

THE DIETY OF CHRIST
PRESENTED BY
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GREEN LAWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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WITH THIS STUDY WE BEGIN A SERIES OF LESSONS DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON. OUR FIRST LESSON DEALS WITH THE DIETY OF CHRIST. OUR TEXT IS TAKEN FROM PHILIPPIANS 2: "LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS: WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD; BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, AND TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT, AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN; AND BEING FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF, AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. WHEREFORE GOD ALSO HATH HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GAVE HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME: THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THINGS IN HEAVEN, AND THINGS IN EARTH, AND THINGS UNDER THE EARTH. AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER." EVERY SUBJECT THAT WE HAVE STUDIED HAS HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH CHRISTIANITY, BUT YET YOU COULD STUDY ABOUT GOD WITHOUT REALLY STUDYING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY FOR GOD HAD CONTACTS WITH MEN BEFORE CHRISTIANITY EVER CAME INTO THE EARTH. IT IS TRUE THAT HE HAD PURPOSED CHRISTIANITY FOR CHRIST WAS ORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD AS GOD'S LAMB FOR TAKING AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, YET IT IS IN A SPECIAL SENSE, WHEN WE COME TO JESUS CHRIST THAT WE COME TO A DISCUSSION OF CHRISTIANITY.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF CHRISTIANITY MUST BEGIN WITH THE DISCUSSION OF JESUS CHRIST. IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIANITY, AND IF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT WHAT HE CLAIMED TO BE, IF HE IS NOT INDEED THE VERY SON OF THE LIVING GOD, THEN THE FOUNDATION IS CRUMBLING. INDEED, THE FOUNDATION DOES NOT EVEN EXIST AND THE SUPER STRUCTURE MUST THEN COLLAPSE. IN THE SECOND PLACE, WE MUST BEGIN WITH JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE IF JESUS CHRIST IS SHOWN TO BE DIVINE IN A UNIQUE SENSE, OR TO MAKE THE STATEMENT STRONGER, IF JESUS CHRIST IS SHOWN TO BE DIETY, THEN A NUMBER OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE ARE IMMEDIATELY SOLVED. FOR INSTANCE, THE EXISTENCE OF GOD IS PROVED IF JESUS IS GOD. QUESTIONS CONCERNING MAN'S DUTY AND MAN'S DESTINY ARE ANSWERED. PROBLEMS CONCERNING LIFE AFTER DEATH ARE SOLVED. THE PURPOSE AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ARE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED AND THE MEANING OF THE CROSS IS MADE CLEAR WHEN JESUS IS SHOWN TO BE GOD'S SON.

WE CANNOT SAVE JESUS CHRIST BY ADMITTING THAT HE IS A PROPHET, AND WE CAN DO JESUS CHRIST NO HONOR EVEN SHOULD WE ELEVATE HIM TO THE POSITION OF A PLENIPOTENTIARY. WHAT WE NEED IS GOD IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE. WHAT WE NEED IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD, GOD'S REALITY IN PERFECT HUMANITY. IF WE ALLOW CHRIST TO BE A PROPHET, HE IS A MAN. IF WE ALLOW CHRIST TO BE A PLENIPOTENTIARY, HE IS A SUPERMAN. BUT IT IS ONLY WHEN WE HAVE GOD'S REALITY IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE THAT HE BECOMES THE SUPERNAL MAN, THAT HE BECOMES THE LORD FROM HEAVEN, AND THIS IS WHAT MAN NEEDS. MAN DOES NOT NEED ANOTHER PROPHET. MAN DOES NOT NEED ANOTHER PLENIPOTENTIARY. WHAT MAN NEEDS IS A SAVIOR TO REDEEM HIM FROM HIS SINS. THE STORY IS TOLD OF A NOBLEMAN WHO LIVED NEXT TO A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOODED PARK, AND IT IS SAID THAT ONE DAY A YOUNG ARTIST CAME INTO THE PARK TO PAINT. AS HE LOOKED OVER TO THE NOBLEMAN'S HOUSE, HE SAW IN THE WINDOW OF THAT HOUSE A PICTURE OF THE NOBLEMAN'S WIFE PAINTED BEFORE SHE HAD DIED AND WHEN SHE WAS IN HER BEAUTY. THE PICTURE WAS SO LIFELIKE AND SO REAL THAT THE YOUNG ARTIST DID NOT KNOW IT TO BE A PICTURE AND HE WAS SO STRUCK WITH HER

