

Proofs that Jesus is God

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As you will see from the sheet, the subject I hope by God's help and the Spirit's strengthening to address this evening, proofs of the fact that Jesus is God, and the reason I read these verses is that in verse 9 of Colossians 2 you will find that referred to most clearly,

9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

No one is more hated or more loved in the history of the world than Jesus Christ. He is the dominant figure of all history and he was put to death for declaring himself to be God. He was not a politician. He never wrote a book. He never won a sporting event. He never traveled in a car or in a plane. He died homeless and poor. And yet our time is measured by his life, BC Before Christ and AD in the year of our Lord.

Some said about him, "Well, he's demon-possessed." That was the opinion of some. What is your opinion? Some said, "He is a glutton and a drunkard." Others said, "He is an actor. We know who our Father is, you don't." Others said, "He is a deceiver." What do you say? Who do you think he is?

In 1822, Macdonald lovingly called the Apostle of the North, visited after a long and arduous journey the island of St. Kilda where he met the people and this is what he said reporting on that visit. "They have a real sense of the divine being. They admit readily that they are sinners. When I ask them the question, 'What must be done in order to be saved,' they had their answer and I'm telling this story in the hope that you might discover where your answer is to that question, what must you do to be saved. This was their answers. One old man said, 'Ah, I must repent and forsake my sins and turn to God.' A middle-aged woman said, 'Yes, and with a true heart.' And an old lady said, 'Yes, and with prayer.' And a fourth said, 'Yes, and with prayer from the heart. And the fifth said, 'Yes, and we must keep the commandments.'" Dr. Macdonald wrote, "They thought they had an acceptable creed. They thought I would approve of their creed but they did not see that they had to have Christ in their answer and the answer is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Are you number 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5? They're all together. Or have you got Christ in your creed?

What we propose to do this evening, then, is to look at 10 main points showing us how Jesus is God. Some of these are subdivided so those of you who are trying to take notes,

just 1, 2, 3 and then A, B, C, D or whatever. There's 10 points, "Proofs that Jesus is God," and then five implications of that for us all.

Number 1 in proofs that Jesus is God. What did the demons say? What do demons think? What's their assessment of who this person is? Listen to Luke 4:33 and 34. There was a man who was demon-possessed. The demon came out of him and the demon cried, "Jesus of Nazareth, I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God." Later in that same chapter after healing many, the demons cried out, the demons cried out, "You are the Son of God." The demons thought he was the Son of God.

2. Jesus said he was from heaven, that he came down from heaven. Many in history have claimed near death experiences: Peter Seller, Elizabeth Taylor, Ozzie Osbourne, and Muhammad. They claimed near death experiences, that in that moment they went into the heaven. But Jesus' claim is much much more momentous than that, not just that he visited heaven but he claimed to be God who lived in heaven and came down to visit earth as a man. In John 6, "I came down from heaven." Later on in that chapter, verse 38, the people complained, "We know his mum and dad. How dare he say I came down from heaven?" John 3, "I am the one who came down from heaven." John 8:58, "Before Abraham was, I am." Revelation 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." Then there are a whole catalog of Old Testament appearances. Who wrestled with Jacob? Who spoke to Isaiah in chapter 6 of Isaiah? Who was the fourth figure in the fiery furnace? Jesus said his home was in heaven.

Thirdly, he refused to be considered as merely a good man. Most people will say, "Yeah, oh Jesus is a good man. Sure he was a good man. He was a good example." In fact, some will even say he's top of the class. Rubbish. He's in a class of his own. Gorbachev said, "Jesus was the first socialist, the first to seek a better life for mankind." But Mark 10 tells us about someone who came to Jesus, "Good Master," he said to Jesus, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus replied saying, "What, are you calling me good? There is none good but God." He was telling the man that he was God.

4. He said he was one with his Father. Remember in John 10, "I give my sheep eternal life and no one can take them out of my hand. My Father who gives them to me is greater than all." Then in verse 30, listen to it, "I and my Father are one." What happened then? They took up stones to kill him, "because you're a blasphemer and make yourself equal with God." And what did Jesus say in verse 38? "The Father is in me and I am in the Father." He is one with the Father.

5. He claimed to be the Messiah. The high priest asked the question, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the blessed one?" in Mark 14. "I am," he said. Jesus replied, "I am and you will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven." Then what happened? The high priest tore his clothes in disgust. He said, "We've heard enough. This is just blasphemy." And the crowd spat on him and they blindfolded him and they mocked him and they slapped him because he said, "I am the Messiah." What's your estimate of him?

