

## *Men's Bible Journey: Hymn of Christ*

*Romans 8 is central to Paul's teaching on the new life gained in reconciliation by God for men. God was "in Christ" reconciling the cosmos to himself. We are reconciled in the death of Jesus - BUT - we are being rescued (saved) through his life (not his death). It is the resurrected living Christ you is our savior - but our need to be saved is reconciliation.*

Pliny's uncle, Pliny the Elder, helped raise and educate him. Pliny the Younger wrote hundreds of letters, of which 247 survive, As the Roman governor of Bithynia-Pontus (now in modern Turkey) Pliny wrote a letter to Emperor Trajan around 112 AD/CE and asked for counsel on dealing with Christians Pliny is one of three key Roman authors who refer to early Christians, the other two being Tacitus and Suetonius. These authors refer to events which take place during the reign of various Roman emperors, Suetonius writing about an expulsion from Rome of Jews because of disturbances instigated by a certain "Chrestus" during the reign of Claudius (41 to 54), and also punishments by Nero (who reigned from 54 to 68), Tacitus referring to Nero's actions after the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD, while Pliny writes to Trajan. But the chronological order for the documentation begins with Pliny writing around 111 AD. He wrote: . . . *that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god.*"

1. *God is. He is the only truly living one.*
2. *He is who he is. God determines all by his purpose and WILL. He determines to be God for us - for MAN.*
3. *God reveals himself (Godself) by means of himself - Jesus is God revealing - revelation. His revelation is true to himself - his acts are actual - dependable.*
4. *God exegetes himself John 1:18 in Jesus*
5. *Jesus is the image of God - the God determined only means of knowing God.*
6. *The acts of Jesus are true to God - revealing the One who is mystery and unknowable. God's goal for us is "in Christ Jesus". He (Jesus) absolutely fulfilled the Law - the WILL of God - as MAN. We are to live in him.*
7. *God is in Jesus redeeming Man - God's goal in "in Christ Jesus"! II Cor 5:19*
8. *Did any first century hymn make it into scripture???*

I appeal to you in Christ: if there is anything that will stimulate you, any persuasion of love, any warmth or affection, or compassion, by all of your participation in the Spirit - make my joy full by having one understanding, united in love, in heart and opinion. Never act out of envy or self-promotion! In humility give preference to others before yourself. Heed others' interests before your own. **Have that mindset in yourselves as in Christ Jesus: though existing originally in the nature of God, he did not consider clinging to oneness with God a goal, but he poured himself out by taking the nature of a slave and sharing in humanity, in every aspect as a man. And he humbled himself to the extent of death - even death on a cross. At this God exalted him on high and endowed him with that name above all names; so that at the name of "Jesus" every knee will bow, in the heaven, on earth, and beneath - and every tongue proclaim: "Jesus Christ is Lord!", to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:1-11#**