BEAUTY THAT HE BECAME ENAMORED OF HER. ONE DAY WHEN THE FAMILY WAS GONE, HE CAME TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WOMAN THAT HE SO VERY MUCH ADMIRING AND WITH WHOM HE HAD FALLEN IN LOVE, BUT WHEN HE CAME CLOSE, HE DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS BUT A PICTURE. HE DISCOVERED THAT THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE WAS A WORK OF GENIUS BUT THAT SHE HAD NO LIFE. HE DISCOVERED THAT HIS LOVE HAD BEEN SILLY, THAT HE HAD DECEIVED HIMSELF, AND THAT HIS LOVE COULD NOT BE RETURNED. HE DISCOVERED THAT THAT WHICH HE LOVED COULD NOT SPEAK TO HIM, COULD NOT HELP HIM, COULD NOT SCORN HIM, COULD HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM OF ANY KIND BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT ALIVE. EVEN SO, IF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT THE SON OF GOD, THEN THE DESCRIPTION THAT WE HAVE OF HIM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PICTURE PUT IN A WINDOW TO DECEIVE MEN, AND MEN LOOKING AT THE PICTURE OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND BELIEVING HIM TO BE THE SON OF GOD HAVE INDEED BEEN DECEIVED. AND SO THE CRUCIAL ISSUE, THE ALL IMPORTANT ISSUE, THE ISSUE WITHOUT WHICH NOTHING ELSE IS MEANINGFUL, IS FOUND IN THE QUESTION, "IS THE CARPENTER OF NAZARETH THE SON OF GOD?" WHO THEN IS JESUS CHRIST? THE GREATEST QUESTION OF CHRISTIANITY WAS, IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST, AND IT REMAINS TODAY, "WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"

WHEN CHRIST CAME IN HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY MEN STARTED ASKING THAT QUESTION. IN LUKE 5 WE READ THAT JESUS HEALED THE PALSIED MAN WHO WAS BROUGHT TO HIM. THE REACTION OF THE JEWS STANDING BY WAS TO ASK THIS QUESTION, "WHO IS THIS THAT SPEAKETH BLASPHEMIES? WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS, BUT GOD ALONE? IN THE 7TH CHAPTER OF THE SAME GOSPEL JESUS FORGAVE A SINNER WOMAN HER SINS, AND THOSE STANDING BY AND OBSERVING SAID, "WHO IS THIS WHO EVEN FORGIVES SINS?" IN THE 9TH CHAPTER HEROD HAD HEARD OF A STRANGE MAN, AND HIS REACTION WAS, "JOHN I BEHEADED, BUT WHO IS THIS ABOUT WHOM I HEAR SUCH THINGS?" IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK EVEN THE DISCIPLES ASKED THE QUESTION. WHEN JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES WERE STORM TOSSED IN THE BOAT AND JESUS STOOD BEFORE THE SEA AND SAID UNTO IT, "PEACE, BE STILL," THE DISCIPLES ASKED, "WHO IS THIS THAT EVEN THE WINDS AND THE SEA OBEY HIM." AS WE FIND JESUS COMING TO THE END OF HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY ENTERING INTO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WE READ IN THE 21ST CHAPTER OF MATTHEW'S GOSPEL THAT "ALL THE CITY WAS MOVED SAYING WHO IS THIS." MEN STARTED ASKING THE QUESTION WHEN CHRIST CAME AND STILL SOME HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND THE ANSWER.

WHEN WE SAY THAT JESUS IS DIETY, WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE TERM? WHEN WE SAY THAT JESUS IS DIETY, THAT JESUS IS GOD WE MEAN THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH EXISTED BEFORE HE BECAME MAN. WE MEAN THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH EXISTED BEFORE HE BECAME MAN FROM ALL ETERNITY, AND SO THAT HE HIMSELF IS INFINITE, ETERNAL, UNCHANGEABLE GOD, THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE CARPENTER OF GALILEE, IS THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE TODAY WHO ARE WILLING TO SAY, "JESUS IS GOD," BUT WHEN YOU BEGIN TO ASK THEM TO DEFINE THEIR TERMS, WHEN YOU ASK THEM WHAT THEY MEAN BY THAT EXPRESSION, YOU DISCOVER THAT WHAT THEY MEAN BY THE EXPRESSION, "JESUS IS GOD," IS SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE CHRISTIAN DEFINITION OF THAT TERM. THIS IS EASILY DETERMINED BY WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HIM, BUT IT IS EVEN MORE EASILY DETERMINED BY WHAT THEY WILL NOT SAY ABOUT HIM. THEY WILL SAY THAT JESUS IS GOD, BUT THEY WILL NOT SAY THAT JESUS WORKED MIRACLES. THEY WILL NOT SAY THAT WHAT JESUS SAID WAS ALWAYS TRUE. THEY WILL NOT SAY THAT JESUS DIED AS OUR SUBSTITUTE UPON THE CROSS. THEY WILL NOT SAY THAT THE BODY OF JESUS LITERALLY CAME FORTH FROM THE TOMB, RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY. YET THEY SAY HE WAS GOD. SOME STAND BACK AND SAY, "WELL, THIS IS TO THEIR CREDIT. SURELY WHEN A MAN IS WILLING TO SAY THAT JESUS IS GOD, THIS MEANS THAT HE CANNOT BE TOO FAR WRONG." BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE CASE. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS TO THEIR CREDIT TO SAY THAT JESUS IS GOD. CERTAINLY IT IS A CREDIT TO SAY THAT THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE IS GOD, BUT IT IS NOT TO ANYBODY'S CREDIT TO SAY THAT THIS POOR, DELUGED, DISHONEST, DECEIVING MAN OF MODERN RECONSTRUCTION IS GOD. SURELY IF THIS IS GOD, THEN THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE A VERY LOW CONCEPT