6. Everything about his life confirms his claims. His supernatural conception, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon you," was the message to Mary. His sinless life, 1 Peter 2:22, he "committed no sin neither was any deceit in his mouth." Pilate's wife, what would she say? "He's an innocent man." Judas' confession, "I have betrayed innocent blood." The dying thief, "This man, this man dying beside me has done nothing amiss." And the Roman soldier at the foot of the cross, "Yup, sure thing, this is a righteous man." Everything about his life confirmed his claims: his conception, his sinless life, his insight and knowledge. He knew what was in man, John 2:25. That means, friend, he knows what's in you. He knows what you are thinking about just now. He knows what you're saying in your mind. He knows what's in man. He knew his betrayer, "I chose you 12, yet one of you is a devil," John 6. He knew his betrayer beforehand. He anticipated Peter's denial, "Before the cock crow you shall deny me thrice."

His miracles. Just look at Luke's gospel for a minute just as we think about three of these. Those who witnessed them acknowledged that they were in the presence of God. 1) Luke 5, the man on the mat, the paralytic, everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe. Do you know what it is to be filled with awe? As you hear of this person, as you see and taste and savor something of his glory and excellency, are you filled with awe or is it like water off a duck's back? Luke 7, the widow of Nain's son. This widow, this only son of this lady, what did Jesus do? He came along and he touched the death coffin and he sat up and talked, and the people said God was here, God came to help, God has visited his people in verse 16. Luke 9, the boy with the evil spirit. He was in a convulsion. He was writhing, as it were, on the floor. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy, and what does verse 43 tell us? They were all amazed at the greatness of God. It was God who did these miracles.

His life testified to who he is, and the next one is the resurrection. Now as some of you know, I tried to deal with that as a separate subject the last time I spoke here but I would like just to quote one verse, Romans 1:4, "He is declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead." He is God because he rose from the dead. Everything about his life, his conception, his sinless life, his insight, his miracles, his resurrection.

7. The witness of the Old Testament and the prophets. Psalm 2, Hebrews speaks about it, people say, did God ever say that to the angel? Did God ever say that to the angel, "You are my Son, today have I begotten you. The Lord said unto my Lord," Psalm 110, "sit on my right hand." Did God ever say that to an angel? Isaiah 9:6, "The government will be on his shoulder." What a comfort that is, friend, when we anticipate the turmoil that there may be in 2009 politically, economically and across the divided nations of the world. The government is on his shoulder. "He will be called Counselor, Everlasting Father, Mighty God, Prince of Peace."

7. The witness of the Old Testament and the prophets. Listen to Jeremiah 23:5, "The Lord our righteousness," Jehovah Tsidkenu. Compare that with 1 Corinthians 1:30, "Christ Jesus has become our righteousness." What is your righteousness? Well, I'm gonna look. Well, I go to church. Well, I sing. Well, I read the Bible. Well, I obey the

commandments. Who is our righteousness? The Lord our righteousness. Micah 5:2, "Out of you Bethlehem Ephrathat comes a ruler whose origins are from ancient time." And you'll see that cross-referenced to Matthew 2 and John 7. Zechariah 13, "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, And against the man that is my fellow." 7. The witness of the Old Testament prophet.

8. The testimony of the apostles. Peter, Christ said to Peter, "Peter, who do you think I am? What do you say I am?" Matthew 16, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." What an answer. Is that your answer about this person? John and the other apostles, you'll see that in John 1, he says, "We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only, the one and only who came from the Father." Peter had something to say too in 2 Peter 1, "We heard God's voice from heaven when we were with Jesus and that voice said to us, 'This is my beloved Son.'" Paul, what was his first message? What was the first sermon Paul preached? Here it is, "Jesus is the Son of God," Acts 9:20. It's a very central important fact of our faith. He says, Paul says about the church, "God purchased the church with his own blood for in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in bodily form," Colossians 2:9.

9. The characteristics of God are attributed to the Lord Jesus, and I have, I think it's nine or 10 of these. The characteristics attributed to God are attributed to the Lord Jesus. The work of creation is his, John 1:3, "Through him all things were made and without him nothing was made that was made." Colossians 1:16, "For by him all things were created." So he made the seagull. He made the snowdrop that we're looking forward to seeing shortly.

The work of providence is his, sustains all things by the word of his power, Hebrews 1:3. So the fact that you got up this morning, he did it. The fact that your ears are still working, he does it.

