



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 40 - Born of a Virgin - Alive Unto God

2026-03-07

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Host Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries guides listeners through a scripture-rich exploration of who Christ is, why His virgin birth matters, and how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus provide redemption from iniquity. This episode reads and reflects on many Old and New Testament passages to show humanity's fallen condition and the unique role of Jesus as the one born without inherited sin.

Scott cites passages illustrating human sinfulness (Genesis 5:3; Job 51:5; Lamentations 5:7; Job 14:14; Psalm 58:3; Genesis 8:21; Job 15:14–16; 2 Peter 2:14; Romans 3:10–18) and discusses why these realities point to the necessity of a sinless Messiah. He explains how Jesus, born of a virgin and without the burden of inherited iniquity, alone could fully understand and author faith, drawing on Jesus' teaching in John and the New Testament testimony that Christ is the author and finisher of our faith.

The episode unpacks key theological themes: salvation as redemption from iniquity (not merely forgiveness), the meaning of baptism as an immersion into Christ's death and a present resurrection into new life (Romans 6), Jesus' portrayal on the cross as the representation of both our sin and our wounds, and the idea of the "double" — the full weight of human sin and the corresponding work of God in Christ. Scott emphasizes the role of faith, the mind, and God's gift of understanding through preaching and Scripture (1 Corinthians 1; Ecclesiastes 3) in turning from the power of sin to live in righteousness.

No outside guests appear; this is a solo teaching by Scott Stanley. Listeners can expect deep, extended Scripture readings, practical application about reckoning oneself dead to sin and alive in Christ, and a clear presentation of how Jesus' unique birth, ministry, baptism, and crucifixion accomplish redemption for those who unite with Him by faith.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. This is our videocast concerning understanding the Christ. I made a video titled "When Gabriel Comes to Mary," and I wanted to point out how in the lineage of Christ, there was only him and his Father... that Jesus was born of a virgin.

So I want to continue in that theme, but I'm chancing it here. I'm going to read a lot of scripture. In so doing, I want you to think through these verses I'm reading to you, and let's get through this. I don't want to leave any of them out. I want to show as many as I can because this really solidifies the problem of humanity and the salvation that God gives us in Jesus Christ.

So just bear with me, read the verses along with me, and let's begin. I want to start in Genesis 5:3.

Gen 5:3 And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and he begat a son *in his own likeness, after his image*; and called his name Seth.

The point is, Adam begat children after his own likeness and image.

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Lam 5:7 Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and *we have borne their iniquities*.

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? *not one*.

Psa 58:3 The wicked are estranged *from the womb*: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Gen 8:21 And Jehovah smelled a sweet savor; and Jehovah said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground anymore for man's sake; *for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth*; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Job 15:14 What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous.

Job 15:15 Behold, he puts no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

Job 15:16 How much more abominable and filthy is man, *which drinks iniquity like water?*

And this leads to 2 Peter 2:14.

2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, *that cannot cease from sin*; beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children.

I'm almost done. But again, we need to get the point. We need to understand what is actually being stated here concerning humanity. Let's go to Romans, Chapter 3, starting at verse 10.

Rom 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Rom 3:11 *There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.*

Rom 3:12 They are all gone out of the way. They are together become unprofitable. *There is none that does good, no, not one.*

Rom 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit. The poison of asps is under their lips:

Rom 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Rom 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Rom 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Rom 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

Rom 3:18 *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Where does that leave humanity? Because if all of us are born in iniquity, and Adam brings forth children, after his likeness, after his image, like him, then who can bring something clean out of something unclean? See, every bit of these points back to Jesus being born of a virgin. There was no humanity in his lineage.

All of these verses are telling you what mankind was like - why on the cross, when Christ portrays the guilt, the anger, and bitterness from the stripes, the nakedness, the

darkness. He's portraying everybody on the planet because all of us are like that. All of us have been in that place. All of us are in that place until we find the salvation through Jesus Christ.

Now, being in that place, let me share a couple of more verses with you.

1 Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom (by its wisdom) knew not God. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in his time. Also, he has set the world in their heart, so that *no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end.*

What do we see? Because of our iniquity, because of what we are born into, there's no way you're going to understand the Bible. You've got the world in your heart, and you cannot understand it. Therefore, it's by the foolishness of preaching that we're going to learn what the truth is. God will have a ministry that will be able to interpret what is being stated in the scripture and help you to understand unto salvation. But to do this on your own, there's a verse, Ephesians 2:8.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are we saved through faith....