OF DIETY ITSELF. IF THEY CAN SAY THAT THIS MAN WHO WAS DELUDED, THIS MAN WHO WAS DECEIVED, THIS MAN WHO PRACTICED DECEPTION WAS GOD, THEN THEY SAY JESUS IS GOD NOT BECAUSE THEY THINK HIGHLY OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT THEY SAY JESUS IS GOD BECAUSE THEY THINK SO LOW OF GOD.

THEY ARE WILLING TO TAKE THE MORALS OF JESUS CHRIST. THEY THINK THAT SOME OF HIS MORALS ARE ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DOCTRINE. GENERALLY, THEIR ATTITUDE IS THAT WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS LOFTY IDEA OF JESUS CHRIST. WE NEED TO HONOR HIM NOT BY SAYING HE IS GOD, BUT WE NEED TO HONOR HIM BY LIVING HIS LIFE. "LET US JUST GET AWAY FROM THIS HIGH CONCEPT OF JESUS, LET'S JUST ADMIT HIM TO BE A MAN AND THEN LIVE ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES THAT HE TAUGHT." BUT I WOULD ASK THE QUESTION, WHERE WOULD YOU GO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TO GET AWAY FROM THE LOFTY CONCEPT OF JESUS CHRIST THAT IT PRESENTS? GENERALLY WHEN THAT QUESTION IS ASKED THE ANSWER COMES BACK, "GO TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM IT THERE."

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS USUALLY CONSIDERED TO BE JUST SOME SORT OF PROGRAM FOR LIVING WHICH HAS ABSOLUTELY NO THEOLOGY AT ALL AND WHICH DOESN'T HAVE ANY VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST SAVE THE IDEA OF A GREAT MORAL TEACHER WHO IS PUTTING FORTH SOME MORAL PRECEPTS. BUT LET'S EXAMINE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND SEE WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS SO. LET'S SEE IF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT DOES OR DOES NOT PRESENT A LOFTY PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST. LET'S BEGIN WITH THE BEATITUDES WHERE JESUS ANNOUNCES, "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT MOURN FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED. BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD. BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." NOW NOTICE WHAT JESUS IS PROMISING HERE. "THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." "THEY SHALL SEE GOD." "THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH." WHO IS THIS MAN THAT PROMISES TO INDIVIDUALS THINGS THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE? WHO IS THE MAN WHO CAN GIVE THE KINGDOM? WHO IS THE MAN WHO CAN PROMISE TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED? WHO IS THE MAN WHO CAN BESTOW THAT WHICH WILL SATISFY HUNGERING AND THIRSTING AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS? SURELY THERE IS NO MAN WHO CAN GIVE THESE THINGS, BUT ONLY GOD, AND IF JESUS WAS NOT GOD THEN THE MORAL TEACHING OF JESUS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT DOESN'T HAVE ANY MEANING AT ALL.

LOOK AT THE LAST VERSE IN THE BEATITUDES: "BLESSED ARE YE WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR MY SAKE." IMAGINE ANY MERE MAN SAYING, "BLESSED ARE YOU IF YOU SUFFER ON MY ACCOUNT." IS THERE ANY MAN WHO CAN MAKE SUCH A PROMISE? CAN IT HAVE ANY MEANING OR ANY VALIDITY EITHER HERE OR HEREAFTER? THIS IS THE SAME JESUS THAT SAID IN LUKE THE 14TH CHAPTER: "IF ANY MAN COME TO ME, AND HATE NOT HIS FATHER, AND MOTHER, AND WIFE, AND CHILDREN, AND BRETHREN, AND SISTERS, YEA, AND HIS OWN LIFE ALSO, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE." THIS IS THE SAME JESUS WHO SAID, "WHOEVER WILL BE ASHAMED OF ME AND MY WORD IN THIS EVIL AND ADULTROUS GENERATION OF HIM SHALL THE SON OF MAN BE ASHAMED WHEN HE COMETH IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH HIS HOLY ANGELS." WHO CAN CLAIM SUCH DEVOTION AS THIS THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM AND YOUR BEING ASHAMED OF HIM DETERMINES YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY? GOD CAN! BUT CAN ANY MAN? THUS, WHEN JESUS SAID, "BLESSED ARE YE WHEN YE ARE PERSECUTED FOR MY SAKE," JESUS WAS SAYING, "I AM GOD."

