what Jesus is up to at this very moment sitting on the Throne of the universe. In addition, discovering more of who Christ is OVER us will help you see what your *own* life is all about.

And so you continue to explore and experience more of the greatness and glory of God's Son. Once again, you have the opportunity to get to know Him better, as if you were doing so for the very first time.

#### Video Session 5 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ Is BEFORE us

Christians often sing "I have decided to follow Jesus". But what does that mean? Where is He going? If I follow Him today where will I find myself tomorrow?

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2 that the Father is leading an army of believers, to use his words, "in Christ's victory procession". So, where's this grand parade headed, with Jesus in the lead? And what impact should that have on my personal relationship with Him moment by moment?

These are some of questions that **Session 5** of *The Christ Institute* addresses as we explore and experience in new ways a *fourth* dimension of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son – namely. Who Christ is BEFORE us.

In the previous sessions we've uncovered exciting truths about who our Savior is today, using other prepositions—namely, who He is TO us, and then FOR us and last time, OVER us. But we need to wake up to even *more* of the wonders of His Kingship. This brings us, then, to the preposition: *Before* us.

In all of life, for all believers, Christ manifests His reign by how He goes *BEFORE* us – by how He strikes out ahead of us, as He precedes us and then invites us to follow. He goes before us in four different directions – all at the same time. All of them right now. Session 5 digs into each.

First, **Session 5** looks at how *Jesus goes BEFORE us into the Future* – in order to bring it back to us. So, are you experiencing in Him, right now, some of the power and blessings of the Age to Come – what we might call "approximations of the Consummation"? Is His future invading your walk with Him day by day?

Second, *Jesus goes BEFORE us into the Heavens* – in order to bring us into it. Are you enjoying a life with Him right now that flows from the Throne? If so, how's it working out for you?

Third, *Jesus goes BEFORE us into the Promises of God* – in order to make them ours, too. How many of the thousands of promises in the Bible that now belong exclusively to God's Son are impacting your life because daily He is sharing them with you and fulfilling them in you? Are you satisfied?

Finally, in **Session 5** we discover how *Jesus goes BEFORE us into the world* – in order to open the way for us to serve. Have you ever had the thrill of entering into ministry to others that Jesus made possible for you because He went ahead of you to open up those remarkable opportunities? Do you ever long to be more *fully* involved in His Kingdom advance, but simply don't know where to begin?

## Video Session 6 of *The Christ Institutes*Awake To Who Christ Is WITHIN us

What if Jesus, the risen Son of God, were to walk into the midst of your worship service next Sunday – what immediate difference would that make?

To ask this another way: If together people in your congregation came face to face with the living, reigning Lord Jesus – literally, right here and right now – would anything in your church as it stands today remain <u>un</u>-changed?

In other words: What if Jesus were to take up residence, actively, as your senior pastor for the next three months? What do you think would happen? What if He sat in on all of your activities and all your committee meetings? What if He visited your families in their living rooms? How would your fellow believers approach things differently? How would this experience increase people's passion for Him or their involvement with Him?

To say it again: Would anything in your church as its stands today remain <u>un</u>-changed?

Well, guess what? According to Scripture, one of the major facets of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son is that, in fact and in reality, Jesus *does* inhabit your church. Personally. By His Spirit, from the Throne, He dwells in the midst of every gathering of believers in every part of the earth. Not just part of Him. But, *all* of Him. Right now.

Think about all we've uncovered in the previous video sessions of *The Christ Institute* – that is, who Christ is TO us, and FOR us, and OVER us and BEFORE us. Well, this may come as a surprise, but: He brings *all of that* with Him as He comes to reign permanently *in the midst of* His people, everywhere, day by day.

Colossians 1:27 says: It says the riches of God's good news shared among the nations is (and these are the exact words): "Christ is in you -- or within you, or among you -- the hope of glory." In other words, the *preeminent* promise of the Gospel to all believers is that together, starting right now, we can have *intimacy* with Christ in His supremacy.

Want to know more? Then join me for **Session 6** of *The Christ Institutes*, titled: *Awake to who Christ is WITHIN us.* We'll discover exciting reasons why, for example, the Bible says the Old Testament Temple has now been replaced with Christ Himself. Or why your church is likened to a human anatomy, with Christ taking charge in everything like a head does with a body. Or why Jesus calls any company of His followers a Vineyard – where together we, like branches on a grape vine, are all wrapped up around Him, drawing our life from Him as we produce fruit for Him. But that's just a start on what lies ahead for you in **Session 6**.

