

The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ (2)

Introduction

- A. When we open the Bible we see the Lord Jesus Christ at the center of everything. He is the theme of all of its books, He is the revelation of God to man, He is the Savior, the Head of the Church, the Lord of the Harvest Field, the source of all grace, the example of love, the judge of all mankind.
- B. It is the eternal plan of God the Father, that Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, would have the preeminence in all things, Colossians 1:18.
- C. One of the most important answers that could ever be given would be in response to the question, Do you believe in the deity of Jesus Christ and have you received Him as Lord and Savior? The answer to this question determines one's destiny, manner of life and character.

I. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God in His Ministry.

- A. He claimed to forgive sins, Mark 2:5,7,10,11.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee . . . Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?. . . But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (He saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed and go thy way

Observation: The Scribes were right - only God can forgive sins. But, they failed to realize that Jesus Christ was God. He has fully forgiven all who believe on Him as Lord and Savior (Col. 2:13).

- B. He claimed to be the Judge of the world, John 5:22; 12:47,48.

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son . . . And if any man hear My words and believe not, I judge him not, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth Me and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him} the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Observation: Here Jesus Christ affirmed that He was the judge of all men through His Word. This truth is referred to many times in the Scripture (Rom. 14:10,11; Phil. 2:6-11; Rev. 20:11-15). The seriousness of sinning and the reality of a coming judgment must be faced by both Christians and non-Christians.

- C. He claimed to be the only Savior of man, John **5:24**; 8:24.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.

Observation: Only in and through Jesus Christ is there hope of salvation. In His substitutionary death and resurrection He made adequate provision for all who would believe on Him. To reject Him and His provision is to condemn one's self to eternal judgment.

D. He claimed to give eternal life, John 10:28; 11:25.

And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall anyman pluck them out of My hand ... Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection and the life, he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Observation: It is incredible to believe that Jesus Christ would say such truths if He were not conscious of His deity. He constantly pointed out the sin of pride and yet in these verses claimed a most exalted position for Himself.

II. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God in Utilizing Titles of Deity.

A. He claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God, Matthew 16:16,17; John 4:25,26.

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the son of the Living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven . . . The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ, when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He.

Observation: Here the Lord Jesus affirmed His deity by designating Himself to be the Old Testament promised Messiah - the Son of God. When He said the same thing in His trial before the High Priest, He was immediately condemned of blasphemy and sentenced to death. See Mark 14:61-64 and Matthew 27:43.

B. He claimed to be the Jehovah (Tahwah) of the Old Testament, John 8:24,28,58.

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins . . . Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall ye know that I am He . . . Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Observation: In these verses Jesus Christ designates Himself as the One Who spoke to Moses at the burning bush. He claims the name that He gave to Moses at that time (Exodus 3:14). There are many references in the New Testament where this name is given to the Lord Jesus. Note Isaiah 6:1-3 with John 12:41 and Isaiah 40:3 with Matthew 3:3 and Joel 2:32 with Rom. 10:13.

C. He claimed to be the predicted Son of Man, Mark 10:45; Matt. 26:63-65.

For even the son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many ... And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure Thee by the Living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said; nevertheless I say unto you. Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy . . .

Observation: This title was prophesied of the Messiah in Daniel 7:13,14. Here Jesus Christ claimed the Title as His own. This was His favorite designation and referred to His representative work.

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