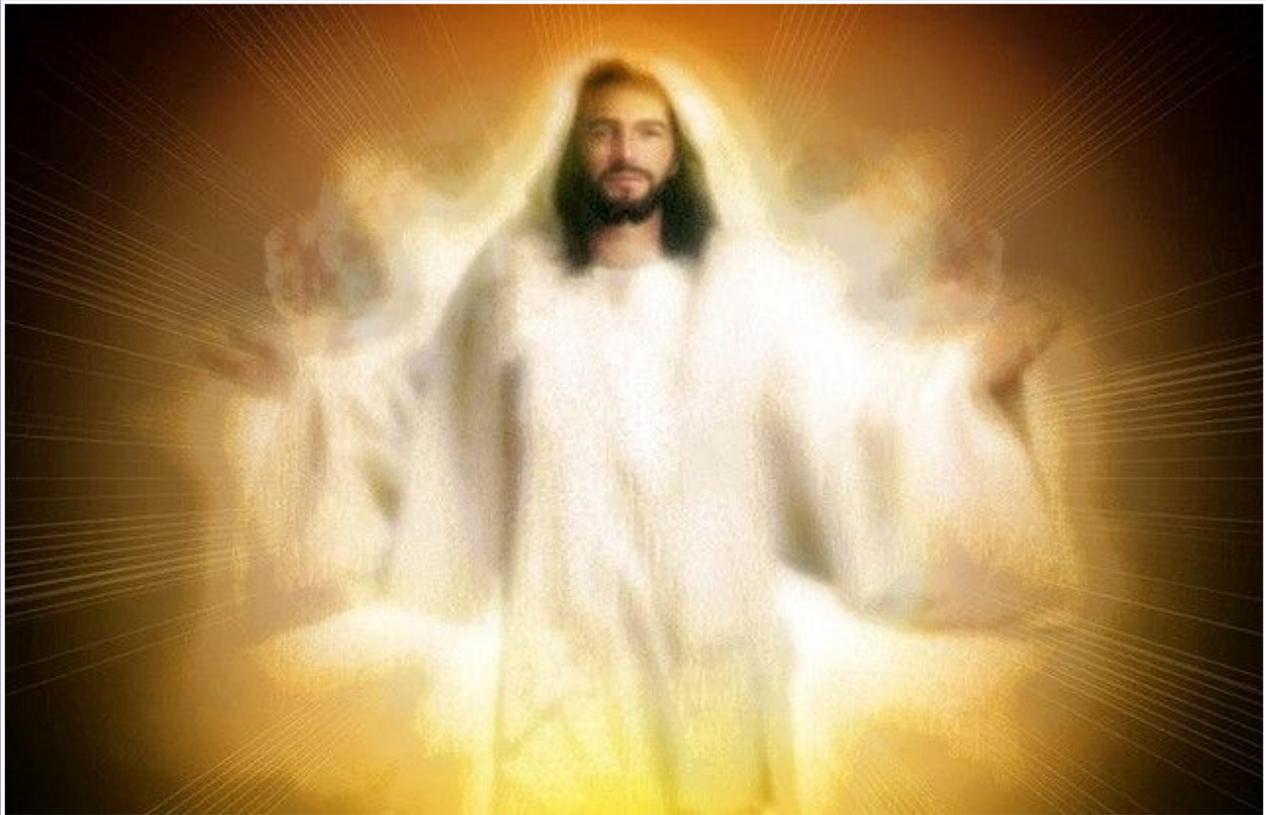


# Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

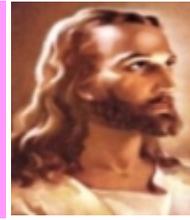
March 2012 Issue 18 Volume 1

(Not For Sale)



**“Those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” (John 14:21)**

# BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord  
Our Saviour**

**Lord I trust in You alone! I seek refuge solely in You!**

**You alone are aware of all the heartaches and shame I met with during the past weeks and months. How innumerable are the insults, temptations and the harsh words that I happened to hear ! Lord I wither away. Anger , irritation and sense of desolation cringe me down !**

**Turn Your ears towards me. Lord You see all the wounds caused in my heart!  
Lord turn Your merciful glance on me .Place Your tender, loving hands on my heart. Touch me Lord! O LORD God how many are the obstacles that come my way! So many hurdles! Countless enemies! Unbearable words!**

