

September 18, 2016

## IDENTIFYING THE SON

Matthew 11: 25-27

**What** subject is more important than this? **IDENTIFYING THE SON** is the **KEY** to understanding everything we can know (in a spiritual sense). **Who** He is. **What** He has done. **What** He is doing now. **What** He is **CERTAIN** to do. **These** are things crucial to understanding what the Bible is all about.

**Look** at Matthew 11: 25-26 “**At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.**”

**Just** prior to this, Christ was upbraiding the cities, where most of His miracles were done. **He** was admonishing them for their lack of belief; their lack of repentance.

**Look** at Matthew 11: 27 “**All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**”

**Why** MUST the Son be IDENTIFIED? **It is** because “NO MAN” (by nature) knows the Son. **ONLY** the Father knows the Son. **So**, if any would know the Son, the Father **MUST** make Him known. **He** must send a preacher to reveal Him.

**The Son** has ALWAYS needed to be IDENTIFIED. **He has** NEVER been known to any of us by nature. **We can** take this NEED all the way back to immediately after the fall.

**Adam** and Eve saw some things AFTER the fall. **They** saw that they NOW had a NEED they had not had before. **They** saw their exposure to, (their deservedness of) the wrath of God. **But**, they did NOT see how to overcome that NEED. **They** did NOT see how to be delivered from their exposure to God’s wrath. **They** sought deliverance in their “fig leaves” (**i.e.** the work of THEIR hands).

**God** had to show them the **ONLY** solution to their problem. **He had** to REVEAL the “woman’s seed”. **He had** to IDENTIFY the Son to them.

**And**, He began this IDENTIFICATION when He “slew an animal and made them coats of skins”. **The Son** was seen in the sacrifice, in the blood, in the death.

**The** sacrifice IDENTIFIED the Son in picture and type. **And**, God taught them what all that meant.

**How** do I know God taught them what all that meant? **I know** because Abel came to worship God. **He** brought a blood sacrifice. **And**, God had “respect unto Abel and to his offering”. **Abel** was taught the RIGHT way to approach God and be accepted. **Abel** was taught everything NECESSARY for him to find fellowship with a Holy, and just God. **Abel’s** sacrifice revealed his knowledge of Christ.

**Now, that** is the way the Son was IDENTIFIED throughout the Old Testament (in picture and type). **The** Priesthood, ceremonies and sacrifices set Christ continually before the nation Israel in picture and type. **Moses** was the lawgiver and mediator between God and Israel. **He** wrote the law. **But**, Christ said “Moses wrote of Me”.

**And**, ALL the prophets taught of Christ.

**Look** at Romans 3: 22 “**But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;”**

(Same screen) **Look** at Acts 10: 43 “**To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**”

**The** word “witnessed” means they “testified of”. **It is** like a witness in a courtroom. **He** “testifies” what he knows to be true. **ALL** the prophets “testified” what they knew to be true. **They** “testified of the righteousness of God”.

**It was** necessary for the Son to be IDENTIFIED in the Old Testament. **The Law** of Moses bore witness to “the righteousness of God” in picture and type. **And**, the prophets testified of (“witnessed”) “the righteousness of God” in the Gospel.

**It was, also**, necessary that the Son be IDENTIFIED in the New Testament. **Some** in the New Testament were given a divine revelation of Christ. **Simeon** was one of those men.

**John**, the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, knew Him, apparently, by divine revelation. **I say** that because when Christ came to John for baptism, John protested (i.e. **He** ALREADY knew who Jesus was.).

**Look** at Matthew 3: 13-14 “**Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.**”

**14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?"**

**But**, although John had a divine revelation of Christ, He (still) needed to have Him IDENTIFIED. **The Spirit of God IDENTIFIED the Son at Christ's baptism.**

**Look at John 1: 29-34 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

**30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.**

**31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.**

**32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.**

**33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**

**34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."**

**This IDENTIFICATION of the Son at His baptism was designed to (and did) CONFIRM John's divine revelation of Him. And, the Word of God CONFIRMS John's revelation of the Son to us.**

**Also**, the disciples knew and believed Christ to be the Son, the Messiah, promised in the scriptures.

**Look at Matthew 16: 13-16 "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

**14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.**

**15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?**

**16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**Christ told Peter that his knowledge was also by divine revelation.**

**Look at Matthew 16: 17 "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."**

**Peter** was acting as a spokes person, expressing the belief of all the disciples. **But**, although they believed on Christ this way, it was **STILL** necessary for the Son to be **IDENTIFIED** to them (in His fullness), as the One the scriptures are “concerned” with (the One the scriptures are written about). **It was NECESSARY** for their belief to be **CONFIRMED** by the Word of God.

