

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1John**

Chapter 2- John's Declaration **1John1:1-4**

6. The Person of Jesus Christ Part 2

WAOY Wednesday 04/11/07; WOSM Thursday 10/02/08; WOSM Monday 10/10/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our “journey” through the **Epistle of 1John** and today we are going to begin to look at “The Declaration of the Apostle John” as listed in **1John 1:1-4** so let's read those verses together.

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Now on the last broadcast, we were exploring the five attributes that John gives to Jesus here in these first four verses. Those five attributes are:

- That Jesus is God
- That Jesus is the fulfillment of all of the over 400 Old Testament prophecies that foretold of the coming Jewish Messiah
- That John literally saw Jesus Christ with his physical eyes
- That John literally looked upon Jesus and touched Him
- That Jesus is the Word of Life

Because John says that Jesus was “**What was from the beginning**”, he is giving Jesus special significance as being Deity. The word, “Deity” comes from the Latin which means, *God*- so to say that Jesus is Deity or

to say that Jesus is Divine is to say that Jesus is God. And that is precisely what John is saying in the first part of verse 1.

Now we know that only God was in the beginning. Moses wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost in **Genesis 1:1** to say:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Moses' inspired testimony is that God was in the beginning. God existed before anything else- even before there was Creation. God always was and always will be. No one and no thing predated God. God is self- existent and self- sufficient. Now many people even from other religions do not dispute this testimony of Moses about God. For example, Jews, Muslims, even Hindus and Buddhists all accept without reservation that fact that God always was and always will be.

Where the rub comes in is that Christianity alone gives that same status to both the Holy Spirit and to Jesus Christ. No other religion or philosophy does that. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism- all the other religions and philosophies in the world will say that Jesus was a good man or that He was a prophet or that He was a moral leader; or that He was a notable historical figure- but none of them will agree that Jesus was Deity. So that means that only one of two things is true. Either John's Testimony here in 1John is true and Jesus was in the beginning which means that Jesus is God and that means that every other religion and philosophy on earth is a lie or it means that John's testimony about Jesus was false and the Bible cannot be trusted and Christianity is a myth. You cannot have it both ways.

The Christian Church categorically claims that Jesus was Deity. John says that Jesus was Deity. We do not hesitate to boldly say that Jesus Christ was God Almighty manifested in human flesh. The Bible says that angels and men worshipped Jesus. The Bible says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord when He returns. Now that is either true or false- but there is no middle ground here. To reject the Deity of Jesus Christ is to reject the very heart and soul of Christianity itself. No one can realistically call themselves a Christian and deny the Deity of Jesus Christ. And we need to understand that only Christians make that claim. Islam does not teach that Mohammed was Deity. No one claims that Buddha was Deity. None of those who follow Mary Baker Eddy or Joseph Smith or

Charles Taze Russell or Ellen G. White claim that they were Deity. Jews do not say that Moses was Deity- but Christians all say that Jesus Christ was the Word that the Word was in the beginning with God and that the Word was God and John boldly says that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among them and they beheld His Glory- the Glory as the One and Only of the Father- full of Grace and Truth.

The claims that the Bible makes about Jesus are unique and different than any claims made by any other religious figure- and because that is true- it is impossible to be true to those claims and at the same time hold hands with other religions and make the ridiculous statement that all religions are just different pathways to the same Heaven or that we are all on a journey toward God. Those kinds of statements are silly and naïve on their face, and they ignore the fact that all religions of the world differ *fundamentally* with what the Bible says about Jesus Christ.

Make no mistake about it- Jesus is the issue. Jesus has always been the issue and Jesus will always be the issue. Those who are saved love; adore; and follow Jesus Christ and they worship Him as God. Those who are lost and abide yet in their sins hold to Jesus being something else- a good man or a good person or a prophet or a teacher- but they all- without exception- categorically reject Christ's Divinity.

Now if the Bible did not make such profound and absolute statements about Jesus- then there possibly could be some reconciliation between Christianity and the other religions of the world. But because the Bible is crystal clear that Jesus Christ was God wrapped in human flesh- there can never be any middle ground between Christianity and any of the other major religions of the world.

The Bible teaches that it is *impossible* to be saved and not hold to Christ's Divinity and the other religions of the world teach that the only way to be saved is to utterly *reject* Christ's Divinity. So someone has to give if there is ever to be reconciliation. So Christians have to forsake the Divinity of Christ or the other religions of the world must embrace Jesus as God- or there will never be unity in any meaningful way.

And that is what is at stake about this issue. Either Christ is God or else He was a lunatic or a liar. And if He was a liar- then Jesus could not be called a Good Man and if He was a lunatic- He needed medication. So the only way that Jesus could ever be called a Good Man- is if He was telling the Truth about Himself and He is God. Now

many people incorrectly say that Jesus Himself never actually said that He was God. And this is a popular statement that atheists; Gnostics; New Agers; Muslims; Jews; and other people who reject the Bible or who don't know the Bible say. But that is just not true. The Bible records Jesus saying that He was God several times and in several ways. Let's look at several examples. John himself records several times that Jesus called Himself God:

John 10:30

I and the Father are one.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, **"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

John 14:11

"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

John Mark also records this in **Mark 12:35-37**

35 And Jesus *began* to say, as He taught in the temple, **"How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?**

36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit, **'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET."**

37 "David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

Now one of the most dramatic conversations about the Deity of Jesus Christ in the entire Bible took place in **John 8**, when Jesus is confronting the Pharisees over the futility of them trying to *earn* their Salvation through their adherence to the Law. Let's join in with that conversation in **John 8:31**:

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;**

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 "I speak the things which I have seen with *My* Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

41 "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.

44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."

48 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

- 50 "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.**
- 51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death."**
- 52 The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'**
- 53 "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?"**
- 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God';**
- 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.**
- 56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."**
- 57 So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"**
- 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."**

Now many people today do not realize that when Jesus made this statement- He wasn't just using incorrect grammar. No, Jesus was speaking what is called the "Tetragrammaton" (ho*hy+), which is the sacred or covenant Name of Almighty God- and the very same Name that God made Himself known to Moses back in **Exodus 3**. So at this very moment- Jesus was equating Himself with I AM that I AM. Now some might skip over this today and think nothing of it- but the Pharisees who were listening to Jesus on that day knew *exactly* what He meant when He said that because the very next verse says that they took up stones to stone Him- because in their mind- Jesus had just uttered blasphemy- by making Himself equal with God.

So when John tells us here in verse 1 of **1John** that Jesus was in the beginning- he is underlining the fact that our precious Lord Jesus was God Almighty wrapped in human flesh and therefore Jesus is entitled to our love; our devotion; our obedience; our admiration and our worship.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our “journey” through the Epistle of 1John. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse **Journey through the Epistle of 1John**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.