## <u>Video Session 7 of The Christ Institutes</u> Awake to Who Christ is THROUGH Us

As a Jesus follower, what ultimate value is your life to the nations? How much of a difference can any one Christian ever make to his or her OWN generation? In the global advance of Christ's Kingdom, do you and I *really* matter all that much?

I have good news for you – it can be summed up in one simple principle, which is this: "Because of who Christ is working through us in His spectacular supremacy, each of us means far more to the world than we realize." **Session 7** of *The Christ Institute* explores this principle in depth.

Remember how Jesus told his disciples in Acts 1 that when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would become His witnesses to the ends of the earth? *Why is that*? Well, for one thing, we might describe the power of the Holy Spirit as "an extension of the Ascension". In other words, the Holy Spirit brings believers into such intimacy with Christ in His supremacy that from His Throne our King is able to extend and sustain His saving ministry *through* each of us *without any limitations* – either on what He does with us or how far He goes with us.

In this session we explore the implications of this wonderful promise from various perspectives.

We ask, for example: Where does Christ's ministry to the world through us *begin*? We learn that it begins by enlarging the extent of our vision of *all* He is. Why? Because the greater our vision of the supremacy of Christ, the *more open* we become, the *more eager* we become, *the more expectant* we become about what He wants to accomplish through us, without limits. This one truth alone is explosive stuff!

For example: Here where I live in metro New York, working with a host of Christian leaders, we have concluded that in order to see the Lord Jesus advance the Gospel in our city through hundreds of thousands of Christians who live here, we *all* need to develop – what we call – an "*urban Christology*". What does that mean? As is true for any city, to be effective, God's people in New York City must cultivate a vision of the reign God's Son that is *bigger* than all the problems and all the challenges as well as all the opportunities we face as His mission goes forth through us.

But **Session** 7 isn't just about Christ working through us *individually*; it also unpacks how He wants to work through us *together* – as churches and ministries whom He empowers *together*. We learn, for example, how every congregation on planet earth provides Him a *base of operations or a beachhead* for His reign to break-in among those who do not yet know Him. Have you ever wondered how to measure the success of Christ's work through a specific body of believers? **Session** 7 teaches it is not first of all by how many people it *seats* but rather by how many people it *sends*.

#### Video Session 8 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ is UPON us

Are you ready for this? There's a climactic hour just ahead when Christ will return to come UPON us as He comes UPON the whole creation, to reign over everything, forever, at the consummation of all things!

Are you ready for this? As personally and purposefully as Jesus will come UPON us at the End of the Age, He intends to come UPON our lives and our churches *right now!* He intends to come UPON us in order to intensify, deepen, extend, multiply and accelerate all of our other current experiences of His spectacular supremacy!

This eighth TCI session completes our list of 7 major dimensions of the greatness and glory of God's Son, doing so in dramatic fashion. So far we've awakened to our reigning Lord in terms of who is TO us, FOR us, OVER us, BEFORE us, WITHIN us and THROUGH us. Now comes the final installment, using one more preposition: Now we take a hard look at who God's Son is UPON us. *Upon us*? – What does that mean?

We could paraphrase it different ways: Christ drawing near to us. Christ moving toward us. Christ bearing down on us. Christ *invading* us. In other words, our King never intends to leave us alone – that is, to leave us as we are. He has so much more for us. And the same goes for the whole universe.

All through Scripture we read of seasons and predictions of seasons when God comes upon His people. Isaiah 64 begins: "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down." And He does so over and over. When the Holy Spirit came to Mary and implant within her womb the Son of God, from that moment on and for and all eternity it now is by King Jesus that God comes into the world – in redemption, renewal, judgment.

In **Session 8**, we begin by surveying the drama of the Consummation of all things, when God's Son will be revealed in incomparable majesty to usher in a new heaven and earth. Guess what? We'll *all* be there to see it happen first hand!

Next, **Session 8** unpacks what I call "approximations of the Consummation" – which happen anytime Christ exercises His Kingship by coming upon His people to manifest more of His glory to them – bringing about seasons of reformation, restoration, revival, refreshing and re-empowerment for service. In other words, times *this* day when He works with us in ways that *approximate* how *one day* He will come upon the Cosmos itself to visibly and inescapably manifest His unending victory.