**Incline Your ear towards me O God! Redeem at the first opportune moment!  
Keep me safe within Your refuge. Protect me in the fortress of Your Divine Heart. Keep and hide me within the folds of Your Loving Hands.**



**Lord I surrender myself in Your Loving Hands. You alone preserve and rule over me Lord! Your Touch would suffice dear LORD! I shall not be wary or give up hope. Lord save me from all desperate and tight situations.**

**Thank You Lord, for Your Omnipotence, Thank You!**

**ThankYou for Your divine Graces ! Thank You for Your immeasurable Mercy !AMEN !**

**Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.**

# BELOVED IN CHRIST...



**Jesus The Lord  
Our Saviour**

**“Those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” (John 14:21)**



**Beloved in Christ!**

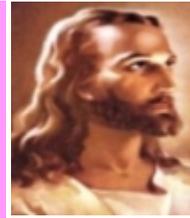
**The LORD invites us to grow day by day united with Him in love and in the knowledge of Him. The Lenten season comes every year as a time of Grace for us Christians. Our LORD took the form as Man and gave up His Body for the atonement of our sins.**

**It is befitting to go on a flash back trail with our lives, these days. It is good to sit at the feet of the LORD and meditate knowing full well our positives and our negatives.**

**Our LORD invites us to weed out our misgivings and faults and walk toward holiness. **“Be perfect.”** (Matthew 5:48)**

**St.Paul exhorts us as an apostle of God saying: “ Be reconciled to God.” (II Corinthians 5:20) This is the essence of Jesus Christ becoming The Word Incarnate. Mankind became estranged to God due to its sinfulness. Humanity suffered not knowing the way to get reconciled to God. This is impossible with human power alone. God in all His goodness deigned to send His only Son out of great compassion for us. His Body and His Blood became the atoning sacrifice for our sins. “ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (II Corinthians 5:21)**

## BELOVED IN CHRIST...



**Jesus The Lord  
Our Saviour**

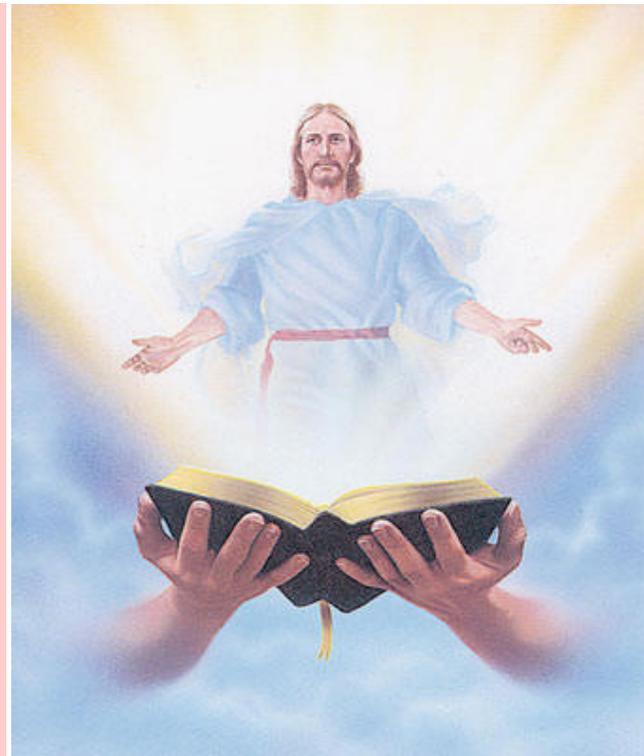
Christ's Blood alone can wash us clean and get us united and reconciled with God. Hence , meditating on the LORD's passion and attaining perfection as partners in Jesus Christ alone is God's greatest desire. He chose us in His Love. " He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:5-6). **I wish you joy!**

**Fr.V.Ignatius.S.J.,  
Satya Nilayam, 81, L.B. Road,  
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai- 600 041.**

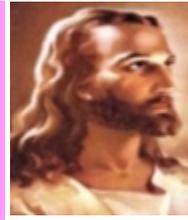
## The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !

