> But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.
>
> — *Acts 26:22-23*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: Messiah, Evangelism, Light, Resurrection, Savior, suffering

Interpretation:
The book of *Acts* introduces us to the early church and the apostles after the ascension of *Jesus*. *Chapter 26* tells of *Paul's* defense before *King Agrippa*, who accused him of several things, including preaching a new religion.

In this passage, Paul responds to the accusations by telling of his own experience and encounter with Christ. He then mentions the words Jesus spoke to him that time in: *Acts 26:16-18*.

God's help

Paul acknowledges that he was able to persevere in his ministry only because of God's help. He knew he could do nothing on his own, but he needed divine strength and direction to continue to testify to the truths he had learned. This is an important message for us, as we also need to rely on God to accomplish our tasks and goals.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed or discouraged by the task ahead, but remembering that we have God's help gives us confidence and strength to keep going. He is the one who gives us wisdom, patience, and love to face any situation we may face.

Witnessing

In this verse, Paul also mentions that he witnessed to both the small and the great. He did not limit his ministry to a specific group of people, but sought to bring the message of salvation to everyone who was willing to listen.

This reminds us that we too are to be *witnesses for Christ* in every area of ??our lives and to all the people we meet. It doesn't matter if we are young or old, if we have many skills or few, *we can all be agents of change in the world*. The witness we give can be one of the most effective ways to spread the gospel.

Saying nothing except what the prophets and Moses said

Finally, Paul points out that he did not preach anything that went beyond what the prophets and Moses said. He was not trying to create a new religion or teaching, but was simply sharing what God had revealed through the history of the people of Israel.

This is a warning to us because we often allow ourselves to be confused by teachings that are not supported by the Word of God. We must also seek biblical support for everything we say and do in our Christian lives. We must always remember what the prophets and Moses said, because they laid the foundation for our faith.

The suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Acts 26:23 begins with the words, *"that the Messiah would suffer."* This refers to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. However, the passage goes on to say that Jesus Christ will be *"the first to rise from the dead."* This means that Jesus Christ will be the first to rise from the dead, and others will follow.

Finally, the passage says that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was for the purpose of *"bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles."* This means that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is good news for everyone: both Jews and Gentiles.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.
> — *Acts 5:42*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: Messiah, Evangelism, learning

Interpretation:

Acts 5:42 gives us a wonderful example of the commitment and dedication of the early Christians. These men and women dedicated themselves to sharing the word of God every day in the temple and in their homes. This practice not only allowed the Christian community to grow, but it also laid the foundation for modern evangelism.

The Teaching and Preaching of Jesus Christ

The teaching and preaching of Jesus Christ are two fundamental aspects of Christianity. Teaching involves imparting knowledge and truths about the Christian faith, while preaching focuses on proclaiming the gospel and inviting others to follow Christ.

The Bible repeatedly shows us how teaching and preaching are vital to the spiritual growth of believers and the expansion of God's kingdom. For example, in *Matthew 28:19-20*, Jesus commands His disciples to *"go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them everything He has commanded."* Likewise, in *1 Corinthians 1:18*, the apostle Paul declares that *"the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God."*

The Example of the Early Christians

The dedication of the early Christians to teaching and preaching Jesus Christ is an inspiring example for believers today. These Christians lived in a society hostile to Christianity and were persecuted and martyred because of their faith. Yet, they did not lose heart and continued to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ even in the most difficult of times.

This example should inspire us to continue to teach and preach Jesus Christ in our daily lives, whether at home, at work, at school, or wherever we find ourselves. We must ensure that our lifestyle reflects God's love and grace and be prepared to give an account of our faith when the opportunity arises.

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> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
>
> *— Isaiah 9:6*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah

Topics: Messiah, Christmas, Father, Jesus

Interpretation:
Isaiah 9:6 is one of the most beautiful Bible verses in all of Scripture because it tells us long beforehand of the prophecy of the birth of an extraordinary child who would bring lasting peace and become a wise and powerful leader. This child is Jesus, the Savior of the world, who came to earth to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

Explaining the Four Titles of God:

Wonderful Counselor - Jesus came to be the one who teaches and counsels us. During his ministry, Jesus gave us some very important teachings and showed us the way to live with God. Jesus is our great counselor who guides the lives of all who believe in him.

Mighty God - Jesus is God! He has all the power and authority of God. But God chose to come to earth as a man to save us. This is a great miracle: God, in all his power, loves us so much that he came and suffered in our place. God himself took our sins on the cross.

Everlasting Father - Jesus is eternal. He is God, he has no beginning and no end. When he died, death could not hold him, for he was stronger! Jesus rose again and lives forever. Just as Jesus is eternal, he gives eternal life to all who believe in him and love him.

Prince of Peace - Jesus came to restore our relationship with God. When we sin, we become enemies of God, separated from Him. But through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus offers us forgiveness and reconciliation with God. In this way, we can have peace with God and peace in our lives.