Finally, in this TCI session we outline key characteristics of the great hope this dimension of Christ's supremacy should give us. We look at what it means to live a life full of great expectations toward our triumphant Savior, day by day – because of the coming Consummation as well as because of the many approximations of the Consummation promised us in Him today.

## <u>Video Session 9 of The Christ Institutes</u> Responding to the Supremacy of God's Son

Which statement is most accurate: Christ is all I *need*? Christ is all I *want*? Or, Christ is all I *have*? In reality, the Bible's answer is: Christ is all I *have*.

The brilliant North African church father, Augustine, said: "Those who have Christ have everything. Those who have everything but do not have Christ have nothing. And those who have everything plus Christ have *no more* than those who have Christ *alone*." In other words, at the end of the day he says, Christ is really all we *have*! Therefore, it follows, how we respond to Him in Christian discipleship must always focus on *Him*, because He forever remains all we *have*.

In **Session 9**, the final installment of *The Christ Institute*, we investigate some of the exciting, practical and productive ways we can respond to Jesus and to what His spectacular supremacy is all about. For example, in this session we look at seven key words that summarize everything the Bible teaches about Christian discipleship -- and then I suggest ways to take action toward our King in terms of – and here are the seven words – how we see, seek, savor, speak, show, serve and share Christ for *all* He is.

But the main emphasis of **Session 9** focuses on what I believe to be the most strategic step any of us can take to foster and serve Christ Awakening movements that that are the greatest hope of the Church in this hour. In this teaching time I urge all of us to become what I call "Messengers of Hope" -- and then I show you why and how. The fact is, the possibility for any Christ Awakening anywhere in the Church today rests, at this moment, with how fully we flood our congregations and ministries with these Messengers of Hope. That is -- with people just like you.

Remember how in Session 1 we learned that Christians don't know how much their hearts truly long for more of God's Son — until someone helps them discover how much of His spectacular supremacy they have not yet seen? Well, the role of Messengers of Hope is to help God's people discover so much more of the glory of God's Son that *as a result* they start to know Him in whole new ways which leads them to trust Him, love Him and obey Him in whole new ways. In other words, they begin to experience their very *own* "Christ Awakening."

This final session, therefore, helps you unpack a number of terrific options for being a Messenger of Hope right where you live – including the amazing two-part strategy I call "Seek and Speak". This strategy is so simple no one can fail to carry it out; and yet so profound it assures a Christ Awakening movement for any congregation. It's all about connecting Christians more fully to the person of Christ by increasing their conversations about the supremacy of Christ. Because, if you change the conversation in your church you will change your church. Messengers of Hope make that happen.

#### **ADORE HIM! Guide**

Let us, then, always offer praise to God as our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess Jesus as Lord. (Hebrews 13:15)

Whether you're traveling through the video series as part of your <u>55-day guided email</u> <u>and video Journey</u>, or exploring the curriculum at your own pace; or if you've joined with others in a weekly study gathering – the readings below can play a meaningful part in your overall TCI experience.

For those in a nine-week study (one week for each video) it is suggested that you begin with the three readings designed to open up each session.

If you're traveling through TCI on your own, these readings would an excellent way to set the stage when you reach the outset of a new session before your start your first video for that session.

The three readings take about two minutes. The greatest impact takes place when they are recited out loud (even if you're sitting alone). They are made up of three parts:

- **Prelude** (which summarizes the vision of Christ in the upcoming video)
- **Passage** (one or two key texts that relate to the theme of each video).
- **Prayer** (a great way to seek the Father's help as you work through the video).

If you're part of a group you might want to bring copies of each ADORE HIM! readings, not only to use responsively as you gather to begin a new video session, but also to take with you and use it at various times between your weekly sessions, to continue adoring God's Son.

"The Lamb who was killed is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, and strength, honor, glory, and praise!"

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor, glory and might, forever and ever!" (Revelation 5)

#### Video Session 1 of The Christ Institutes

#### The Christ, the Crisis and the Christ Awakening

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

Every dimension of the supremacy of Christ, magnifies the grandeur of the love of Christ.

Living under His reign,
we abide inside His heart.
Every facet of who He is —
all we're about to explore
of who He is to us, for us, over us, before us,
within us, through us and upon us —
serves to enlarge our understanding
of the profound truth of Scripture that says:
"GOD IS LOVE!"

#### **PASSAGE**

**Ephesians 3** – I pray that out of his glorious riches the Father may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know His love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We give You these hours together. Awaken us as never before. Awaken us to the width, length, height and depth of the love of your Son. Awaken us to His love for You, and His love for us. Awaken us for Your sake. Awaken us for your praise.