" Let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." ( I Corinthians 5:8)

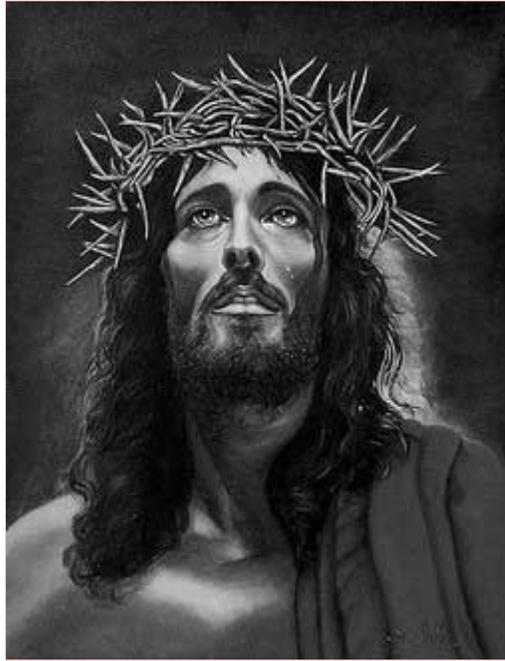
This is the advice that St.Paul gives the inhabitants of Corinth! This advice knocks at the door of our conscience even now ! The Lamb of God "Jesus is the Pascal Lamb". Our actions should be unleavened and without blemish in order to participate along His Side. The Body of Jesus is the unleavened Bread!



# The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



## Jesus The Lord Our Saviour



### 1.The situation of yore...

The city of Corinth was situated on the Southern side of Greece about 2000 years ago. It was subjected to the Roman rule during the time of Jesus. It was a great trading city. The modern city flourished as the seat of the Greek and Roman culture, education and commerce. The lives of people were governed and driven by worldly thinking. Its inhabitants numbered around a lack. It was a great flourishing city by the standards of those times! They were strong financially and in worldly knowledge. There was thus no dearth of sinful habits. It was around this time that St.Paul preached, “Jesus crucified on the Cross” as the Good News.

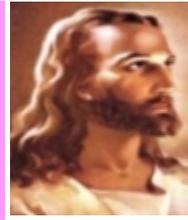
The Greek wise men and The Roman merchants amassed immense wealth using their commercial tactics. In the midst of them all, “how does one preach that “The One crucified on the Cross is the Messiah”? What could one say to make them understand?

“For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (I Corinthians 1: 17-18)

### 2. The thoughts of the philosophers

During the time when St.Paul commenced his preaching, there were several famous Greek philosophers. These are a few:

**The Knowledge of Christ will change our  
life style !**



**Jesus The Lord  
Our Saviour**

1. Heraclitus
2. Parmenides
3. Democritus
4. Epicurus
5. Zeno
6. Socrates
7. Platon
8. Aristoteles
9. Archimides
10. Pythagoras

Each one taught his philosophy. Some of these philosophers spoke based on worldly standards and thinking. Their worship of God and celebrations were based on these principles. This world is filled with struggles. Even the human beings who are in this world made up of the panchaboothas are temporary. This worldly life is the end of human life. Nothing is beyond that. Hence within the short span that is allotted us, let us avoid suffering. Let us enjoy all the pleasures of life. This is our way of life!

The Dionisyus cult was based on this thinking. When the Greeks worship this God, the men and women would be highly intoxicated. Their underlying thinking was that when they worshipped this God, they could enjoy pleasures to the maximum.

