

MSB 208

MORE SEED and BREAD

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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THE DEITY OF THE SON

by John C. Ribbens

Among those professing faith in Jesus Christ are some who no longer believe that He is God. They contend that although Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary and lived a perfect sinless life, He was, nevertheless, not God. This position is supported by the notion that He could not be the son of God on the one hand and God the Father on the other.

His position as the Son of God is compared to the human relationship between an earthly father and his male offspring. Passages such as John 3:35 which declare that "the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand": and John 5:20 which states, "For the Father loveth the Son and sheweth Him all things that Himself doeth: and He will shew Him greater works than these, that ye may marvel," are used to demonstrate this Father and son relationship.

Any attempt to understand this relationship as taught in scripture will meet with utter failure apart from the help of the Spirit of God. I do not believe that the meaning of the phrase "the Son of God" can be understood by thinking of Jesus Christ as the male offspring of the Virgin Mary. On the contrary, this expression will only be understood by an unhindered work of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of Matthew states how Jesus began to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done. Matthew 11:20-27. As Jesus viewed these cities he declared, "**But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for thee.**"

In His prayer to the Father, Jesus declared, "**Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. All things**

are delivered unto Me of My Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father; save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him."

This powerful passage demonstrates conclusively that if any man ever comes into a knowledge of the Father, it must come about through a work of the Son. This statement is equally true of the Son whom no man can know apart from a work of the Father. Based upon this passage, all that can ever be known about the Father must come about through a work of the Son. God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to reveal something of the deity of the Father in the deity of the Son of God. This truth is stated in John 1:18. **"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten God, the One being in the bosom of the Father, He declares Him."**

The term "only begotten" is the Greek word *monogenes*. It is a compound of the word *monos*, meaning singly existent, lone, solitary, alone in respect of restriction; and the word *genos*, signifying generation. This same term "begotten" also occurs in John 1: 14; John 3:16, 18 and 1 John 4:9.

Who is this "only begotten God"? He is none other than that one who "became flesh and tabernacled among us, . . . as only begotten (*monogenes*) from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14. He is none other than His Son, the only begotten (*monogenes*) Whom He gave that **"whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** John 3: 16. The Son of God is no one less than a generation of the Father, God produced, in all respects being of the essential nature, of the essence, and enjoying total equality with the invisible God referred to in John 1:18.

God the Father will never be known and can never be known apart from the Son of God. This is exactly why Jesus declares in John 14:9, **"He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."** The word "seen" is the Greek word *horao* which signifies perception; to see with the mind. My perception of the Father is a direct and an immediate result of having "seen" the Son of God. This has absolutely nothing to do with physical sight. It has everything to do with a work of the Holy Spirit, a work of divine generation that has imprinted upon my mind an understanding of the essential nature of the Father.

All attempts to bring about this belief in God by denying that Jesus Christ is God will fail miserably. All the joys of the true fellowship with God the Father will be fruitless apart from recognizing the absolute equality of the Son of God

with the Father. Note John 5:18. **"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God."** It was for no other reason than the declaration of His absolute equality with God the Father that the Jews sought to kill Him. A true appreciation of the Son of God is impossible apart from the Spirit filled conviction that in the Deity of the Father we find revealed the Deity of the Son. John 5: 19 demonstrates convincingly that everything done by the Son is done in union with the Father. It is not the Son of God acting independently of the Father, but in complete union with Him. It is not two separate beings expressed in the religious notion of the trinity, but one absolute being expressed and revealed in the Son.

Consider John 16:28. **"I came forth from My Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."** This passage has nothing to do with physical movement. It is a revelation of the essential nature of the Father and the Son. To believe this truth is to believe the fact that the Son of God is equal with and one with God the Father. To reject this truth is to deny the Deity of Jesus Christ. It is to place yourselves among that number of whom Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 12:3. **"No man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and . . . no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit."** To say "Jesus is accursed" is to say Jesus is cut off or severed. This is the strength of the Greek word *anathema*.

It is my conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He "came out from God," John 16:27, 28. To deny this truth is to say Jesus is accursed, that He is severed from the Father.

When the Pharisees failed to believe the truth of John 8:42, they accused Jesus of dishonoring the Father. In response to this false accusation our Lord answered them in John 8:54-58 with one of the most positive truths in John's Gospel regarding His Deity and equality with the Father. Read it.

In this passage Jesus defends His honor stating, **"It is my Father that honoureth me."** They claimed that He, the Father, was their God. Yet they in their blatant denial of the claims of Jesus Christ failed to know Him. Our Lord said to these Pharisees, **"I know Him: and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you."** Had Jesus failed to identify Himself in His essential attributes as being one with God the Father, He would have been no different from the Pharisees in their denial of the claims of Jesus Christ.

In affirmation of His righteous claim our Lord declared, "Your Father rejoiced to see my day: he saw it and was glad." Abraham knew that the great Jehovah Elohim would one day have His day. Abraham's Savior was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Who spoke to these Pharisees. This declaration reaffirms the great truth of John 1: 14 declaring that the word was made flesh, i.e., God became a man "made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:7,8.

When the Jews heard these words, they countered with the argument "**Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?**" Upon hearing these words our Lord Jesus Christ in affirmation of His Deity declared, "**Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**"

These words provide the striking declaration of the fact that Jesus Christ was not merely a man less than fifty years of age, but none other than the eternal Son of God. If Jesus Christ were not God, He would have lied in His declaration of His pre-existence of Abraham. In His assertion that He is the God of Abraham He demonstrated His essential nature with the Father.

When the Pharisees heard these words, "**then took they up stones to cast at Him.**" John 8:59. Clearly their unbelieving hearts were pricked by the truth. It is a sad commentary upon the lives of some that in spite of these bold proclamations of the truth they will deny the fact that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is God.

I firmly believe that Jesus Christ is God our Savior. This is precisely what Paul declares in 1 Timothy 1: 1. The truth concerning the Deity of Jesus Christ is clearly stated in the fact that He is God our Savior: not "and" as though there were two Saviors, but "even," the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.

I firmly believe that there is but one God and one Savior. This fact is positively declared in Isaiah 44:6, 9; Isaiah 45:5, 6, 21 and Isaiah 46:9. Give particular attention to Isaiah 45:21, 22. "**There is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Savior, there is none beside Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.**"

The Son of God is the Savior of the world. In support of that great truth Isaiah declared, "**For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**" Isaiah 9:6.

This great truth is reaffirmed in Luke 1 :31-35. In this important declaration, the angel Gabriel told Mary, "**Behold, thou shalt conceive in they womb, and bring forth a Son** (*hulos*, not an infant child, although this in fact was the case, but One to express the Father) **and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end.**"

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For more information on this subject see Otis Q. Sellers' Seed & Bread

*Number SB002, THE LORD JESUS IS JEHOVAH and
Number SB003, THE FATHER AND THE SON.*

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