Now think about it. God is showing us grace by bringing us salvation through faith. Salvation is not getting God to forgive you! Salvation is being redeemed from iniquity.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are we saved through faith. That faith is not of yourself. It's a gift of God.

And the person that God puts in your life to help you with your faith, that person is a gift. But what does this have to do with Jesus? Jesus made a statement in John 3:13.

Jhn 3:13 No man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven.

What is he even talking about? The heavens represent God's understanding. No man has ascended up to God's understanding. You can't. You've got the world in your heart. The world, by its wisdom, doesn't know God. So no man has ascended up to God's understanding except he that came down from heaven, Jesus. Even the Son of man who is in the heavens, as he was standing there speaking, he was in God's understanding. That's what he means. *No man has ascended up to the heavens, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in the heavens; I'm in God's understanding even now.*

Well, think about it. Christ is the author of our faith, Hebrews 12:2. Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. He authored our faith using the Old Testament, and no one has understood the scriptures except he that came down from heaven. He's the author of our faith because he was the first one to understand it. How could that be?

The man was born of a virgin. He did not have the iniquity and the humanity, the sinfulness, burdening his mind. This truly was the Son of God. He was a concept, the logos of God. He was a concept in the mind of God who became flesh and tabernacled among us (Jhn 1:1). His Father truly was God. He is the author of our faith using the Old Testament.

So let me lay something on you here. The Old Testament was written for him. He is the only one who ever understood it. He has apostles who write their letters; they write the New Testament, explaining the Old. Everything they're explaining to you comes from the Old Testament. But it was Jesus who understood it. Now remember,

Php 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery (or something to be grasped) to be equal with God. (But what did he do?) He emptied himself and became a man, became a servant. He emptied himself.

In other words, he comes into this world starting over in his understanding. But he isn't burdened with the burden of iniquity, and he can pick up the Bible, the Old Testament, and read it and understand it. God gave him that Bible to fill him up again with the truth that he had emptied himself of. He was able to take the Bible, possess the Spirit of God

without measure, understand the work of Messiah, understand things about God from the scripture that to this very day we're amazed at what he was teaching.

And people want to think, "Well, you know, he's the Trinity, and he is carrying that with him." No, he emptied himself. This is what you've got to understand. By using the scripture, he was able to come back up in his understanding, maybe to exactly where he left off and beyond. He grew in wisdom and stature. He understood God by means of the book. And then in his baptism, God speaks to him, anointing him with this truth: *"You are my Son, in whom I'm well pleased. This day I have begotten you"* (Psa 2:7).

He was born again at his baptism, using the scripture to defeat the devil. Jesus began his ministry as the Christ, the Son of God. Having authored our faith, he is also the author of eternal salvation unto all those that will obey him (Heb 5:7-9). He did this in his flesh, too.

What are we seeing here? We're seeing that in Jesus Christ, I can find redemption. Not just forgiveness, but I can find redemption. Now, there are two more verses I want to read for you. The first one is in Isaiah chapter 40. Let's start at verse 1.

Isa 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Isa 40:2 Speak ye comfortably (or to the heart) to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished. Her iniquity is reconciled: because she has received of Jehovah's hand double for all her sins.

Couple that with Job, Chapter 11, starting at verse 5.

Job 11:5 But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against you;

Job 11:6 That he would show you the secrets of wisdom. They are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacts of you less than your iniquity deserves.

So what in the world is this double? The double is what happened throughout the life of Christ, especially on the cross. This is where we need to see it. Once you see it, you can begin to apply it in other parts of Jesus' life. What is the double? On the cross, Jesus portrayed the serpent on the pole. The serpent on the pole is the author of iniquity (Jhn 3:14).

The author of iniquity is within each one of us. You have iniquity. You have that little voice that speaks to you to justify things when you're doing something wrong. And this little voice, the author of iniquity, is Satan. And what happens here? When you listen to Satan, you're listening to the flesh and not the Spirit. So in the flesh, you do things to hurt other people, and it creates guilt in you. But then other people will do things to you, and maybe you can't forgive that.

