

“If there were infinite worlds made of loving creatures, they would NOT have so much love in them as was in the heart of that man Jesus Christ” (Thomas Goodwin)

John Arrowsmith loved to refer to Christ by the term: “*Theanthropos*” (The God-Man)

- CHRISTOLOGY — we need an *accurate*, biblical, robust, clear Christology.
 - ❖ Essence/Nature of Christ - He is truly God & truly man
 - ❖ Person of Christ - one person with two natures — divine + human
 - ❖ Attributes of Christ - fully God in *all attributes*, he is Yahweh
 - ❖ Offices of Christ - Prophet. Priest. King
 - ❖ Exclusivity of Christ - none like Him.
 - Why? “So that all will *honor the Son even as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father*” (John 5.23)

Background to Mark 8

- the journey to IDENTIFICATION of the Messiah (1:1 - 8:30)
- the journey to CRUCIFIXION of the Messiah (8:31-ch.16)
- Mark 8-9 overview:
 - the **RECOGNITION of the Christ (8:27-30)** [tonight!]
 - the **REJECTION** of the Christ (8:31-33)
 - the **REQUIREMENTS** of the Christ (8:34-38)
 - the **RADIANCE** of the Christ (9:1-13)
- To KNOW HIM includes 3 spheres...
 - **intellectual assent = mind**
 - **affectionate love = heart**
 - **submissive obedience = will**

THESIS — This particular account provides 2 essentials that every Christian *must* fully believe.

In regions near Caesarea Philippi:

- A major Hellenistic city in the far north near Mt Hermon built by Herod Philip in honor of Augustus.
- In ancient times it was called PANEAS in the honor of the greek god PAN
- PAN had a shrine here, but now, in 1st c., it was a shrine for the emperor cult.
- It was previously in Old Testament times a site where BAAL was worshiped.
- SO in the midst of a city dedicated to false gods, Jesus’ true identity and exclusivity is revealed and affirmed!

I. JESUS IS THE CHRIST (Mark 8:29a)

- A. Gk: “*Christ*”; Heb: *Mesiah*; He is “Anointed One” - a person who was anointed/consecrated/separated for a God-given task (prophets, priests, kings).
- B. ***The*** ANOINTED ONE (in the Old Testament) includes 4 vital realities:
1. **Separated unto God**
 2. **Authorized by God**
 3. **Enabled by God**
 4. **Deliverer to Come**

The ultimate point: The point? God has chosen and empowered and set Jesus apart to fulfill what all the preceding anointed priests and prophets could never do — bring salvation & to bring in the kingdom of God! (John Oswald)

II. JESUS IS THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD (Matt 16:16)

- A. **The Son of the Living God** meant that he was of equal status to, equal identity with, and equal position to the Living God. Thus, Jesus *IS* God.
- B. When Jesus was called “Son of God,” it was understood categorically by all as a title of deity, declaring Him equal with God and (more significantly) of the same essence as the Father. That is precisely why the Jewish leaders regarded the title Son of God the ultimate high blasphemy (John 5:18 - making himself *equal with God!*)
- C. The full deity of Jesus Christ comes out all through the Word of God. But, most gloriously and fully, in 4 particular texts: John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-14.

In summary, Jesus is:

1. **Man** - 1 Tim 2:4-5 - he can relate to you & redeem you!
2. **Messiah** - Mark 8 & John 4 - he is divinely sent one to accomplish the mission to save

Mark 8:27-30 — “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?”

3. **Majestic** - Hebrews 1.1-4 (fully divine, 100% God, splendid, majestic, sovereign God!)
4. **Mediator** - Revelation 1.4-5 - the *only* door, the gate, the way to God
5. **Merciful** - Mark 10.47-48 - full of mercy, tenderness, pity toward helpless sinners

JC Ryle said: We should settle it firmly in our minds, that our Savior is perfect man as well as perfect God, and perfect God as well as perfect man. If we once lose sight of this great foundation truth, we may run into fearful heresies.

Because of all this is true regarding Jesus (as Savior & God), THEREFORE, we must:

1. Trust Him
2. Worship Him
3. Adore Him
4. Obey Him

4 keys to identifying this Messiah & this Son of God? [from William Varner, *Anticipating the Messiah*]:

- ✓ The **PLACE** of his coming — Micah 5.2 - he will be an eternal being who will come out of Bethlehem in his earthly existence
- ✓ The **MANNER** of his coming - Isaiah 7.14 - he will have a miraculous birth from a virgin mother and that he will be GOD in human form.
- ✓ The **TIME** of his coming - Daniel 9.24-27 - he had to arrive and then be ‘cut off’ (violently killed) before the Temple’s destruction in 70AD
- ✓ The **PURPOSE** of his coming - Isaiah 52-53 - he would come to give his own life as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of others so that they might be forgiven.

Early Church affirmations of the full Deity of Jesus Christ as God.

