

THE MESSIAH/THE CHRIST

JOHN 5:1-21

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: The Jewish leaders wanted their messiah to be a score-keeping legalist. According to them you were acceptable to God only if you lived by rules and not by faith. Although the Old Testament pointed to God's coming Messiah, their legalism kept them from recognizing Him. (See the section the Messiah/the Christ in the chart "The Claims of Christ" in John 5 of the Life Application Study Bible.)

HEALS. Jesus sovereignly healed the man who had no faith proving that He was the Messiah/the Christ. Legalism blinds faith, and the miracle performed by Christ was not even acknowledged by the Jewish leaders. My personal relationship with Christ is based only on faith from beginning to end. (**John 5:1-15, fn 5:10 [2nd], Galatians 3:10-14, fn 3:10, Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8, 9, fn 2:8, 9**) *How could you live your Christians life by faith?*

CONFRONTS LEGALISM (mankind's attempt to please God by rule-keeping). Christ gives salvation, righteousness, and rest from our works (called Sabbath rest) by faith, not by human effort and legalism. (**John 5:16-18, Colossians 2:16, 17, 21-23, fn 2:20-23, Hebrews 3:7-15, fn 3:11**) *How could you miss God's spiritual rest?*

GIVES LIFE. Jesus changed water into wine cutting short the wine's aging process. The Samaritan woman, Nicodemus, a lame man, and a royal official all were shown by Jesus that He not only is the way to eternal life, but that He is Creator and Sustainer of life. He is the *only* way to have eternal life. (**John 5:19-22, John 5:24, John 10:10, fn 10:10, John 11:25, 26, fn 11:25, 26, John 14:6, fn 14:5, 6**) *Why is Jesus your only way to have eternal life?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?