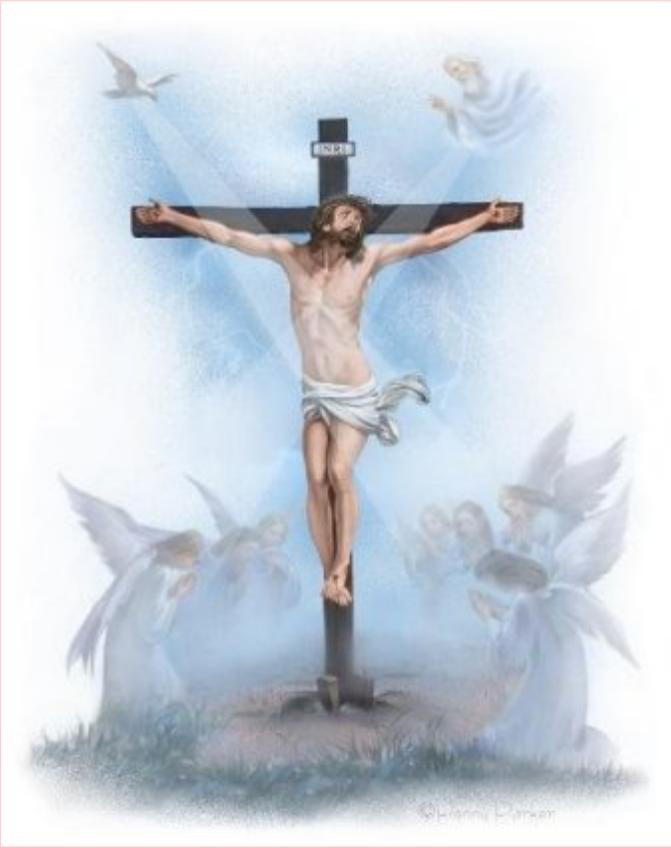
**Wealth! Licentiousness! Lust!**

This was the most prominent and common way of life at Corinth. That is why we are able to comprehend the words of St. Paul.

# The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



**Jesus The Lord  
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“ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons- not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with any one who bears the name of brother or sister who is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside. “Drive out the wicked person from among you.” (I Corinthians 5:11)

The foundation for this teaching of St.Paul is Jesus the messiah who was crucified on the Cross. When some one accepts Him with faith, then his life style will undergo a transformation.

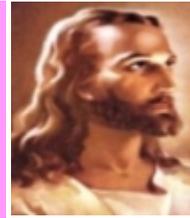
### 3.The News about Christ crucified on the Cross

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.” (I Corinthians 2:2-5)

### 4. The One who received the gifts of the Holy Spirit

It is not to the scientists and to the wise but it is to those who have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit that the Truth about Jesus Christ is revealed. Those who incline on worldly thinking cannot comprehend the Truth about Jesus. They cannot experience It. It is only by the Holy Spirit that it will be revealed in its entirety about Jesus. The Truth about God can be grasped only by those who have a heart for God.

## The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



## Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

“ These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.” (I Corinthians 2:10)

Let us take an example, What is your thinking while you read this magazine? Who will know all the thoughts going on in your mind right now? Your thoughts are known to you alone. Only when you reveal it to some one will that person know. Think about this. Just as only when you reveal your thoughts to some on the same wave length or another person , the person understands, God's thoughts can be understood only by the Spirit of God! Only the person whom the Spirit of God chooses to reveal will comprehend the Truth about God. Those who are immersed in the worldly thoughts cannot grasp the Truth about the Messiah, who was crucified on the Cross.

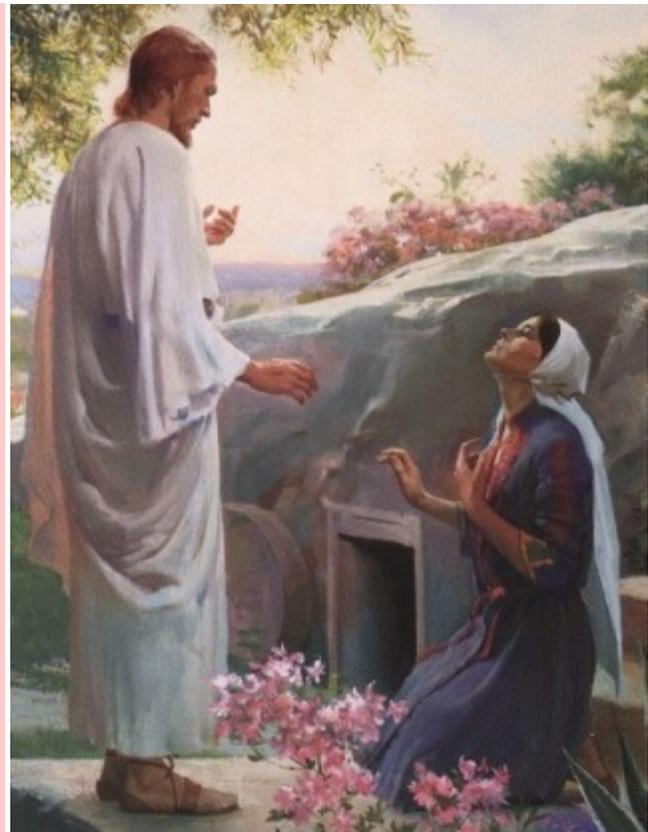
“ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” ( I Corinthians 2:14)

### 5. How did Jesus reveal Himself gradually to His disciples?

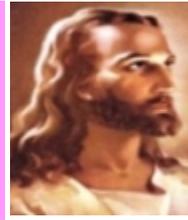
When Our LORD Jesus Christ began His public life, He prayed with penance and fasting. (Matthew 4:1-11)

The world opposed Him even then. The basic principle of satan who challenged Him was only worldly thinking. We see this in three different ways.

A) The LORD Jesus Christ could turn out to be a big business magnet! If all the stones in the desert were turned to bread and fed, how many people in poverty could be soothed! If He were to use His authority and power in this manner, then there would be no want! ( Matthew 4:3) We could have ate and drank merrily! All hunger and thirst would have been abolished!



## **The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !**



## **Jesus The Lord Our Saviour**

**B) Jumping from a high cliff, Why cant Jesus appear to the people as if He were flying and thus attract them to Himself ? If Jesus were to use His authority and His power and attract people to Himself through some magical act, how wonderful that would be! Jesus could show Himself in a very astounding manner and shock the people! He could probably cause the people to forget their troubles! He could mesmerize His followers!**

**C) The third is the highlight! That the whole world was within the control of the evil one and if fallen prostrate and worshipped it, then one could satiate one's greed of authority by bringing all the kingdoms of the world within control ! Pride would increase! All can be brought within one's control.**

**The answer given by Jesus to these three challenges thrown by satan:**

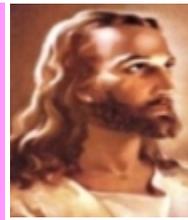
**“Away with you, Satan ! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” (Matthew 4:10)**

**Jesus forsook all worldly thinking and trusting solely on the Heavenly Father, He emptied Himself.“ He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, and became obedient to the point of death –even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:7-8)**

**Jesus controlled himself in the worldly wealth , selfish pride, lust and offered Himself to the Father. He revealed that the way of the Cross is the way to the redemption of mankind.The outlook of God differs from the outlook of human beings. He enabled His disciples grasp this truth gradually.**

**He revealed this in three circumstances to His very intimate apostles, gradually, even before His acceptance of the death on the Cross.**

# The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



## Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

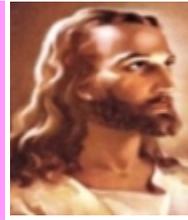


**1. The Messiah will suffer:** Once when the disciples were alone with Him, He asked them, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13) The disciples told Him of the various comments passed by the people. But He wanted to know how the apostles who were very close to Him understood Him.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-17) The proclamation of Peter's faith is highly commendable. Jesus appreciated him a plenty. Jesus told him that it was divine revelation. An individual cannot obtain this with human endeavour and strength. Peter rejoiced at such a revelation. But after some time Jesus revealed another bit of news to the disciples.

'From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.' (Matthew 16:21) As soon as they heard this news, Peter who was praised, tried to stop Jesus. Jesus called him aside and rebuked him. "LORD! This must never happen to you." (Matthew 16:22) But Jesus warned Peter just like chasing away the evil one. "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus continued to give them advice "If any one want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:23-24)

# The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



**Jesus The Lord  
Our Saviour**

**2. The Son of God shall suffer:** After six days, Jesus took Peter who was close to Him, James and his brother John alone to a high mountain. Jesus was transfigured in front of them. The Face of Jesus shone bright as the sun. Moses and Elijah appeared before them. The Apostles were wonderstruck and stood in awe. A voice was heard during this divine apparition: “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5) The apostles who witnessed this vision were very scared. They fall down in genuflection. After some time, Jesus woke them patting them on their back. He asked them not to show the revelation given them. During this divine vision, they were revealed and informed that Jesus was the Son of God, that He was the One closest to the Father’s heart, and that we have to pay heed to His voice.