3) He is everywhere present. Remember Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always unto the end of the world, and where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." And do you think this is the only congregation meeting in the world today? They're meeting everywhere and he's there. He's everywhere present.

He has all power. Philippians 3:21, the power that enables him to bring everything under his control. He knows everything. Revelation 2:23, "I am he who searches the hearts and minds." He never changes. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. He forgives sins. The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. On earth, notice. But he has authority to do it. Please, please, for my Master's sake and for his glory and for your own good, don't go out the church without asking Jesus to forgive your sin because he has power and authority to do that.

And then he tells us to pray to him. How dare he ask us to pray to him if he's not God? John 14:14, "You may ask me for anything and I will do it." Stephen did it, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." The Canaanite woman did it, "Lord, help me."

10. He is the only way to heaven. "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father except through me." Heaven belongs to God. God alone grants access. Jesus alone is the sole narrow path to eternal life. All other paths are merely to eternal death in hell. "I am he that liveth and was dead and am alive, am alive forevermore."

Ten proofs I'm suggesting to you that he is God. The report of the demons. His home is heaven. Not merely a good man. He's one with the Father. He claims to be the Messiah. His life confirms his claims. The Old Testament prophets' witness. The apostles' witness. The characteristics of God which belong to him. And he's the only way to heaven. Therefore, my friends, what is your conclusion? Duncan affectionately known as that in Aberdeen who said, "We are faced with a trilemma, not a dilemma." A trilemma. Do you have one of three possibilities: he's either a lunatic or a liar or Lord. What's going on in your mind just now before the eyes of him with whom we have to do?

C. S. Lewis put it this way, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be and could not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit upon him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about him being just a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us, neither did he intend to do so." Are you and I falling at his feet and saying, "My Lord and my God"?

We now move on to the five consequences or implications or five implications of what we've been thinking about.

1. The fact that he is God highlights for us the love of God. God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ therefore be thankful. You know, you need the gospel every day. It's not just the day you became a Christian. It's not just on Sunday. It's every day. You and I need the gospel every, every day. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, you need the gospel. Christ died for the ungodly. Enjoy it. Be thankful for it. Taste and see that God is good.

Secondly, he is worthy of our worship. The angels do it, the angels did it at his birth and they still do it. The whole of heaven worships him and their song is, "Worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb." Therefore be worshipful. It's what you're designed for. It's what we're made for. It's what we're here for. It's what will bring us joy. Worship him.

Thirdly, it gives exceeding great value to his death. This was not a mere man who died, this was the Lord of glory, the light of the world going out. This was the giver of life, the sustainer of life dying for sinners. Therefore enjoy the freedom he's purchased for you and serve him and recognize that whatever light affliction you may have, and you have them, who doesn't, it's only for a moment, and if you have Christ, you have everything, and if you don't have him, I, on his authority, am offering him to you. How shall he not

freely give us all things, all things for tomorrow, all things for the difficulties of 2009, all things for the difficulties of your deathbed, all things and everlastingly?

4. He makes the most amazing special offer you will ever hear. He has authority to make that offer and power to fulfill it. "Come unto me and I will give you rest." Have you come to him this evening just together or on your own where you are? Have you embraced him and said, "I love him. Jesus loves me, this I know." Take him at his word and live in his joy and his peace and under his protection.

5. He's worth knowing. "Count all things but dross and dung that I may gain Christ. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." Do you know him? Can you say what a friend I have in Jesus? Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I read a little statement today I want to share with you in conclusion. It's Sinclair Ferguson summing up Calvin's teaching and he says this, "Everything lacking in us is given to us by Christ; everything sinful in us is imputed," or made over, "to Christ; and all judgment merited by us is borne by Christ." I think that merits repeating. "Everything lacking in us is given to us by Christ; everything sinful in us is imputed to Christ; and all judgment merited by us is borne by Christ."

It's just come to my mind that there was a young man, he was worshiping here with us not too long ago. He was a student when Karen and I were duly married in Aberdeen. And I took him home in the car one night. He was from the church. He was trying to get away from the things of the gospel. He was just going just because his folks expected him to go. And we sat outside his halls of residence and I asked him a question and that individual said that that question, which is from God's word, was the question when he began to see Christ for himself. So in conclusion might I leave each of you with that question: what think ye of Christ? That is the big question for you tonight. What think ye of Christ?

Let us conclude by singing to God's praise in Psalm 40, "My heart inditing is good matter," in a song, "I'll speak the things that I have made which to the King belong." Psalm 45, to the tune ?? and we'll remain standing for the benediction.