

Week of March 4-10

ΙΧΘΥΣ

Scripture Reading: Read Luke chapter 2

Most folks, at one time or another, have probably seen the symbol on the back of a car...the fish symbol. In Greek, the word ΙΧΘΥΣ (transliterated ichthus) means “fish” and was used as an acronym for Jesus (where each letter represents a word).

I - the first letter of the Greek Word for Jesus

X- the first letter of the Greek Word for Christ

ϐ- the first letter of the Greek Word for God’s

Y- the first letter of the Greek Word for Son

Σ- the first letter of the Greek Word for Savior

The ancient symbol was used in the early church as a secret way of identifying Christians from non-believers. Tradition has it that one party would draw one half of the fish symbol in the dirt. If the other party were a believer, he or she would complete the symbol and both parties would know they were in good company. Today, believers still place the symbol on the back of cars to identify their faith in Jesus Christ.

This symbolic acronym provided a wonderful visual of their faith in Jesus. He is the Christ, the anointed one. He is God’s Son. He is the Savior.

In today’s chapter reading, each one of these points is stressed. According to verse 21, he was circumcised on the eighth day and given the name, Jesus. The angel declares that he is Christ, the Lord, in verse 11. At the end of the chapter, Jesus told his parents that he had to be in his Father’s house, implying that he was God’s Son, when they finally found him in the temple. The angel proclaimed to the shepherds, in verse 11, that today in the town of David a Savior was born. In verse 30, Simeon confirms this last point when he held the baby, Jesus, in his arms and praised God that his eyes had seen God’s salvation.

*If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.
(source unknown)*

Action Step: As you continue to read through the book of Luke, look for more examples that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, the Savior.

Prayer Focus: Give thanks to God for Jesus.

Take-a-way: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior!