

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD THE SON

CHAPTER 2

In this chapter we are going to study THE DOCTRINE OF GOD THE SON, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. He is not only the Son of God; He is God the Son. As I stated before, this study is not written as an in-depth study for the well-trained theology student, but for the many people both in America, and around the world, who have little or no knowledge of the doctrines of the Word of God. Great effort has been put forth to keep it simple, and yet be as thorough as possible. But, I am convinced that as the advanced student of the Scriptures goes through these pages he will be warmly blessed, and drawn into a deeper study of the Bible and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this study we will focus most of our attention on the events which happened while Christ lived here on the earth and His earthly ministry. However, we must first look at Christ in His pre-existent state, the state in which He was before He was born of the Virgin Mary.

I. HIS ETERNAL EXISTENCE

There are many places where the Bible teaches Christ's Eternal Existence. He did not just begin when He was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He is the Eternal Son of God.

In John 1:1-3, we read, ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.”***

In John 1:14, we read, ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”***

In John 17:5, we read where Jesus prayed, ***“And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”***

In Col. 1:16-17, we read, ***“For by Him all things were created... He is before all things and by Him all things consist.”***

In Revelation 4:11, we read, ***“... For Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*** Carefully read all of Hebrews chapter 1.

From the verses listed above we learn that Christ was in the beginning with God, that Christ was God, and all things were made by Him. In Genesis 1:26, we read where God said, ***“Let US make man...”*** signifying that all the Trinity was involved in the creation. We also learn from John 17:5, that Christ enjoyed a glorious fellowship with the Father before the world was.

Thus, one must conclude that before Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem the world was created by Him and before He created the world He enjoyed sharing glory with God the Father. If this is not enough evidence from the Word of God to convince you of the Eternal Existence of the God the Son, you would not believe it if a whole book was written on the subject.

II. HIS EARTHLY EXPERIENCE

In this section we will study the earthly life of Christ in these six areas: His Supernatural Birth, His Silent Boyhood, His Sinless Life, His Sacrificial Death, His Shocking Resurrection, and His Second Coming.

HIS SUPERNATURAL BIRTH

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ has long been a subject of debate but the Scriptures are very clear on this subject if one will only believe the Word of God. The Supernatural Birth of Christ was prophesied as to how it would happen in Isaiah 7:14, and where it would happen in Micah 5:2. We are told about the annunciation of His birth to Mary in Luke 1:26-35, and to Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25. His birth is described in Luke 2:1-14. (Be sure you read all these Scripture passages.) As you read these verses you will find that these events happened in the exact place and manner which had been prophesied.

The importance of the virgin birth of Christ cannot be over emphasized. If Christ had not been born of a virgin, if He had an earthly father as everyone else does, then He would have had sinful blood and would not have been acceptable for the atoning sacrifice. If He had not been an acceptable sacrifice then we would still be lost sinners since we are redeemed with the “precious blood of Christ,” I Peter 1:18. Many of the new translations of the Scripture change the word virgin to a young woman. Let us look at one verse of Scripture and use some simple thinking to clear this up. In Isaiah 7:14 the Bible says, ***“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*** Now, you answer this question for me: What kind of a sign would it be for a young woman to conceive and bear a son? Of course the answer is that would be no sign because that happens every day. What made this a sign to Israel was, a virgin who had never known a man would conceive and bear a son. Thank God, Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

HIS SILENT BOYHOOD

After the story of the birth of Christ and the very first days of His life, there is not much said about Him in the scriptures until He is about thirty years old. Luke gives us some of the details of the early life of Christ. Since Luke was a physician, it is understandable he would have been more interested in some of these details than the other writers.

The following is a brief outline of some things that Luke mentions about the early life of Christ. (Be sure to read all these Scripture passages.)

In Luke 1:26-35, he records the conception.

In Luke 2:1-7, he records the birth of Christ.

In Luke 2:21-24, he records His circumcision.

In Luke 2:25-35, he gives Simeon's prophecy.

