

LESSON ELEVEN

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

A. JESUS EXERCISED ALL THE PREROGATIVES OF DEITY:

Scriptural References:

"Then came she and worshipped him" (Matthew 15:25).

"And they worshipped him" (Luke 24:52).

"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48).

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (Mark 2:5).

"All things were made by Him" (John 1:3).

In His ministry Jesus exercised all the prerogatives of Deity which proved conclusively that He is God. The three prerogatives that we shall mention here are:

1. The right to be worshipped;
2. The right to forgive sins;
3. The right and power to create.

Jesus not only accepted worship but He encouraged it. He never rebuked those who worshipped Him. It was He who said, *"Worship God only"* and the fact that He freely accepted worship proves that He is God.

All sin is against God and therefore only God can forgive sin. The Pharisees knew this and charged Jesus with blasphemy because He forgave sin. Nevertheless Jesus freely forgave sin which is another proof of His Deity.

Jesus showed that He is the Great Creator by:

1. Turning water into wine - John 2:1-11.
2. Feeding the multitude - John 6:1-13.
3. Walking on the water - John 6:19.
4. Quieting the storm - Mark 4:39.

There are not two Creators. There is only one: Jesus Christ.

B. JESUS CLAIMED ONENESS WITH THE FATHER:

Scriptural References:

"I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

"That they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:22).

The Jews understood Jesus far better than most people do today. They understood that He claimed Oneness with the Father and it was for this reason that they were going to stone Him.

The only way we can ever see God is in Jesus Christ. Philip did not understand this and questioned Jesus about it. Had Philip not questioned Him, he might have continued to think of Jesus as separate from the Father. Jesus said, *"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him"* (John 14:7).

When Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus said, *"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: and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father."*

This Oneness with the Father must be accepted in a numerical sense. This Oneness is not a compound unity in the sense that a husband and wife is one flesh, but rather a numerical oneness in that Jesus is the Father, one person bearing one Name.

C. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE COMFORTER:

Scriptural References:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever" (John 14:16).

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18).

"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" (John 14:20).

Jesus promised to send His disciples "another Comforter." Comforter means one who is called to your side as a client calls a lawyer. The same word is used in I John 2:1 - "advocate." The adjective "another" does not mean a different person but rather a new ministry.

Jesus identifies the Comforter with Himself. He said that He dwelt with them and should be in them. Then He said, *"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come unto you"* (John 14:18). Actually the meaning of this is, "I will not leave you 'fatherless' or 'orphans.'" Jesus said, *"I will come to you"* and *"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."*

D. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE "I AM:"

Scriptural References:

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

"I am that bread of life" (John 6:48).

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11).

"I AM" is one of the greatest titles of our Lord. The past, present, and future lie in these words. "I AM" means the "The Eternally Present One; the Self-existent One."

This is the title that Jehovah gave when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush. This title "I AM" proves that the same One who called Moses is the One who is our Savior. There cannot be two "I AM's."

The statement of our Lord's, "Before Abraham was, I am" means that Abraham was dependent upon Jesus, not Jesus upon him for existence. Abraham came into being at a certain point of time but Jesus is the eternally present One: the self-existent One dwelling in the eternal present. The title "I AM" is positive indisputable proof that Jehovah in the Old Testament is Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

The Jews understood well that He claimed to be God and took up stones to throw at Him.

E. JESUS NEVER DENIED HIS DEITY:

Scriptural References:

"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also" (John 8:19).

"For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Jesus knew that He was being accused of blasphemy because He claimed to be God. Jesus also knew that it was this fact that would nail Him to the cross of Calvary. However, He never once denied His Deity.

Jesus not only acknowledged His Deity but He taught that the salvation of mankind depended upon the Truth of His Deity. There would be no power in His blood or in His Name if He were not God. Jesus even went as far as saying that it was necessary to know this Truth in order to be saved. Without knowing that He is God, men will die in their sins.

F. JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE CAN ONLY KNOW THIS TRUTH BY DIVINE REVELATION:

Scriptural References:

"All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him" (Luke 10:22).

"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" (Matthew 16:17).

Jesus taught that the only way one can understand the Deity of Jesus is by Divine Revelation.

To the great majority the revelation of the Deity of our Lord is still a hidden truth. Many people have deliberately closed their mind to this great Truth and deliberately chose tradition instead of Truth.

However, a person need not be in darkness concerning the all-important truth of Christ's identity. He desires to reveal Himself to His children. If the greatness and wonderfulness of God's true identity has not been revealed to you, then earnestly pray that you may be one of those "to whom the Son will reveal Him."

LESSON ELEVEN

SELF HELP TEST

A. Write out THREE Scriptures with reference to prove that Jesus claimed Oneness with the Father.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Explain fully the Scripture, "Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58).

C. Write out two Scriptures with references to prove that Jesus Christ is the Comforter.

1. _____

2. _____

D. Name the THREE prerogatives of Deity.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____