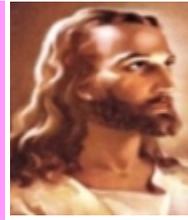
When they climbed down the hill, a crowd of people were gathered at the foot of the hill. A man suffering from epilepsy was brought to Jesus to be healed. Jesus healed him. The disciples who had witnessed all these, followed Jesus with immense trust and great expectations. The disciples who had seen the power and glory of Jesus wished to participate in the glory of Jesus. There is no deficiency in this ! But once again when the disciples were gathered around Him, Jesus mentioned about His sufferings.

“ The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.” And they were greatly distressed.’ ( Matthew 17:22-23)

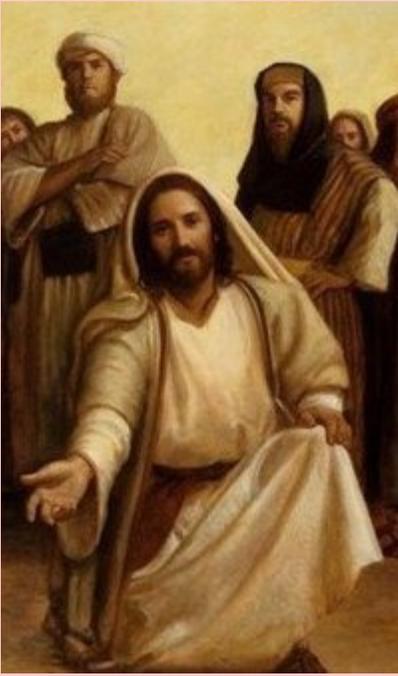
**3. Insult and Glory:** Even as Jesus mentioned about the death on the Cross, the disciples confronted one another with the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God?” this is an example of how the disciples were engrossed in the worldly thinking. (Matthew 18:1) The attitude of Jesus and the attitude of the disciples were like those of the opposite poles. Our LORD continued to mention that good values like humility, the greatness to forgive, being merciful, purity belonged to the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 18:19)

Our LORD emphasized on the importance of letting go of all worldly thoughts , to equip ourselves with Godly thinking, and to give God the first place in our life. Even after they were taught all this, the disciples still saw Jesus only through the eyes of worldly thinking. The days for Jesus to leave this world were fast approaching. While on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus once again mentioned to the disciples about the insults and the resultant glory that He was to experience. “ See we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.” (Matthew 20:18-19).

# The Knowledge of Christ will change our life style !



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Just as Our LORD constantly mentioned about His insults and His death , His disciples on the other hand were discussing about the position that they were to hold. The mother of two important disciples James and John recommended to Jesus on behalf of them.

“Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one on your left, in your kingdom.”(Matthew 20:21). They had not realized that they were also supposed to participate in His cup of suffering.

## **6. A call to every one**

The News about the Messiah crucified on the Cross is an invitation thrown open by God to the whole world. The parable about the wedding narrated by Jesus well expounds this fact. (Matthew22) When we walk behind Jesus realizing the indelible Truth that Jesus alone is The Way to enter the Kingdom of God , then we will have a place in the Kingdom of God.“ I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Worldly thinking, greed bathed in selfishness, imaginative thinking that refutes the plans of God, all these are bound to shun God’s calling. The call, “Every one is welcome to the marriage feast” is open to all. Among those who were called, some ignored the call and “went to the fields”, while some others “went to their shops” and some others “killed the servants”. Thus those who were called, besides shunning the call, were not only immersed in their laziness, they even functioned against the will of God.” Therefore those who were called had become unsuitable.” (Matthew 22:8) When a person thus ignores God and shuns Him with worldly thinking, all these are bound to separate Him from God.

## **7. Knowledge bathed in Love**

When we ponder over this agonizing question of Jesus , personally for ourselves, “Philip, have you not understood me?” , then we will understand the incomprehensible love of God for each one of us.“They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” (John 14:21)

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life style !**



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Our Saviour**

**Those who wish to understand the LORD should practice being affectionate towards Him. Consider how in our life we become friends one with the other. We do not train to love by reading the Bible, or books, or by listening to a great preacher, or by conducting a research in a lab. We just need soulful trust and affection to love Jesus! God Himself will cause this affection to spring forth from our heart. In the Church's History , the lives of several thousands of Saints would bear testimony to this.**

**The daily Prayer of St. Ignatius: “ O God ! Give me the grace that I may understand Your Son Jesus more and more. That I may grow in deep affection , to follow Him more closely. “**

*Fr. V. Ignatius.S.J.*