

# What is the Christian and Missionary Alliance? <sup>1</sup>

*...the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints...Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:26,27).*

Who is Jesus Christ? In this age of mass communication and information overload, it may seem redundant to devote another book to this discussion. Certainly, no other historic figure is more widely known, revered, or debated. He is the central figure of all history.

However, in this post-Christian, biblically illiterate society, much of what is known about Jesus Christ is considered myth, fable, and hearsay. It's as if Jesus Christ has become like a character in some great mystery. The "Jesus" our current society has created is not much like the Christ of the Bible. His power, majesty, divinity, humanity, compassion, and—maybe most importantly—His mission, have often been watered down or even forgotten.

But no one man has had a greater impact on His world. No greater giver of peace and hope can be found. God's Word, the Bible, makes clear precisely who Jesus Christ is:

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. . . .all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; . . . For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:15-20).*

Jesus Christ is the Word who became flesh and lived with us. Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus Christ is the "All Sufficient One"—everything we need. This truth prompted Dr. A. B. Simpson, the founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, to avoid what he saw as minor differences in lesser points of doctrine and preach Jesus only.

From his position as a young Presbyterian minister in Canada, he developed into a formidable New York City preacher within a decade. Abandoning much of his rigid theology and shifting the focus of his ministry to unchurched people, he encountered Jesus Christ in a fresh, reviving way. Many responded to the powerful message of salvation that Jesus is the Savior of all who believe.

The demands of a fruitful ministry often left Dr. Simpson physically, emotionally and spiritually drained. However, he found that by constantly and completely surrendering to Christ, he could be filled with God's Spirit for supernatural power and holiness. This prompted him to proclaim Christ as Sanctifier.

Having learned from the teaching of others and from his own careful study of God's Word that Jesus was not only able but willing to heal people with physical afflictions, Dr. Simpson trusted Christ for the needs of his own weakening body. His health and strength were remarkably restored. Dr. Simpson learned to view Jesus as his Savior, his Sanctifier, and his Healer.

From the earliest days of ministry to unreached people, Dr. Simpson preached the premillennial coming of Jesus Christ—that Jesus will return to reign as King on earth for a thousand years. Based on Matthew 24:14, Dr. Simpson believed that every part of the world would have to hear

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<sup>1</sup> *Knowing Jesus*, Arnold Fleagle, Editor (Colorado Springs: National Church Ministries, 2000) 7-9.

about Jesus' gift of salvation before Christ would return. In addition to Jesus' three present-day ministries of saving, sanctifying, and healing, Dr. Simpson came to know Him as the Coming King.

Dr. Simpson's evangelistic fervor for those who hadn't yet trusted Christ as Savior led to a burden for people around the world. As his missionary enterprise to reach people in distant places was developed, so was his solid biblical concept of a Christ who will meet every need of those who come into relationship with Him. Jesus Christ is Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King for all who accept him.

"Jesus Only," a hymn written by Dr. Simpson, vividly captures his passion for presenting what has come to be known as the Fourfold Gospel message—a deeper and more complete message of who Jesus Christ is.

Jesus only is our message,  
Jesus all our theme shall be;  
We will lift up Jesus ever,  
Jesus only will we see.

Jesus only, Jesus ever,  
Jesus all in all we sing,  
Savior, Sanctifier, and Healer,  
Glorious Lord and Coming King.



As we embark on the journey of knowing Jesus, we'll rely on the truth of God's Word, the Bible. In the pages of the book, we'll also learn from some great men and women of God who have blazed the path we're about to travel. But as one famous song says, let's not lose sight of our purpose and our passion: "Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

For more information about the Christian and Missionary Alliance go to this web address:  
<http://www.cmalliance.org>