In Luke 2:36-38, he records the adoration of Anna.

In Luke 2:39-40, he records His return to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary and He is not mentioned again until;

In Luke 2:41-52, he records the trip to the temple when Jesus was twelve years old.

After this, Jesus returns to His home in Nazareth and is not mentioned again until He appears at the Jordan River to be baptized when He was about thirty years old,

Luke 3:21-23.

HIS SINLESS LIFE

We now will look at a very important part of our study of the Lord Jesus Christ, His sinless life. Liberal theologians who do not believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God often attack the sinless life of Christ. Again, the reason for the attack on this important doctrine is they are trying to destroy the credibility of Jesus as being an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world. It is this simple. If He ever sinned, He would have a blemish on his life that would disqualify Him as an acceptable sacrifice.

We will briefly look at two different groups of people in the Word of God and see what they say about the sinless life of the Son of God. First, we will listen to what His friends say about Him, and then we will hear what His foes say about Him. I am only listing a phrase from the following verses; you will need to read the complete verses. His friends said:

1. II Corinthians 5:21, “...*(He) knew no sin...*”
2. Hebrews 4:15, “...*yet without sin.*”
3. I Peter 2:22, “*Who did no sin....*”
4. I John 3:5, “...*in Him is no sin.*”

Since it is only normal for friends to speak well of a friend, we will now look at some of the things that His enemies said about Him.

1. In Matthew 27:19, Pilate's wife said,
“...*Have thou nothing to do with that just man.*”
2. In John 19:4, Pilate says,
“...*That ye may know that I find no fault in Him.*”
3. In Matthew 27:3-4, Judas Iscariot says,
“*I have betrayed THE INNOCENT BLOOD.*”
4. In Luke 23:41, one of the thieves said,
“...*This man hath done nothing amiss.*”

So, there you have testimony given both by His friends and His foes telling us how the Lord Jesus lived a sinless life while He was here on the earth.

HIS SUFFERING DEATH

Before you continue in this study, take time to read the account of the sufferings surrounding the death of Christ given in Matthew chapters 26 & 27. For those who wish to further study the account of his death, you can read: Mark 14 & 15; Luke 22 & 23; and John 18 & 19.

No study of the life of Christ would be complete without looking at His Suffering Death. This is why He came. He did not come to live; He came to die. His death at Calvary was not an accident, nor was it an after thought. He left the throne of glory with His heart set on the rugged hillside called Calvary.

It is very hard to find a place to begin our brief study of His Suffering Death. Let me begin by reminding you that He suffered *at the hands of the Sinners*; they crucified Him. He suffered *at the hands of the Saints*. Simon Peter denied that he even knew the Lord Jesus. All the disciples but John forsook Him and fled. Then He suffered *at the hand of the Sovereign God*, Isaiah 53:4, 10.

In Matthew 26:36-46, He suffered emotionally and spiritually as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane where He drank the *Bitterness of the Cup*. He also suffered emotionally, physically, and spiritually, as He faced the *Brutality of the Crowd* in Matthew 27:27-32. Again He suffered emotionally and physically with the *Burden of the Cross*. He suffered while He was *under the cross* bearing it to Golgatha. He suffered as He was nailed *unto the cross*, and He suffered while He was *upon the cross*. I remind you that all His suffering was done for us.

Beyond the Sufferings of His Death, there are three very important truths which we must take time to study. First, we will see Christ's death was *Supernatural*, His death was *Substitutional*, and His death was *Sacrificial*.

The first thing we learn about the death of Christ is that it was a *Supernatural Death*. As you listen to the talk about the death of Christ you will hear His death blamed upon different groups of people. Some say the Jews killed Him, some say the Roman soldiers killed Him, and still others would say sin killed Christ. But what do the Scriptures say about his death?

If you could look in the Chronicles of Israel, some would say the death of Christ was unnatural, He was killed by crucifixion. Some might say He died a natural death, since nobody killed Him. A careful study of the Scriptures reveal that Christ's death was neither a natural death, nor an unnatural death, but a Supernatural death. In John 10:17, we find Jesus saying, "***No man taketh it (His life) from me, but I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it up again.***" In Matthew 27:50, we read, "***Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.***" What really happened at the appointed time of His death was He literally breathed out His breath, and did not breathe it back in. He died of His own will and of His own power. So we see Jesus died a Supernatural Death.

The second thing we discover about the death of Christ is it was a *Substitutional Death*. One could say He died on Barabbas' cross, dying in his place. However, a careful study of the Scriptures will reveal that not only did Christ die for Barabbas but He died for me, for you, and

for the whole world, I John 2:2. Since there are so many Scripture passages that I need to mention which show Christ as our substitute, I can only list some of the references and you will have to look them up in your Bible. Please take the time to read them now.

Romans 5:6, Christ died FOR THE UNGODLY
Romans 5:8, Christ died FOR US
I Corinthians 15:3, Christ died FOR OUR SINS
II Corinthians 5:21, God made Christ to be sin FOR US
Hebrews 2:9, Christ tasted death FOR EVERY MAN
I Peter 3:18, Christ...suffered FOR OUR SINS
I Peter 2:24, Christ bore OUR SINS
Isaiah 53:5, He was wounded FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS

At Calvary, it was as though Christ reached all the way back to the first sin of the first man with one hand. Then He reached forward with the other hand to the last sin of the last man and pulled every sin of every person, of every age, into His own body and then died for every sin of every sinner on the old rugged cross.

Not only was the death of Christ Supernatural and Substitutional, but it was a *Sacrificial Death* also. He is introduced to us in John 1:29 as ***“the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”*** A living lamb can never take away sin. Since Jesus was God’s sacrificial lamb for the sins of the whole world, He must die. At Calvary, God slew His Lamb, the Lord Jesus. The Roman soldiers pierced His side with a spear and the blood of Christ was shed for the remission of the sins of the whole world. See John 19:34 and Hebrews 9:22.

The whole doctrine of our redemption and salvation hinges upon the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world. Though some would deny the need of His blood being shed, I remind you it took the blood in Genesis 3:21 for Adam and Eve to get out of the Garden of Eden. It took the blood for Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:1-7. It took the blood to get Israel out of Egypt in Exodus 12:12-13; and it still takes the blood of Christ for you and me to obtain mercy and salvation today. The blood of Christ was not spilled; it was shed at Calvary, and then offered on the mercy seat in heaven, see Hebrews 9:11-12. God said in Leviticus 17:11, ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”***

Though I cannot deal in detail with them here, I am listing six reasons why it takes the shedding of the blood of Christ to accomplish our salvation. Without the blood of Christ:

1. There is no *Redemption for the sinners*, -This deals with our *purchase*.
I Peter 1:18-20; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:11-14; Colossians 1:14
2. There is no *Remission for our sins*, -This deals with our *past*.
Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 1:5
3. There is no *Reconciliation back to God*, -This deals with our *peace*.
II Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 1:20-21

4. There is no *Recognition when we approach God*, -This deals with our *praying*.
Hebrews 9:7
5. There is no *Retaining of our Salvation*, -This deals with our *preservation*.
I John 1:7
6. There will be no *Rising to meet the Lord in the air*. -This deals with our *pulling out*.
I Thessalonians 4:13-17

Thank God for the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you mention the blood of Christ the liberals laugh, the modernists mock, the religionists ridicule, the skeptics scorn and the agnostics argue; BUT THANK GOD, THE SAINTS SHOUT AND THE REDEEMED REJOICE because of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR CHRIST TO BE BORN A SUPERNATURAL BIRTH AND LIVE A SINLESS LIFE; IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY THAT HE DIE, SHED HIS BLOOD, AND HIS BLOOD BE OFFERED ON GOD'S MERCY SEAT IN HEAVEN TO TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

Notice again Leviticus 17:11, ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”***

HIS SHOCKING RESURRECTION

After Jesus died on the cross of Calvary they took Him off of the cross and buried Him in a borrowed tomb. He knew He would only need a tomb for three days and nights, so He used a borrowed one. One of the greatest bombshells ever to explode in the face of an unbelieving world was the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. His resurrection had been foretold, but even the disciples were not expecting it, Luke 24:13-35.