In this Institute, open our eyes. Let us see the wonders of the One who *continues* to pour out His love – *to* us, *for* us, *over* us, *before* us, *within* us, *through* us and *upon* us. We're willing and ready.

May the supremacy of Christ – displayed in the passion of Christ, be matched by our worship of Christ – displayed by our pursuit of Christ.

#### Video Session 2 of The Christ Institutes

#### Wake Up to Who Christ Is TO Us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

One marvelous manifestation of the love of Christ can be found in this:

How much He desires to bless us, by revealing His very self to us.

He continues to open to us more and more of the riches of His glorious Person.

He does this so that, as it were, we might step into the center of the wonders of who He is to us.

The Father invites us to encounter His Son, by His Spirit, right now, in ways almost like meeting Jesus face to face

#### **PASSAGE**

**Hosea 6** – "Come, let us return to the Lord...In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring."

**Matthew 11** – "O Father, thank you for revealing these things to the childlike...Come to me...take my yoke upon you and *learn from me*, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

**2 Corinthians 4** – God made his light shine into our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed *in the face of Christ*.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – As we begin this next Session, we press on to know more of who your Son is *to* us. Already He has welcomed us, to draw near to Him. We accept His invitation! Gladly we come. We yoke ourselves with Him, to learn of Him, and to see His face.

Gather us now into deeper intimacy, with the fullness of His supremacy. Let there be Spirit-given revelation *to* us, of the incomparable person Jesus is *to* us. May He meet us like showers, like sunrises, to wake us up, giving us unshakeable confidence in His sovereign love.

#### Video Session 3 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ Is FOR Us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

Jesus said there's no greater love, than when people sacrifice themselves, for the sake of other people. He proved that His love was this kind of greater love, by giving Himself for us:

the moment He became one of us, for us; the day He was crucified and died, for us; the morning He rose to destroy death, for us; the hour He took His throne to reign forever, for us. His spectacular supremacy shines superbly through this – His four-fold, self-giving love...for us.

#### **PASSAGE**

**Romans 8** – Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?...Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us... Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Galatians 2** – I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – What wondrous love is this? No one has ever been *for* us, the way Jesus was *for* us – the way He continues to live to intercede *for* us, right now.

Therefore, open our eyes. Let us see the unquenchable passion of Your precious Son, that caused Him to give Himself for us – by coming, suffering, rising, reigning.

In this hour, we rejoice, with the saints of all the ages – who, like us, have been united with Him, crucified with Him, raised with Him, and glorified with Him.

By your Spirit, hold us close to Him – Your greatest Gift for us, inexpressible, incomprehensible, inexhaustible.

#### Video Session 4 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake To Who Christ Is OVER Us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

Seen from one perspective,
everything about Christ's supreme rule *over* us,
provides manifestations of His supreme love toward us –
as He reconciles us, and transfers us, into God's Kingdom.
We see it in His love for creation, and for nations,
as He takes charge *over* history, and rulers,
to bring forth a multitude of peoples, forever redeemed.
We see it as He liberates His own, from the Evil One,
to join in glad submission, to the Lamb, slain for them,
but now reigning *over* them, at God's Right Hand.

#### **PASSAGE**

**Psalm 72** – Give your love of justice to the king, O God....May all the godly flourish during his reign....All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.... He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him. **Revelation 1** – All glory to Jesus Christ who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father... Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. Everyone will see him....

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We praise your Son, who ascended on High, to take the Throne of Heaven. We invite Him, who is *over* us, to fill the universe, with fruits of His matchless love – to fill it with healing, and justice, and liberation, and joy, and righteousness, and purposefulness, and with everlasting praise, to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Even so, in this next Session, may the vision of ALL He is, as He rules *over* all things, refortify our hearts and minds. May it cause us to flourish, more and more, as we dwell, in the presence of the Royal Son enthroned forever, who regards us, as His own precious treasure.

#### Video Session 5 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ Is BEFORE us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

As we stand at the threshold, of all that awaits us, of God's grand intentions toward us, there is One who goes before us, to blaze the trail ahead of us

The Spirit wakes us, so we may follow in His wake. He calls us to press forward, as Jesus precedes us.

With unbounded love,

God's Son has opened for us, a new and living way, into the future...into the Heavens...
into the promises...and into the world.

