

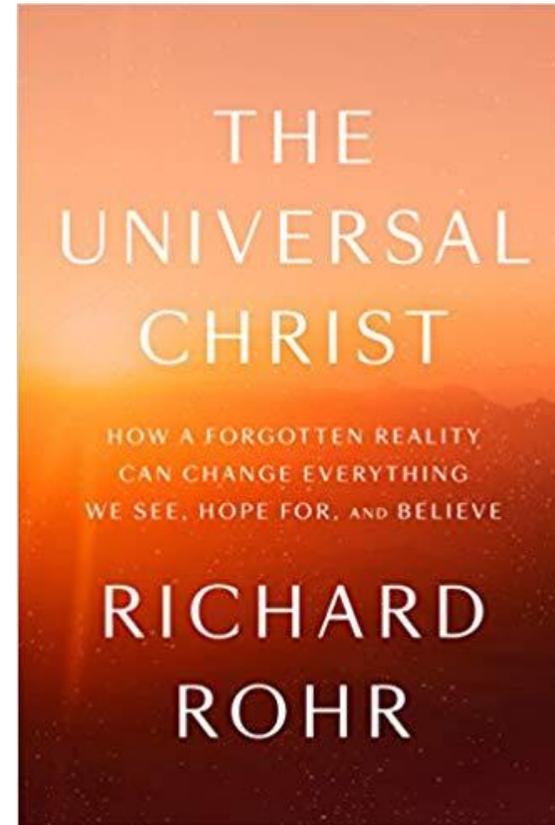
The Universal Christ: *Accepting that You Are Fully Accepted.*

*I am making the whole of creation
new... It will come true....It is
already done! I am the Alpha and
the Omega, both the Beginning
and the end.*

Revelations 21:5-6

*I tell you solemnly, before
Abraham came to be, I AM.*

John 8:58



Jesus: Real Union with God... but “I AM” ??
Divinity and humanity must speak as one.
Jesus died and Christ rose. Jesus as the
Corporate Personality who includes and
reveals all of creation in its full purpose
and goal

Jesus: “Son of the Human”/ “everyman”
87 times (Synoptics)
“I Am the way the truth and the life.”
John 14:6; “Before Abraham ever was I
am” 8:58

The Eternal Christ: “the pioneer and
perfector of our faith,” Hebrews 12:2



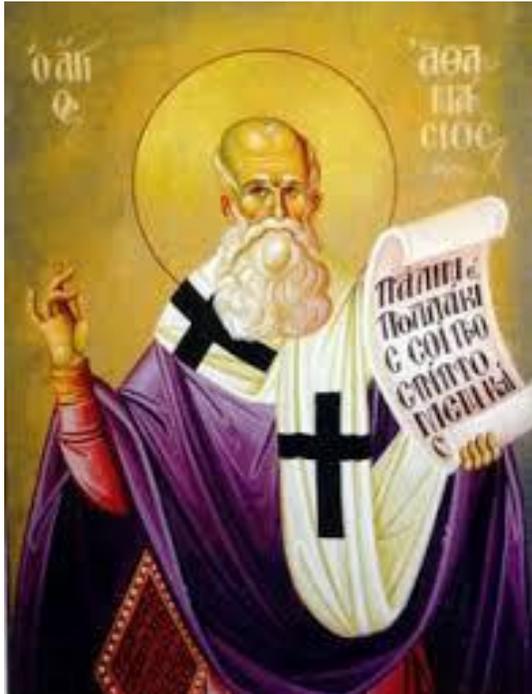
Seeing and Recognizing Are Not the Same
Thing

Light and Enlightenment

Loving Jesus Loving Christ

St Athanasius “Father of Orthodoxy” (296-373)

“God was consistent in working through one man to reveal himself everywhere, as well as through the other parts of His creation, so that nothing was left devoid of his Divinity and his self-knowledge...so that the whole universe was filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters fill the sea.”



West: “incarnation” or “salvation”

East: “divinization” (theosis)

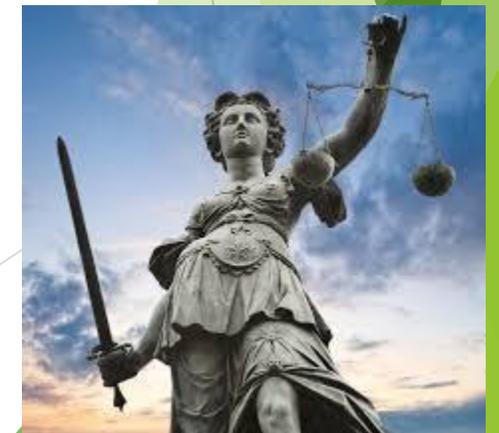
(see 2Peter 1:4: “He has given us something very great and wonderful...you are able to share the divine nature!”)