- **Polycarp**, late 1st c. — “Now may the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal high priest himself, the Son of God Jesus Christ, build you up in faith and truth...and to us with you, and to all those under heaven who will yet believe in our Lord and God Jesus Christ and in his Father who raised him from the dead.”
- **Justin Martyr**, 2nd c. — “And that Christ being Lord, and God the Son of God, and appearing formerly in power as Man, and Angel, and in the glory of fire as at the bush, so also was manifested at the judgment executed on Sodom, has been demonstrated fully by what has been said.
 - Permit me first to recount the prophecies, which I wish to do in order to prove that Christ is called both God and Lord of hosts
 - Therefore these words testify explicitly that He [Jesus] is witnessed to by Him [the Father] who established these things, as deserving to be worshipped, as God and as Christ.
- **Irenaeus, 2nd c** — “For I have shown from the Scriptures, that no one of the sons of Adam is as to everything, and absolutely, called God, or named Lord. But that He is Himself in His own right, beyond all men who ever lived, God, and Lord, and King Eternal, and the Incarnate Word, proclaimed by all the prophets, the apostles, and by the Spirit Himself, may be seen by all who have attained to even a small portion of the truth.
 - Christ Jesus [is] our Lord, and God, and Savior, and King, according to the will of the invisible Father
- **Tertullian**, 2nd c. Africa — “For God alone is without sin; and the only man without sin is Christ, since Christ is also God.
- **Hippolytus**, late 2nd/early 3rd c. — “The Logos alone of this God is from God himself; wherefore also the Logos is God, being the substance of God.”

JOIN ALL THE GLORIOUS NAMES

Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and power,
That ever mortals knew,
That angels ever bore:
All are too poor to speak His worth,
Too poor to set my Savior forth.

Great prophet of my God,
My tongue would bless Thy name,
By Thee the joyful news
Of our salvation came,
The joyful news of sin forgiv'n
Of hell subdued, and peace with Heav'n.

Jesus, my great high priest,
Offered His blood, and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside:
His powerful blood did once atone,
And now it pleads before the throne.

My dear almighty Lord,
My conqueror and my King,
Thy scepter and Thy sword,
Thy reigning grace I sing:
Thine is the power; behold I sit
In willing bonds beneath Thy feet.

FAIREST LORD JESUS

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Isaac Watts

Tune: "I asked the Lord that I might grow"

Yet, gracious God! thy power and love
Have made the curse a blessing prove!
Those dreadful sufferings of thy Son
Atoned for sins which we had done.

The pangs of our expiring Lord,
The honours of thy law restored;
His sorrows made thy justice known,
And paid for follies not his own.

PRAISE/EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Samuel Medley

Tune: "Jesus Shall Reign"

Join, all who love the Saviour's name,
To sing his everlasting fame;
Great God! prepare each heart and voice
In Him for ever to rejoice.

Of Him what wondrous things are told!
In Him what glories I behold!
For Him I gladly all things leave;
To Him, my soul, for ever cleave.

Praise Him in cheerful, grateful songs;
To Him your highest praise belongs;
'Tis he who does your heaven prepare,
And Him you'll sing for ever there.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Samuel Francis

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

Mark 8:27-30 — "Who Do You Say Jesus Is?"**THE CHARACTERS OF JESUS CHRIST***Isaac Watts*

1

Go worship at Immanuel's feet;
See in his face what wonders meet,
Earth is too narrow to express
His worth, his glory, or his grace.

2

[The whole creation can afford
But some faint shadows of my Lord;
Nature, to make his beauties known,
Must mingle colours not her own.]

3

[Is he compared to Wine or Bread?
Dear Lord, our souls would thus be fed.
That flesh, that dying blood of thine,
Is bread of life, is heavenly wine.]

4

[Is he a Tree? the world receives
Salvation from his healing leaves;
That righteous branch, that fruitful bough,
Is David's root and offspring too.]

5

[Is he a Rose? not Sharon yields
Such fragrancy in all her fields;
Or if the Lily he assume,
The valleys bless the rich perfume.]

6

[Is he a Vine? his heavenly root
Supplies the boughs with life and fruit;
O let a lasting union join
My soul to Christ, the living Vine!]

7

[Is he a Head? each member lives,
And owns the vital power he gives –
The saints below and saints above,
Joined by his Spirit and his love.]

8

[Is he a Fountain? there I bathe,
And heal the plague of sin and death;
These waters all my soul renew,
And cleanse my spotted garments too.]

9

[Is he a Fire? he'll purge my dross;
But the true gold sustains no loss;
Like a refiner shall he sit,
And tread the refuse with his feet.]

10

[Is he a Rock? how firm he proves!
The Rock of Ages never moves;
Yet the sweet streams that from him flow,
Attend us all the desert through.]

11

[Is he a Way? he leads to God;
The path is drawn in lines of blood;
There would I walk with hope and zeal,
Till I arrive at Zion's hill.

12

Is he a Door? I'll enter in;
Behold the pastures large and green;
A paradise divinely fair;
None but the sheep have freedom there.]

13

[Is he designed the Corner-stone,
For men to build their heaven upon?
I'll make him my foundation too,
Nor fear the plots of hell below.]

14

[Is he a Temple? I adore
The indwelling majesty and power;
And still to his most holy place,
Whene'er I pray, I'll turn my face.]

15

[Is he a Star? he breaks the night,
Piercing the shades with dawning light;
I know his glories from afar,
I know the bright, the Morning Star.]

16

[Is he a Sun? his beams are grace,
His course is joy and righteousness;
Nations rejoice when he appears
To chase their clouds and dry their tears.]

17

O let me climb those higher skies,
Where storms and darkness never rise!
Where he displays his powers abroad,
And shines and reigns the incarnate God.

18

Nor earth, nor seas, nor sun, nor stars,
Nor heaven his full resemblance bears;
His beauties we can never trace,
Till we behold him face to face.