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> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
> *— Luke 2:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Messiah, Christmas, Savior

Interpretation:

The Bible verse Luke 2:11 describes one of the most important and significant moments in human history: **the birth of Jesus**. Here we are introduced to Jesus as the Savior sent by God to bring us salvation and redemption from our sins. The City of David where he was born refers to Bethlehem, highlighting the fulfillment of Bible prophecies.

The term **"Christ"** means **"Anointed One"**, and its use here refers to the Christian belief that Jesus was anointed by God to fulfill his role as **Savior and Messiah**. **Lord** is a term that refers to **the divinity of Christ** and His authority over all things.

The birth of Jesus is a special occasion when Christians around the world celebrate the birth of their Savior. *Luke 2:11* reminds us that **Jesus is the way to salvation** and gives us hope for a better life in the world to come.

We can apply this verse to our lives by recognizing that **Jesus is the Savior** and that we are to follow His teachings. By following His teachings and examples, we can improve our lives and become more loving and compassionate people. Jesus shows us how to live a fulfilling life based on values ??such as love, humility, and justice.

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> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
> *— Matthew 16:15-16*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Messiah, Jesus

Interpretation:
The Bible verses found in *Matthew 16:15-16* are of great significance to Christians, especially those seeking to understand the divinity *of Jesus Christ*. This is *Peter’s* confession *of Jesus*, where he clearly calls Him *“the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

Who was Jesus to the people?

Jesus of Nazareth is one of the most famous names in history, but most people know him by different names. Who was Jesus to those who knew Him during His lifetime? By asking the question in verse

15, *“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus* was seeking to understand the perception of His disciples, who followed Him during His ministry and listened to His teachings.

Peter’s response

After Jesus asked His question, Peter responded, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,”* demonstrating his faith and conviction in the divinity of Jesus. This answer is of great significance because it confirms that *Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior* promised in the Old Testament, and part *of the Divine Trinity*.

Who is Jesus to us today?

This question from Jesus remains relevant today because each of us has a different idea of who Jesus is. For some, he may be a religious leader, for others, a historical figure, and for others, *the Son of God*.

Regardless of how someone views Jesus, His life and teachings continue to have a significant impact on millions of people every day, and His message of love and compassion is still relevant today.

What does “Christ” mean?

The word “Christ” comes from the Greek “Christos,” meaning “anointed,” referring to the ancient custom of anointing kings and priests with oil in Israel. Thus, when Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ, he recognized Him as the leader and authority among God’s people.

What does "Son of the living God" mean?

The phrase "Son of the living God" refers to *Jesus'* relationship with *God the Father*, emphasizing His divine nature. By acknowledging *Jesus as the Son of God*, Peter was proclaiming that Jesus was not just a great teacher or prophet, but part *of the Divine Trinity*.

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> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
>
> *— Matthew 24:44*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Messiah, Second coming, end times

Interpretation:
Christians have always been called to be prepared for the coming *of the Son of Man*. This verse from *Matthew 24:44* reminds us that *Jesus* will return at any moment, and that we must always be ready for that moment. The question is, how should we be prepared?

How can we prepare?

The answer is simple: we must maintain an ongoing relationship with God and keep His commandments. We must read and meditate on Scripture, pray, and attend church regularly. We must also ensure that our daily lives are in line with what God desires of us. This means treating others well, helping them, being generous, and abstaining from anything that displeases God.

We will never know when the time will come

God reminds us that we do not know when Jesus will return and call us to account. Therefore, we must always be ready and prepared. This should guide our daily lives, ensuring that all our decisions and actions are in line with what God expects of us. Ultimately, everything we do should be for the glory of God and to be prepared for His Second Coming.

There will eventually be a day of judgment

It is important to remember that *the coming of Christ* and our Last Judgment are not simply events that will happen in the distant future. Every day we make choices that will affect our eternal life. Therefore, every day we must be prepared for the coming of Christ and our Last Judgment.

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> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.
> *— Revelation 20:6*

Book: New Testament / Revelation
Topics: Messiah, death, Kingdom, Resurrection

Interpretation:
Revelation 20:6 speaks of the importance of the first resurrection and that those who participate in it will not face the second death. The first resurrection refers to the time when *believers in Jesus* will be raised from the dead at His return. This event has not yet happened, but Scripture gives us a prophetic look at what will happen in the future.

What does the second death mean?

The second death refers to the final judgment, where all who have not trusted *in Jesus as their Savior* will face eternal condemnation in the lake of fire. Scripture clearly shows us that the second death is something to be avoided at all costs. Those who participate in the first resurrection will not face this final judgment, but will be received into eternity with the Lord.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

This verse is a call for believers to maintain their faith and continue to trust Jesus until the end. Our goal as Christians is to experience the first resurrection and avoid the second death. To do this, we must recognize the importance of obediently following Christ and living our lives in accordance with His will. We must strive to remain steadfast in our faith as we overcome trials and temptations that come our way.

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