Christianity’s core good news



“Incarnation” “Salvation” Divinization (*Theosis*)

- ▶ ?? One time, one person event??
- ▶ God is not an old man on a throne; God is Relationship itself: dynamism of Infinite Love between Divine Diversity
- ▶ God’s infinite love has always included all the God created.
- ▶ The Divine “DNA” of the Creator is held in all the creatures.
- ▶ Restoration vs. Retributive
- ▶ Retributive frame: neither good or new



Faith at its essential core is *accepting that you are accepted!*

- ▶ Start with Jesus (the perfect unity of the human Jesus with the divine Christ), continue with yourself, and finally expand to everything else.
- ▶ “How you get there is where you arrive”



“From this fullness (pleroma) we have all received grace upon grace” (John 1:16) “grace responding to grace gracefully”

Seeing and Recognizing are not the same thing.

- ▶ The Divine Presence is here!
- ▶ Resurrection experiences: He showed himself but under another form. (Acts 2:36: ...both Lord and Christ) (1 Cor 15:4-8)
- ▶ The sacramental principle: Begin with a concrete moment of encounter, based in this physical world, and the soul universalizes from there, so that what is true here becomes true everywhere else too.
- ▶ “scandal of the particular”
- ▶ Paul: Col 1:15-20; Eph 1:3-14. John 1:1-14



Light and Enlightenment

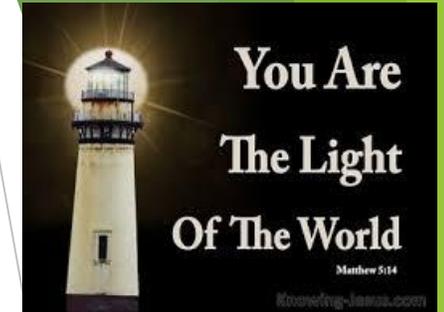
- ▶ Jesus: the light of the world
- ▶ You are the light of the world

- ▶ Light: less something you see directly and more something by which you see all other things

- ▶ Not “worship me” but “follow me”
- ▶ John’s evolutionary message: “The true light that enlightens every person *was coming (erxomenon)* into the world” 1:9



John 8:12

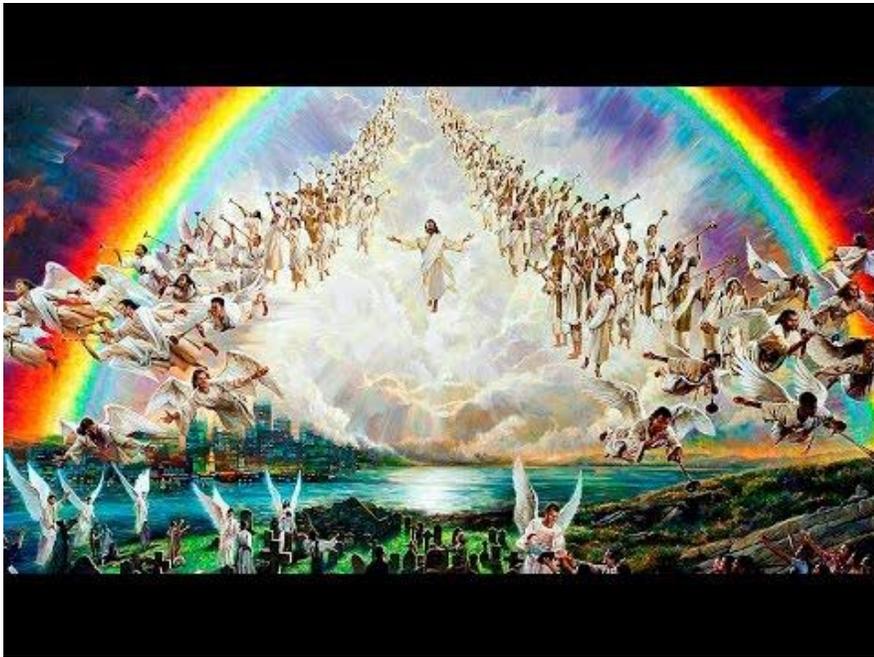


Matt 5:14



Second Coming / Forever Coming of Christ “the ongoing process of eternal resurrection”

Second Coming of Christ



Forever Coming of Christ



God is not the God of the dead but the God of the living for to him all people are alive.
(Lk 20:39)



Loving Jesus, Loving Christ

- ▶ Jesus, our heart capacity
- ▶ Christ, our mental capacity
- ▶ When your isolated “I” turns into a connected “we” you have moved from Jesus to Christ
- ▶ No longer a perfect “I” because we are saved “in Christ,” and as Christ...” Through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.”

