

PART 4**Clauses with *Whom* and *Which*:
Replacement of Objects****Setting the Context**

Prereading Questions The teachings of Jesus have had a tremendous impact on our world. What do you know about his teachings?

Christianity

Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, whom Christians call the "Son of God." At the same time, Christians commemorate Jesus as an actual historical figure. He was a man of lowly social standing who was unknown outside of the small part of the Roman Empire where he lived and died.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, in about 4 B.C.E.* and was raised in Galilee, where he spent most of his short life. Little is known about Jesus' early years. Our knowledge of Jesus comes from the last three years of his life, which he spent preaching a doctrine of brotherly love and repentance. During these three years of teaching, he and his closest followers traveled throughout Palestine. Wherever Jesus went, he drew large crowds. Before long, he was known as a healer, and people came from far and wide to ask his help.

As Jesus grew popular with the common people, who saw him as their long-awaited savior, he became a political threat. Within a short time, Jesus was arrested as a political rebel and was crucified.

Discussing Ideas. Christianity has many different sects (or divisions). Are you familiar with any of them? Which?

*B.C.E. before the common era

A. Clauses with Whom and Which: Replacement of Objects of Verbs

The relative pronouns *who(m)* and *which* can replace the object of a verb in a simple sentence. *Whom* is used to refer to people only. Note that *whom* is used in formal speaking and writing; *who* is often substituted in informal English. *Which* is used to refer to things or ideas. *Which* must be used in nonrestrictive clauses (with commas). *That* is preferred in restrictive clauses (without commas) that describe things or ideas.

	Examples
Simple Sentences	Dr. Gill will teach a class on the early Christians. I met Dr. Gill last week.
Complex Sentences	Dr. Gill, whom I met last week, will teach a course on the early Christians. (formal) Dr. Gill, who I met last week, will teach a course on the early Christians. (informal)
Simple Sentences	History 410 covers early Roman history. Dr. Gill teaches History 410.
Complex Sentence	History 410, which Dr. Gill teaches, covers early Roman history.

- 1 Underline the adjective clauses in the following sentences. Then decide whether the clauses are restrictive or nonrestrictive. Add commas if the clauses are nonrestrictive.

Example: After Christ's death, the followers whom Jesus had chosen met privately.
no commas needed

- Peter was a fisherman whom Jesus had selected to lead his new religion.
- Peter whom Jesus had chosen as leader kept the followers together.
- The followers of Jesus were Jews, and they believed in Judaism which they continued to practice.
- Christianity as a separate religion actually began with Saint Paul whom many scholars consider to have been the main organizer of the new movement.
- Both Peter and Paul were probably executed around 60 A.D. in Rome which Christians had made the center of the new religion.
- At that time, only a small sect of "fanatics" believed in Christianity which most people ignored.
- By 400 C.E., however, Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire which the Emperor Trajan had extended throughout the Mediterranean.
- Today over 1 billion people believe in the group of religions which we call Christianity.
- The largest denomination of Christianity is Roman Catholicism which has several hundred million followers.
- In the latter part of the 20th century, many Christians returned to a literal interpretation of the Bible which is the basis of Christian belief.



Culture Note

The United States began as a Christian country but now respects the variety of religions of its citizens. Most schools began the day with a Christian prayer until 1962, when the Supreme Court ruled against it. School prayer remains a controversial issue in the United States.

- 2 Combine the following sentences by using *whom* or *which*. Form an adjective clause from the second sentence in each pair. Change words and add punctuation when necessary.

Example: The word *holiday* actually came from the words *holy* (religious) and *day*. We use the word *holiday* to mean a vacation day.

The word holiday, which we use to mean a vacation day, actually came from the words holy and day.



Decorating a Christmas tree

1. Holidays such as Christmas have become more like social occasions than religious events. Christianity instituted Christmas.
2. Christmas originally honored only the birth of Jesus Christ. People of many religions now celebrate Christmas.
3. Perhaps the best-known character in the Christmas celebration today is Santa Claus. We see Santa Claus in every store window.
4. The symbol of Santa Claus came into being in 1822 in the poem *The Night Before Christmas*. Clement Clark Moore wrote this poem.
5. The Christmas tree is a popular tradition. German farmers began this tradition many, many years ago.
6. The custom of decorating the tree began in the 1800s. Bohemians started this custom.
7. The manger or nativity scene is one of the oldest Christmas symbols. St. Francis of Assisi first created a manger in 1223.
8. The birth of Jesus Christ marks the beginning of the Roman calendar. Much of the world uses the Roman calendar.
9. A Roman abbot and astronomer set Christ's birth as the beginning of the calendar. The Catholic Church commissioned this person.
10. Other calendars include the Islamic, the Chinese, and the Jewish calendars. Many groups or countries follow these calendars.

B. Clauses with Whom and Which: Replacement of Objects of Prepositions

Relative pronouns may replace the object of a preposition. Several constructions are possible, depending on how formal or informal the statement should be. In formal English, the preposition begins the adjective clause. In informal English, the preposition usually follows the verb in the adjective clause. If the preposition begins the clause, *whom*, *which*, or *whose* must be used. In restrictive clauses with the preposition at the end, the relative pronoun may be dropped.