How can we do other than fall in behind Him, and follow?

#### **PASSAGE**

**Jeremiah 31** – I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself...I will bring (you) from the north and from the distant corners of the earth....I will not forget the blind and lame...A great company will return!... I will lead (you) home with care.

Mark 10 – Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

2. Corinthians 2. — God, continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal

**2 Corinthians 2** – God continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We've decided to follow Jesus, no turning back. He looked upon us, and loved us, and called us, to forsake all, and to join His victory procession. Truly, He is worthy, to be Leader of our lives, for all ages to come.

He has opened for us a highway, into a New Creation. Now, we want Him to go *before* us, into every facet of His Kingdom purposes. As we begin this Session, one prayer rises up within us: "Lead on, O King Eternal, Your day of march has come!"

Father, in love, keep us in step with Your Son, as He *precedes* us, into all You have prepared for us. We follow Him without fears. We follow Him with hope!

#### Video Session 6 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake To Who Christ Is WITHIN us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

The cry of every believer's heart, is for more of Christ – more of Christ at work *within* us and *within* me.

In His great love toward us, God's Son intends to dwell among us, bringing with Him all He is to us, for us, over us and before us, as He inhabits us, to reign *within* us.

Of every congregation on planet Earth, it can be said: The Lord Jesus is fully there, residing, and presiding – not just a part of Him, but ALL of Him.

And wherever He abides *within* His people, in His spectacular supremacy, the Triune God is fully involved.

#### **PASSAGE**

**John 17** – My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you....

I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me...

I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We celebrate this rich truth of the Gospel: that Your anointed Son, who claims preeminence in the entire universe, has come to dwell among your people, here and now, intimately and pervasively, in the fullness of His lordship and love.

Awaken us, to His presiding presence. Help us, to gather to Him, and around Him, like never before – to experience *together* in Him preliminary installments of His coming Kingdom.

During this Session, bless us, with fresh infusions of His life within us – *individually*. Even more, reveal to us, grand possibilities, that belong to Your people, *corporately*, who welcome their King, unconditionally.

#### Video Session 7 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ is THROUGH Us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRELUDE**

Christ intends to pour out his love through us.

Thus, we mean more to the world, than most of us realize.

The greater our vision, of the supremacy of Christ, the more open we are, to the ministry of Christ, as he carries out His mission through us, using us.

We need a vision of God's Son, big enough, to give us the courage to serve Him, among the nations, at any cost; big enough, to reassure us, that He is able, to accomplish through us, a lasting impact for His global cause, beginning right where we live.

For in point of fact, He loves us too much, to allow us, to settle for anything less, than this.

#### **PASSAGE**

**2 Corinthians 2** – God uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

**1 Thessalonians 1** – Your endurance is inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ... The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia–your faith has become known everywhere...(as you) wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead....

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – May the supremacy of your Son, be declared, more fully, among all peoples. May His church, be a more visible manifestation of His love, unleashed by His message, and His mission, *through* us.

We have no ministry for Him, unless you raise it with Him, from the dead, day by day by day. Help us serve Him, in such a way, that people, looking at us, will make much of the reigning Christ, working *through* us.

Because Jesus loves us, enough to send us, please use this Session, to help us become more open, and ready, for His Spirit, to advance His global cause, *through* us. We place no limits, on where He takes us!

#### Video Session 8 of The Christ Institutes

#### Awake to Who Christ is UPON us

#### **ADORE HIM!**

#### **PRAYER**

The Bible ends with Christ coming down, *upon* us. In the Consummation, the entire universe will become engaged with God's Son – permanently and supremely. Everything will be summed up in our Lord Jesus, either by redemption, or by judgment. Every person will be consumed with Him, or by Him. Until then, we long for Him, in His love for us, to come *upon* us, right now – to conquer us afresh. May He do so, in ways that foreshadow how, one day, He will come *upon* the entire universe, in triumph. Therefore, we always remain ready, to receive from our King, loving approximations of the Consummation.

#### **PASSAGE**

**2 Thessalonians** 1 – Our Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus...on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed... *With this in mind*, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling...so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We look forward to that day, when Your Son visibly comes *upon* all Creation, to bring to consummation your purposes, and promises, in Him. We join with Your Spirit and the whole Church, to cry: "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Even so, as we enter into this Session, out of His love for us, we invite Him to come *upon* us, in powerful new ways, to bring us into greater intimacy with His glorious, spectacular supremacy.

