

*Thanks for the many encouraging emails concerning the series "So Jesus Never Claimed to Be God?" This week we continue with more on the vital gospel truth of the Deity of Christ.*

### **The Wednesday Word, Aug. 26, 2009: The Real Jesus!**

The Scottish preacher of another generation, Graham Scroggie, claimed that the final battle of the Christian age would rage around the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ! I believe this battle has already commenced. As true believers we must, therefore, hold, defend and propagate the truth that the full revelation of the Almighty God Himself is in Christ alone. It is Jesus, the Lord from heaven, who is above all and over all (John 3:31.) He is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). He has and is both the wisdom and the power of God (1 Cor 1:24). In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead in all knowledge, power, grace, mercy, truth and holiness.

As gospel driven believers it is our privilege to propagate the message that the Lord Jesus possesses all that God is. If people want to know what God has said, we should point them to the words of Jesus. If they want to know how God acts, then study Jesus and see what He has done. Jesus is the unabridged version of God: He is the very mystery of God! Jesus is the full and accurate interpretation of the mind of God. To meet Him is to meet God. To be saved by Him is to be saved by God. He is the final word that God will ever speak about Himself (Heb 1:1-3).

It should be of no surprise, therefore, that He is still despised and rejected by men. The radical Muslims, as they vie for world domination, witness against His deity. The Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses also deny that He is the Mighty God. They do not receive Him as the Lord from Heaven and have, therefore, no authority to teach in His name. In many Christian circles His identity has become blurred. Who then will stand up for Jesus in this generation? Will you?

Paul warned that another Jesus was being preached and accepted, but this Jesus was false. We need to realize that any Jesus less than the Divine/Human Savior in Whom alone is salvation is 'another Jesus' and not the Jesus of the scripture. To present people with a Jesus who never represents himself as the exclusive way to the Father is to present a false Christ. To present a Jesus who is less than God is a betrayal! To present a Jesus whose work is unfinished is a mockery. To present a Jesus who is less than God and whose work must be augmented is a travesty!

According to some 'enlightened' pundits, however, it is not for us to get too specific. "Just love Jesus-----it doesn't pay to get too technical, just love Jesus, a created Jesus or a Jesus who is less than God, any Jesus will do! ---Just love Him and everyone else--- that's what it's all about!" --- O hokey pokey hokey! ----- And indeed they are right, why should it matter which Jesus leads us? After all, God doesn't really care which God we go after. Any old God will do! He didn't mean it in the first commandment when He said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Let's face it, the first commandment is really the first suggestion. Let's not get too doctrinal!

But alas, I am being sarcastic: that previous statement about not getting too doctrinal about God is nonsense. We must have the correct God before us (See Exodus 20:2-3). And by the same token, any old Jesus won't do either. The Jesus of the Scriptures is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). He is the God/Man. And this same Jesus gave the somber warning in John 8:24, "Unless you believe that I am (HE), you shall die in your sins."

The deity of Christ is an amazingly joyful and life giving truth. It's as amazing to consider that that man who lived in our place was our God. That man who hung on the cross for us was our God. That man who poured out His blood for us was our God. That man who paid our ransom was our God. That man who became a curse for us was our God. That man who became our surety was our God; that man who rose from the dead for us was our God. It is God Himself who has saved us! What a gospel!

Years ago, there was a minister preaching this gospel among English fishermen. His subject was justification because of Christ alone and he was trying to make Christ's work on the cross clear and plain. Finally he asked the men the question, "Now will one of you tell me in your own words what the God/Man, the Lord Jesus did on the cross?" An old fisherman who had been deeply moved by the message, with some tears in his eyes looked up at the preacher and answered, "He swapped with me."

Beloved, the man who swapped with us is our God. Our salvation is in him and in Him alone. This is good news, no indeed; it's the best news!

And that's the Gospel Truth!