**Look** at Luke 24: 44-45 “**And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**

**Although** the disciples knew the Son by divine revelation, it was (vitaly) necessary for that revelation to be **CONFIRMED** by the scriptures.

**The** Son must be **IDENTIFIED** to us all. **We** cannot take this **IDENTIFICATION** from tradition, or, from our own understanding (by nature), or even from this world’s religion. **It is** imperative that we take this **IDENTIFICATION** *from the scriptures*.

**The** Son is **IDENTIFIED** (generally) in the Gospel that declares Him. **And**, He is **IDENTIFIED** not just as Him who died, was buried and rose again, but as the God-man who **ACCOMPLISHED** the salvation of **EVERY** sinner He died for.

**The Son** is the One who fulfilled the prophecies concerning Him. **First**, He fulfilled the prophecies of His **PERSON**.

**Look** at Isaiah 9: 6 “**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:**”

**It is** vital that we understand the Son to be God and man in one Person. **He is** the Savior. **He is** to be worshipped. **But**, no (mere) man is to be worshipped. **To** worship one you do not know to be God is to worship (“you know not what”).

**Also**, to **NOT** know Christ to be God and man is to attribute work to Him that He could not possible accomplish. **Sin** against God demands **INFINITE** payment. It demands **INFINITE** punishment. **Only** One who is God could render such punishment. “**Without** the shedding of blood is no remission.” **Only** One who is man could shed His blood. **And**, only One who is God could satisfy the demands of Infinite Justice. **The** prophets declared (i.e. they **IDENTIFIED**) the Son to be God and man in One Person.

**Also**, the Son is the One who fulfilled the prophecies of His work.

**Look at Isaiah 53: 4-5 “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”**

**That** is just another way of saying that by His death ALONE Christ ACCOMPLISHED the salvation of EVERY sinner whose sins He bore.

**Look at Daniel 9: 24 “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”**

**The** “everlasting righteousness” is called in the scriptures “the righteousness of God”. **It is** the one (always) “revealed” in the Gospel. **It is** the one God imputes to His elect. **It is** the one based upon which God declares otherwise ungodly sinners (forever/unchangeably) righteous in His sight.

**Look at a New Testament prophecy of Christ’s work, Matthew 1: 21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”**

**The** prophecy to Joseph was “He SHALL”. **It was** NOT He MIGHT. **It was** NOT He will IF sinners cooperate. **It was** NOT He will make a way for sinners to save themselves. **It is** “He SHALL save His people from their sins”.

**Since** Christ has come and gone, the only question to be answered is, “Did He do what the angel said He would do”? **Did** He save His people? **Or**, is their salvation still in question, still dependent on THEIR cooperation, THEIR contribution?

**He has** ALREADY saved His people from their sins LEGALLY. **He is** NOW saving them for sin’s bondage. **He WILL** save them from sin’s presence and influence.

**The** Gospel is a DECLARATION of the Son. **The** doctrine it sets forth IDENTIFIES Him. **The** Gospel DISTINGUISHES Him from all counterfeits. **Christ** is IDENTIFIED (generally) in the Gospel. **But**, more is needed than just a (general) understanding. **There** has to be a work in the heart.

**God** has withheld these things from “the wise and the prudent”. **But**, “He has REVEALED them unto babes.”

**Look** at John 6: 45 “**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**”

**The Father**, who ALONE knows the Son, teaches His elect people of Christ. **He IDENTIFIES** Christ to them (individually) by the Spirit in regeneration under the preaching of the Gospel.

**And**, He IDENTIFIES Christ not just (generally) but (specifically). **He IDENTIFIES** Christ (specifically) as the One who glorified His Father in the full free salvation of those He was given.