So what is portrayed on the cross is what you have done to people and what they have done to you. What they have done to you is seen as stripes on his back. Maybe you can't forgive some of what has happened to you. Well, Jesus portrayed this on the cross. Let's go to Romans chapter 6. I want to begin reading at Romans 6:1.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound (and that "sin" is iniquity)?

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to iniquity, live any longer in it? (How are you dead to iniquity?)

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ are baptized (or were baptized) into his death?

That does not mean you go get in a tank of water and they dunk you under, saying, "Father, Son, Holy Ghost, and this is a picture of Jesus' death." What baptism is here is you're baptized by the water of the word. People will teach you about Jesus' death, and you're immersed then with the water of the word into his death.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we're buried with him through immersion into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted (or if we have been united) in the likeness of his death, we'll be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, our old man is crucified with him, that the body of iniquity might be destroyed, and henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:7 He that's dead is free from sin (or iniquity).

Rom 6:8 Now if we're dead with Christ, we believe we will live with him:

Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death has no more dominion over him.

Rom 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto iniquity once: in that he lives, he lives unto God.

Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto iniquity, but alive unto God in Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:12 Let not iniquity reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lust thereof.

Now, I know I'm gambling by reading so many verses, but let me tell you what he just said. Christ was portraying man's iniquity, the result of iniquity, on that cross. And Paul said, *If you can unite with him in that death, then you are buried in that immersion into death, and you will be raised from the dead now.* Not future "be raised." It means to be raised right now. How is that going to happen? It happens with your mind.

See, get the picture. Man is born in iniquity. That's all we've known is iniquity. So God brings his Son into the world, who has power over the iniquity. Jesus Christ was tempted in all points, yet without sin (Heb 4:15). See the picture God has painted? Humanity cannot stop sinning. That's extreme. You can't stop. The other end of the spectrum, God cannot even be tempted (Jas 1:13). But in the middle, you've got Jesus. He was tempted in all points, but he never sinned.

What he is doing there is displaying what Peter will refer to later as divine nature (2Pe 1:4). So here we are, full of iniquity. God sends forth his Son to portray us on the cross that by means of the power, the ability of faith - having your faith energized, the power of the mind - your mind controls everything about your body. Your mind controls your breathing. Your mind controls it all. So what God has done, he has given us his Son to portray us, or the double.

The double: When I look at him, I look at me. 2 Corinthians chapter 3, you look at him as though you're looking in a mirror and you see him portraying iniquity and you realize that's me (2Co 3:18). And you hear him pray, *"Father, I feel forsaken, but I still am hungering and I'm thirsting for truth. I am not going to try to overcome this anymore on my own. Into your hands I commit my spirit."*

And you find death to self. You repent of your life. You turn and go the other way. You seek God for his understanding. You have committed your life to his understanding by

looking at that picture of you on that cross. You can find death to the body of sin. If you're committed to his Spirit, then you're not going to serve iniquity anymore. God's given you a way out. By means of his Son, you can come to the cross, unite with him in death, believing you're in his image. He's making you like himself, believing with the power of the mind that he's raised you from the dead and given you victory over iniquity, so from here on out, you don't live according to iniquity.

This is the plan of salvation. Man couldn't overcome iniquity and walk in love. Jesus didn't have our problems, but he sacrificed his life for God so that... you know, maybe I should say he sacrificed his life for us, but for God to be able to use him as the tool to redeem us from iniquity and sin. And by the power of your mind, by the power of faith, the power of God's workmanship, if you believe it, this becomes a reality in your life.

He is your Savior. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. He's our Savior. He gives you something to base your faith on. He gives you something to believe that will change your life. That sacrifice is from God to us, to help us. It isn't so you can turn around and give it back to God and hope he forgives you. No, he's always loved you. Love does not make a record of sin. Believe it. Let your faith be strong. Understand what the plan of salvation is. Understand what your Savior did.

Again, by his dying on that cross, you unite with him in that death. If you do, you're going to be buried with him in that baptism, and he will raise you from the dead so that you can live in righteousness. So you can marry him who's been raised from the dead and live in righteousness. How does he say this?

Rom 6:11 Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin. Reckon ye also yourselves, but alive unto God in Jesus Christ.

Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed in Jesus Christ. That happens in your mind. By doing that, he that is dead is free from sin (Rom 6:7), and you pick up, and you start working out your own salvation through fear and trembling (Php 2:12)... staying in that mindset and letting God have his way in your life.