At the same time, we long for Christ to come *upon* His whole Church, to unleash, in us, approximations of the Consummation, making us fully alive, to His Kingdom ways.

#### Video Session 9 of The Christ Institutes

#### Responding to the Supremacy of God's Son

#### SHARE HIM!

**NOTE:** At the conclusion of this final session you will be asked to prayerfully consider making this commitment – what is called "The Lifetime Commitment of a Messenger of Hope." So at the beginning of the session, read this statement out loud. Then pray the prayer. Then begin the video.

#### The Lifetime Commitment of a Messenger of Hope

From this moment forward, every time I share about God's Son from God's Word with any of God's people – as fully as each opportunity allows, by the power of the Holy Spirit

#### I will:

- 1. Give them a larger vision of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son than they had before we began.
- 2. Show them greater reasons to put their hope in Christ in light of who His spectacular supremacy.
- 3. Pray with them for a fresh awakening by the power of God's Spirit to the glory of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son.

#### **PRAYER**

**Father** – We desire to be Jesus' faithful followers – as we see, seek and savor Him for ALL He is; so that we might speak, show, serve and share Him for ALL He is. To that end, empower us with Your Spirit.

We declare to You this hour: "In our hearts we consecrate – we set apart – Christ as Lord." With many diadems we crown the Lamb who reigns victorious. Help us to give Him the highest place of honor – more and more – in our hearts, in our lives, in Your Church and among the nations.

For the sake of the *Christ Awakening* that <u>must</u> come, equip us to be Messengers of Hope – as a way of life – as we share with other believers, right where we live, a larger vision of Christ's supremacy and greater reasons to put our hope in Him...**because...** 

#### Christ...is...ALL!

#### The Christ Institutes

#### **Video Teaching Series**

#### **Reflections for All Sessions**

- For those going through the <u>55-day guided email and video Journey</u>, you are encouraged to take an extra five minutes after viewing each day's email video to respond to these suggestions and questions.
- For those who choose to work through the TCI videos at their own pace, these questions are relevant to the TCI experience wherever you stop along the way. For example, when you come to a spot in the video teaching where the word "**Selah**" appears, push pause and spend five minutes thinking through the outline below.
- Groups that take the TCI video experience together, these suggestions and questions provide excellent starting places for group discussion and prayer for every session.

#### After completing your video....

**Pause**: Spend a minute in silence, reflecting on today's teaching. What was the most meaningful part for you? How did it speak to you?

#### Reflect

In what ways did today's teaching video help you see and think about God's Son in *newer* or *larger* terms?

In what ways did today's teaching video give you greater reasons to put your *hope* in Christ alone -- for your life, for your church, for your generation, or for eternity?

#### **Apply**

What *next step* should today's teaching encourage you to take in your daily walk with our supreme King, the Lord Jesus Christ?

What is one insight about the glory of Christ you gained today that you could *share* with one other believer before the day is over? Think about an insight that could help someone gain a little bit larger vision of the greatness of Christ.

#### **Pray**

If you were standing before Jesus on His throne right now, based on today's teaching, what one thing would you like to say to the Father to express your *praise* and *gratitude*?

What would you like ask the Father to do in your life by His Spirit, that would deepen an area of your relationship to His Son?

#### THE CHRIST INSTITUTES

#### **Video Teaching Series**

#### **Group Reflection/Discussion Questions**

(use after viewing one of the video sessions)

#### Video Session 1 Questions / Christ, Crisis, Christ Awakening

Before today, what adjectives, descriptions, metaphors or pictures would you have used to describe the Person of Christ to someone who knew very little about Him? (You have 60 seconds!)

Where do you see evidences of any "crisis of Christology" within the contemporary church at-large or within the church where you worship? How does it manifest itself? What kind of impact is it having on the life of God's people?

Do you have any sense of a hope about a coming Christ Awakening – in your own life? In your church? What about an even broader scope? Why or why not?

#### Video Session 2 Questions / Awake to who Christ is TO us

Of all the **names** given to Jesus that we just recited, what is one title that carries special meaning for you? Why is that? How should that one title alone impact how believers approach their daily walk with God's Son? Be specific.

What does it feel like for you to realize that God's Son has become your ultimate **identity** and **destiny**?

In what ways should this aspect of who Christ is **TO** us transform how all of us experience our daily walk with Him? Be specific.

#### Video Session 3 Questions / Awake to who to who Christ is FOR us

Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension combined is called Christ's "irreversible revolution" for us. In what sense is it a revolution? Why is this revolution irreversible? Why is it important that they always been seen as inseparable from one another?

How is this revolution impacting the nations already? What impact should it have on individual believers day by day?

What does the **Ascension** mean to *you*? How do you think the truth of the Ascension should shape the way you look at Christ's incarnation, crucifixion and resurrections? How should it *increase* your passion for Christ? What about your desire to serve Christ? Or even your sense of hope about the renewal of the Church? How do you look at the mission of the Gospel locally or among the nations?

#### Video Session 4 Questions / Awake to who Christ is OVER us

Of the six spheres where Christ reigns **over us** – creation, history, rulers, peoples, powers, Church – which one do you find most fascinating? Which you would like to learn more?

Demonstrate the truth of "**Christ over us**" by sharing *one story* that would encourage another believer about how Jesus' Kingship is breaking through today. It can be either where you live or in another part of the world.

In what one practical way would you like to *personally* experience **more** of His reign over you, breaking through into your life right now? Describe what you think this would look like.

#### Video Session 5 Questions / Awake to who Christ is BEFORE us

What do you think about the truth that Jesus has gone before us into the future to bring it back to us? How have you experienced foretastes of the Age to Come in your daily walk?

Can you recall **one promise** in the Bible Jesus has fulfilled for you *recently*? If so, how would you describe that experience to another believer?

Can you recall a time when it was clear that Jesus went before you and prepared a way for you to minister to others for Him – when He met you where He sent you? How would you describe that experience?

#### Video Session 6 Questions / Awake to who Christ is WITHIN us

Recently, how have you experienced the living Christ working within your own life in a direct and personal way? How might you share this **wi**th a fellow believer, so as to encourage that person to expect Christ to work within them in new ways?

What *more* of Christ's reign would you like to see displayed corporately in the midst of today's Church – more specifically *in the midst of your own church?* What might that look like if it happened? Describe one difference you believe it would make?

#### Video Session 7 Questions / Awake to who Christ is THROUGH us

Where among the nations do you see Christ's reign manifested through the Church right now? Be specific.

Where among the nations would you like to see *more* of Christ's reign manifested right now **through the Church?** What would you like to see happening? Be specific.

How would you personally like to experience *more* of Christ working **through YOU**, to advance His Kingdom purposes? Describe what you see happening.

#### Video Session 8 Questions / Awake to who Christ is UPON us

Explain your feelings of when you envision the day when you will see the Lord Jesus Christ face-to-face in the hour when He comes upon us at the End? *Is this really something you are looking forward to?* 

What is your greatest hope for the Church at large? Do you really expect to see Christ come upon this generation in new ways that will accelerate and intensify what He's *already* doing? Do you expect to see a Christ Awakening anytime soon?

What is your greatest hope for your own church? Do you really believe the Lord Jesus desires to come upon your congregation in new ways that will accelerate and intensify what He's *already* doing? Do you expect your church to experience a Christ Awakening in any form – *anytime soon?* 

#### Video Session 9 Questions / Responding to the Spectacular Supremacy of Christ

For an individual: In what ways do you expect the TCI experience to impact your daily life in Christ? What specific changes are you willing to make in your relationship to Him? Will there be changes in your walk with Him or your ministry for Him? How might you get started? What does the next step look like for you?

For a group: Share with one another your personal reflections on the questions above.

*In addition, as a group discuss*: How might the TCI experience change the way we get involved *together* in our relationship to Christ? How can we better walk *together* with Christ or minister *together* for Christ?

For individuals or groups: What impact could you have for Christ and His Kingdom if you were to become "messengers of hope" as a way of life? What are some ways you might fulfill this role right where you live? How would you get started?

In addition, if you were to help form a C.A.S.T. (*Christ Awakening Servant Team*) what are the possibilities this offers for fostering a Christ Awakening movement inside your church or ministry? Who might want to be part of this CAST with you? How would you recruit them? How do you envision your CAST functioning on a regular basis?

#### The Lifetime Commitment of a Messenger of Hope

From this moment forward, every time I share about God's Son from God's Word with any of God's people – as fully as each opportunity allows, by the power of the Holy Spirit –

#### I will:

- 1. Give them a larger vision of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son than they had before we began.
- 2. Show them greater reasons to put their hope in Christ in light of who His spectacular supremacy.
- 3. Pray with them for a fresh awakening by the power of God's Spirit to the glory of the spectacular supremacy of God's Son.

