

The Deity of Christ

Hebrews 1:1-12, Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2009

Beloved of the Lord...On of our favorite hymns at Christmas time is "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". It is glorious hymn of course, filled with the beautiful doctrine that Jesus who is True God, so humbled Himself and was born a Child, a Man to save all mankind from sin. As He lay in the manger, what else could the angels do but sing His praises? *Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb, Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!* Today then Hail this Incarnate Deity, who came to save all flesh from sin.

First, we know Jesus to be True God because He is the Creator of the whole world, along with the Father and the Spirit. John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." At the time of creation not only was Christ with God the Father and Spirit, but Christ was God the Word, creating the heavens and earth. "The same was in the beginning with God." "By Whom also He made the worlds." This means when God spoke saying, "Let there be Light", Christ the eternal Word spoke saying "Let there be Light." Hence Christ is the voice of God we continually hear creating the world in Genesis one. "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." Christ, the Creator is True God.

As True God Christ is also the express image of God's person, "being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person." Here think of the words of Philip who once said to Jesus "Show us the Father". Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Jesus is saying, "If you've seen me Philip, you've seen the Father." Jesus truly was the reflection of the Father, the mirror image, so to speak. They were not the same person, but to see the one was to see the other. Jesus also said, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?" Jesus goes even further here. The Father even then at that moment was dwelling in Christ's person, body and soul, yet the Father in the Son was not limited locally to that location for the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him.

That Jesus is the mirror image of His Father

brings us great comfort. You know your heavenly Father, dear Christian, by all Jesus did and said. Does your heavenly Father love you, care for you? Indeed He does. Is He concerned with your salvation and eternal welfare? Certainly! Does your Father know your sorrows and hold sympathy for you in your heart? Yes indeed. And you know this by everything Jesus did and said. When Jesus spoke the Father spoke. When Jesus healed the Father healed. When Jesus had compassion the Father had compassion. I could go on and on. Jesus said, "the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me." Thus God's identity, the gracious God He is, the kind and caring God He is, is all revealed to us by way of the Son. The hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" teaches this also. Verse two says, *Veiled in flesh the GODHEAD see, Hail the incarnate Deity!*

That is why we should worship the INCARNATE DEITY, the Son just as we worship God the Father. Unbelief concerning the Son then, namely the denial of the deity of Christ, is the greatest of all crimes. It cuts the sinner off from the free salvation Jesus only wishes to give. Why would anyone turn their back on their own Savior from sin just so they could enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season? Both hell and heaven last forever. Those who deny Christ, will likewise be denied by Him on the Last Day. Without the garment of faith in Christ, such will stand naked before God in their sin and shame on Judgment Day. God will have no choice but to condemn such to everlasting damnation. "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on Him." Damnation however, is neither God's will nor choice for sinners. As we heard last Sunday, God's will is that all men be saved, for Christ died for all. God then cannot be blamed for the damnation of even one soul. Their decision not to believe the truth doesn't change the truth. Jesus really did pay for their sins. His resurrection was proof that all sinners were justified and righteous in God's sight, but this truth needs to be received by faith. Through Jesus then the doors to heaven are still open, but we should not put off repentance till tomorrow. If then we are living contrary to God's will, breaking His commandments, living in unbelief, for the sake of our own salvation we should go to Jesus and confess our sins. Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." This means dear friend, no matter what you have done, God will not turn you away if you desire His forgiveness. Jesus truly does forgive you of all your sins. Let us

believe in Him and rejoice and by faith amend our sinful ways.

Yet another proof that Jesus is the True God, is that He is not equal to the angels or below them, but far above them. "Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Many are confused by these words because it speaks of Christ "being made", and receiving an "inheritance". These things indicate an upward direction, a promotion. How then does this teach the deity of Christ? But these words pertain to His human nature and exaltation. God's purpose here is that we as men see that Jesus AS A MAN, was also God, higher than the angels. When by way of the cross Jesus purged all mankind of sin, according to His human nature He was exalted, sitting down at the right hand of God with all power and authority. According to His human nature, God exalted Christ and made Him higher than the angels, for Jesus had indeed finished the work God sent Him to do. He was higher than the angels before, of course, equal with God the Father, but now also even His glory as a Man far outshines and excels the glory of the angels. Therefore "let all the angels of God worship Him." Whereas the angels sang Christ's praises before when they were newly created, on the night of Jesus' birth, they now from heaven gazed with wonder upon their infinite Creator laying there in a manger! God is an infant! Their God is a Child! Yet His greater glory was in their understanding that His mercy for these lowly and sinful men was so great, that He would be as one of them, to save all of them from sin! *Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!* Oh the love their God had for these sinners! He has come to rescue them from sin! Isn't this God worthy of all their praise? Isn't He worthy of ours dear sinner when we are the ones who needed to be saved? And to which of the angels did God ever say, "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten thee"? Though Jesus is from eternity the only-begotten of the Father, there was a distinct point in time where Jesus the True God, became also True Man - God incarnate in the flesh. *Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, Late IN TIME behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.*

Thus when we read the Bible concerning Christ, we must understand sometimes Jesus speaks as a Man below God, and sometimes He speaks as God above all men, angels, and all things. Verse eight says, "Unto the Son He saith, Thy throne O God, is forever and ever." Here God the Father calls the God the Son

GOD, ruling over all things forever! "Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed Thee with the Oil of gladness above thy fellows." Here the Father is called the God of Jesus, only because Jesus speaks as a Man in our stead. Likewise on the cross Jesus said, "My God My God why hast thou forsaken me." Jesus as a Man on the cross was forsaken in our stead. Yet the Father anoints the Son with the Oil of Gladness, namely the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34). This means the Holy Spirit lived without measure in Jesus, but at the same was not limited locally to Jesus but as God fills all things. The same is true of the baby Jesus who physically lay in the manger. Jesus at that same time yet ruled as God in heaven. God cannot stop being God, though He lays in a Manger as a Man. The hymn "A Great and Might Wonder" says, *The Word became incarnate, And yet remains on high!*

Finally, speaking of the Last things though the heavens and earth are Christ's creation, "they shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment." On the Last Day God will fold up this earth as an old and worthless pair of jeans, yet there shall be a new heaven and new earth created for the joy of all the saints! Yet thanks be to God, our Christ will not change, He is the same and His years have no end. For even when Christ ascended into heaven He did not shed that earthly garment that He received as a Babe, but for our eternal comfort He kept and retained His human nature. Truly even now in heaven in His own body God and man are forever united fully reconciled and at peace. Jesus is your Prince of Peace dear Christian, and by faith in His merits, you are indeed a part of His own Body, the Body of Christ, the True Church. Your Christ moved heaven and earth to save you. Isn't this a wonder? And if the angels of God who were without sin still worship and praise His holy name, shouldn't we who are sinners sing His praises all the more, having been redeemed from all sin? Glory to God in the highest! Amen.