Jesus told those who were seeking a sign in Matthew 12:39-40. ***“There shall be no sign given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*** (This destroys the “Good Friday” myth about our Lord's Crucifixion.)

Pilate commanded the Pharisees in Matthew 27:62-66 to seal the tomb and set a guard about it, but thank God, neither the sealed grave nor the soldier's guard could keep the Lord Jesus in the ground. We must remember that only the body of Christ was laid in the tomb. His soul went down into the heart of the earth to hell, Acts 2:27. His Spirit took the blood to heaven and offered it on the altar to God, Hebrews 9:14. After offering the blood of Christ to God in heaven, the Spirit then raised Christ's body from the dead on the third day, Romans 8:11; bringing His soul out of hell and His body out of the tomb.

Some might say that only His Spirit was resurrected, but the truth is, spirits do not die; neither can a spirit be buried. Only the body of Christ died and was buried, so either He had a bodily resurrection, or he had no resurrection at all.

To study the doctrine of the resurrection thoroughly would require many books. Romans 4:25 teaches us how important the resurrection of Christ is in completing our salvation. Notice, *“Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.”* In I Corinthians 15, we have an entire chapter on the doctrine of the resurrection. We find just how important the resurrection of Christ is in verse 14. *“And if Christ be not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain.”* Again in verse 19 we read, *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”*

As we sum all of this up we must conclude; if Christ did not rise from the dead there would be no justification. If Christ did not rise from the dead our faith is in vain and our preaching is vain. If Christ had not risen from the dead there would be no hope for our resurrection or the resurrection of our loved ones who have died in the Lord. If Christ did not rise from the dead we would be like the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection, Acts 23:8. It has been said this is why they were called a Sadducee (sad-you-see); they had no hope. What a joy it is to the heart of a Christian who has lost a loved one in death or who is facing death to know that Christ was raised from the dead, and because He lives, we shall live again also.

HIS SECOND COMING

Forty days after the resurrection of Christ, He ascended up into heaven, Acts 1:9-11. He sat down on the right hand of God, Hebrews 1:3; and Hebrews 10:12-14. He is now sitting there making intercession for the saints of God, Hebrews 7:25. He is anxiously waiting for the day when He will leave the right hand of the throne of God, descend into the atmosphere and call His church out of this world to meet Him in the air, I Thessalonians 4:16-17. This is called the *Blessed Hope* in Titus 2:13.

How I wish we had time and space to deal with His Second Coming in detail now, but we will have to wait until we come to the chapter on the Doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Let me close this part of our study by telling you that Christ could come again at any moment, and then ask you the question, If He were to come right now, are you ready to meet Him? If not, I pray you will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ right now with repentance and faith and He will save you today. May God help you to do it right now.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did you read every passage of Scripture that is mentioned in this chapter? If you did not, do it now.

2. List at least five passages that teach Christ existed before he was born at Bethlehem.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

3. Why is the virgin birth so important?

4. What was the sign Isaiah said the Lord would give?

5. Why is the sinless life of Christ so important?

6. List the four passages where the friends of Christ give testimony of his sinless life.

a.

b.

c.

d.

7. Name the four enemies of Christ who spoke of his sinless life. Give Scripture reference and what each of them said.

a.

b.

c.

d.

8. List three important truths we studied about the death of Christ.

a.

b.

c.

9. Name six reasons the blood of Christ is so important.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

10. How long was Christ in the heart of the earth?

11. Give at least three reasons why the resurrection of Christ is so important to us today.

a.

b.

c.

12. What is the “Blessed Hope”?

Be sure to study these questions until you know them well before you go to the next chapter.