#### **Prayer**

**Father** – We desire to be Jesus' faithful followers – as we see, seek and savor Him for ALL He is; so that we might speak, show, serve and share Him for ALL He is. To that end, empower us with Your Spirit.

We declare to You this hour: "In our hearts we consecrate – we set apart – Christ as Lord." With many diadems we crown the Lamb who reigns victorious. Help us to give Him the highest place of honor – more and more – in our hearts, in our lives, in Your Church and among the nations.

For the sake of the *Christ Awakening* that <u>must</u> come, equip us to be Messengers of Hope – as a way of life – as we share with other believers, right where we live, a larger vision of Christ's supremacy and greater reasons to put our hope in Him...**because...** 

#### Christ...is...ALL!

#### Schedule for Hosting a TCI Weekend:

#### Exploring and Experiencing Together the Spectacular Supremacy of God's Son

- TCI is a 48-hour intensive consisting of ten two-hour sessions; plus open forums.
- TCI explores a transformative biblical vision of Christ and His supremacy.
- TCI empowers leaders to foster Christ Awakening movements where they live.
- TCI prepares participants to become Christ-proclaimers as a way of ministry.
- TCI addresses the greatest crisis in the Church, the crisis of Christology.
- TCI equips Christian leaders (clergy and lay) to confront and cure this crisis.
- Each session draws on decades of global, interdenominational ministry.
- Each session includes: worship, teaching, Q&A, small group activities, prayer.
- Each session is amplified by helpful, dynamic PowerPoint slides (over 1600 total)
- All components of the TCI curriculum have been field-tested for many years.
- Follow up of TCI includes a spectrum of practical resources, most free of charge.
- TCI's unique focus on Christ and Christ Awakenings is available nowhere else.

#### **SESSION THEMES**

Session 1: Introduction: Christ, Crisis, Christ Awakenings (plus overview of TCI)

Session 2: Who Christ is TO us (Divinity, personhood, character, our identity & destiny)

Session 3: Who Christ is FOR us (Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension)

Session 4: Who Christ is OVER us (creation, history, rulers, powers, peoples, Church)

Session 5: Who Christ is BEFORE us (into the Future, Heavens, Promises, Nations)

Session 6: Who Christ is WITHIN us (individually, corporately, globally; by His Spirit)

Session 7: Who Christ is THROUGH us (ministry, mission, miracles, Kingdom

advances)

Session 8: Who Christ is UPON us (Consummation, approximations, anticipations)

Session 9: Responding to Christ's Supremacy (practical steps, messengers, movements)

Optional Session 10: Strategizing Together (after final lunch, open discussion and planning)

#### FORMAT FOR EACH TWO-HOUR SESSION

Opening worship and prayer (10 minutes)
Presentation (75 minutes)
Open Discussion (20 minutes)
Huddle Prayer (7 minutes)
Personal Prayer (3 minutes)
Antiphonal Praises to the King (5 minutes)

[Optional Session 10 – Facilitated open discussion and planning; 1 hour].

#### **AVAILABLE FOLLOW-UP RESOURCES**

<a href="http://www.ChristNow.com">http://www.ChristNow.com</a> – your one-stop hub of free resources on Christ <a href="http://www.ProclaimHope.org">http://www.ProclaimHope.org</a> – provides excellent follow-up tools <a href="http://www.ReadCIA.com">http://www.ReadCIA.com</a> – free download of *Christ is ALL!* (470 pages) <a href="http://www.ChristIsAllBook.com">http://www.ChristIsAllBook.com</a> – purchase the abridged version (176 pages)

#### **TCI SCHEDULE**

<u>Day One</u>	<u>Day Two</u>	<u>Day Three</u>
12 noon – Lunch	7:00 – Breakfast	7:00 – Breakfast
1:30 – Session I	8:00 – Session IV	8:00 – <b>Session VIII</b>
3:30 – Break	10:00 – Break	10:00 – Break
4:00 – <b>Session II</b>	10:30 – <b>Session V</b>	10:30 – <b>Session IX</b>
6:00 – Dinner	12:30 – Lunch	12:30 – Lunch
7:30 – <b>Session III</b>	2:00 – <b>Session VI</b>	1:30 – <b>Optional Session X</b>
	4:00 – Break 5:30 – Dinner 7:00 – <b>SessionVII</b>	2:30 – Dismissed

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