

The Wednesday Word, January 13, 2016: Gospel Fullness

In this Wednesday Word, I want to speak again about Jesus. May the Spirit of Lord raise up a generation of believers who will, above all else, speak of and love the Lord Christ.

Some commentators tell us that today's Scripture, Colossians 2:9, is an allusion to the Tabernacle in the days of Moses. It looked commonplace and ordinary on the outside, but inside it housed the very glory and presence of the Eternal God. So it is with Christ. Little did people know that the humble carpenter from Nazareth was indeed God manifest in the flesh.

May we all take the time to meditate on Him. The truth of Christ's identity is as overwhelming as it is staggering! He is both human and divine. The Fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Him.

Of course, Christ's enemies say that the word 'Godhead' does not actually mean Godhead: or they say that this verse means that it was merely the power of God which dwelt in Christ. It is astonishing to discover the hatred that men still harbour towards Christ and the truth of His dual nature. However, the Bible cannot be clearer on Christ's identity than it is in this verse.

Colossians 2:9, according to Calvin,

"... means simply, that God is wholly found in him (Christ), so that he who is not content with Christ alone, desires something better and more excellent than God. The sum is this, that God has manifested himself to us fully and perfectly in Christ."

Calvin's Commentaries: Colossians.

According to Benjamin Warfield, this verse means; "There is nothing in the God who is over all which is not in Christ." (Easton's Bible Dictionary - Godhead)

In Isaiah 11:2-5, we are given a prophetic picture of the Lord Jesus which conveys something of this fullness. There we read, "...and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord:...."

What an astounding description of Jesus. Notice how Christ demonstrates the sevenfold Spirit of God!

The Spirit of the Lord.

The Spirit of Wisdom.

The Spirit of Understanding.

The Spirit of Counsel.

The Spirit of Might.

The Spirit of Knowledge.

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.

The fullness of the Godhead was and is indeed manifest in Him. The foundation of our faith then is that He who died on the cross was God incarnate. When we meet Christ Jesus, we meet with God in His fullness. This is the foundation upon which our eternal destiny is built. This is our security. The One who has lived, died and risen for us is Emmanuel, God with us. This is exceedingly good news!

"Mortals with joy beheld his face,

Th' eternal Father's only Son;

How full of truth! How full of grace!
When through his eyes the Godhead shone.”
Isaac Watts

And that's the Gospel Truth!