**Look** at II Corinthians 4: 3-6 “**But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

**4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.

**6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

**What** is “hid” from men (ALL of us by nature)? **It is** the “gospel” that is “hid”. **And**, what is the “gospel”? **It is** the DECLARATION (the IDENTIFICATION) of Christ and what He has done that makes it RIGHT for God to justify ungodly sinners. (I.e. “**The knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**” is “hid”.)

**If** the declaration of Christ is “hid”; **if** a just God and Savior is “hid”; **if** a perfect righteousness of infinite value is “hid”, **it is** “hid” to the LOST. **Who** are the LOST? **The** LOST are those who do not know the way. **They** are those on a “way that seems right”, but ends in death. **The** LOST are those on the “broad way” that leads to destruction. They are those to whom the Son has not been IDENTIFIED.

**Just** like all others, God’s chosen people start out (among) the LOST. **But**, UNLIKE all others, God’s chosen people are not left there. **The** Father IDENTIFIES Christ to His people (specifically) as the One who “obtained eternal redemption” *for us* (i.e. for EVERY sinner He was given).

Look at Hebrews 9: 11-12 **“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;**

**12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”**

The Father IDENTIFIES Christ (specifically) as the One whose sacrifice has “put away” the sin of EVERY sinner He died for.

Look at Hebrews 9: 24-26 **“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:**

**25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;**

**26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”**

Christ needed to make but ONE sacrifice to “put away” FOREVER the sin of EVERY sinner He died for.

Christ is IDENTIFIED (specifically) to His elect. He is IDENTIFIED as the One Person who is God and man. He is IDENTIFIED in His work of satisfying the law and justice of God. He is IDENTIFIED in establishing the “righteousness of God”. He is IDENTIFIED in ACCOMPLISHING the (full) salvation of EVERY sinner He was given. This is not the “Christ” we start out trusting for salvation. But, it is the Christ God’s people BEGIN to trust when God regenerates them under the Gospel.

And, when the Father IDENTIFIES the Son, He (in turn) REVEALS the “true and living God” (a Just God and Savior).

Look back at our text, Matthew 11: 27 **“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”**

It is the Son who reveals the true and living God. It is the Son who reveals the God who justifies the ungodly based on the righteousness Christ established by His obedience unto death. And, in turn, it is the Son who exposes the idol of our imaginations, (the one we all worshipped BEFORE we saw and submitted to Him).

**The** Father IDENTIFIES the Son through the Gospel. **The** Son IDENTIFIES the Father as the God who justifies the ungodly based on the righteousness He established by His obedience unto death. **And**, those who come to the Father (a Just God and Savior), through the Son (His righteousness imputed ALONE), are those who are IDENTIFIED as the (adopted) sons of God.

**John 1: 11-13** “**He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**Those BORN** of God are those in each generation who are “led by the Spirit of God”.

**Look** at Romans 8: 12-13 “**Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

**13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

**14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**”

**Christ** said, “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me.” **And**, in another place, “Every man that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, comes to Me.” “**Sons of adoption**” are those who are “led by the Spirit of God”. **They** are those who hear the Son IDENTIFIED in the Gospel and come to Him for all of salvation. **They** are “led by the Spirit” to REST in Christ ALONE. **They** are “led by the Spirit” to worship the God who justifies the ungodly based on the imputed righteousness of Christ ALONE.

**As I** said starting out, IDENTIFYING THE SON is a vitally important subject. **And**, this is an on-going IDENTIFICATION. **Every** time we look at a portion of scripture, our prayer is that God will REVEAL the Son in that context (who He is, and what He has done to save His people from their sins).

**And**, every time we preach the Gospel, our prayer is that God will IDENTIFY the Son in the hearts of sinners as “The Lord our righteousness”, (i.e. as the One they need to save them and keep them unto final glory).

**Well!** I’ve certainly not exhausted the subject. **But**, I hope I’ve given you some inspiration to IDENTIFY THE SON; **Confirm** your IDENTIFICATION of Him by the scriptures; **Because** the Son IDENTIFIED in the scriptures, the Son IDENTIFIED in the Gospel ALONE is worthy of all worship.