LOOK AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND OBSERVE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE LAW AND HIS OWN STATEMENTS. "YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT HAS BEEN SAID UNTO YOU, BUT I SAY UNTO YOU." NOW IT IS VERY PLAIN ALL OF THE PASSAGES WHERE JESUS USED THIS FORMULA THAT HE PLACES HIS SAYINGS, THAT HE PLACES HIS WORDS ON PAR WITH THE WORD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WHICH HE VERY CLEARLY BELIEVED TO BE THE VERY WORDS OF GOD. NOW IF HE BELIEVED THE OLD TESTAMENT TO

BE THE WORD OF GOD AND HE BELIEVED THAT HE HAD THE RIGHT TO SAY "YOU HAVE HEARD IT HAS BEEN SAID UNTO YOU, BUT HERE'S WHAT I SAY." THIS MEANS THAT JESUS SAID, "I AM GOD." SOME MIGHT SUGGEST THAT HE COULD JUST BE A PROPHET, FOR WHEN THE PROPHETS CAME THEY CAME ASKING MEN TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT THEY SAID WAS THE VERY WORD OF GOD. BUT NOTICE THE VERY CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT THE PROPHET SAID AND WHAT JESUS SAID. THE PROPHETS ALWAYS SAID, "THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME UNTO ME SAYING," AND THEY EMPHASIZED THAT NEITHER THE WORD NOR THE AUTHORITY WAS THEIR OWN, BUT IT CAME FROM GOD AND THROUGH THEM TO MAN. JESUS MADE NO SUCH CLAIM. JESUS DID NOT SAY, "THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME UNTO ME SAYING," HE DID NOT SAY, "I AM THE SPOKESMAN FOR GOD. HE SAID, "YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT HAS BEEN SAID, BUT I SAY UNTO YOU," AND HE SAID THEREIN, "I AM GOD."

BUT LET US LOOK AT THE CLOSE OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. JESUS SAID, "NOT EVERYONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESIED IN THY NAME? AND IN THY NAME CAST OUT DEVILS? AND IN THY NAME DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS? AND THEN ^{WILL I} PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY." NOW RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SUPPOSEDLY PLEASANT, PURELY ETHICAL, COMPLETELY PRACTICAL, NON-THEOLOGICAL SERMON YOU HAVE SOME OF THE GREATEST CLAIMS THAT JESUS MADE TO DIETY ANYWHERE IN GOD'S WORD. WE USUALLY READ IT AND JUST SKIP OVER THE PHRASES. WE HAVE READ THEM SO OFTEN THEY DON'T REALLY MEAN MUCH TO US. BUT NOW NOTICE, "BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." NOW WE ARE GOING TO SEE IN A MOMENT THAT JESUS ALWAYS USED THIS EXPRESSION IN A VERY PECULIAR WAY, BUT HERE JESUS IS SAYING, "GOD IS MY FATHER" AND THEREBY HE IS SAYING, "I AM THE SON OF GOD." NOT ONLY DID HE SAY THAT GOD WAS HIS FATHER HERE AT THE END OF THIS SERMON, BUT HE LIKewise SAID, "MANY WILL SAY UNTO ME IN THAT DAY AND I WILL SAY UNTO THEM." HERE JESUS IS SAYING, "I AM GOING TO SIT ON THE THRONE OF ETERNAL JUDGMENT AND I AM GOING TO DECIDE THE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MEN." WHAT MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH A CLAIM? NO MAN, BUT GOD DOES. NOTICE THAT JESUS SAID, "I WILL SAY UNTO THEM, 'DEPART'." NOW OBVIOUSLY HE HAS IN MIND HERE THE TEACHING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT RELATIVE TO HELL, AND HE IS SAYING THAT TO DEPART FROM HIM IS SYNONYMOUS WITH GOING INTO HELL. CONTRARIWISE, HE IS SAYING THAT TO BE WITH HIM IS HEAVEN. WHERE IS THE MAN WHO COULD SAY IT? ALL THROUGHOUT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, WHICH IS SUPPOSEDLY JUST A PRACTICAL PLAN FOR LIVING, WE HAVE JESUS CLAIMING TO BE DIETY.

THIS IS THE PICTURE THAT THE BIBLE PRESENTS OF JESUS CHRIST FROM BEGINNING EVEN UNTO END, AND IT IS A RELIEF FOR US TO TURN AWAY FROM AN INTELLECTUAL QUAGMIRE WHERE MEN CAN SAY "JESUS IS GOD" AND NOT MEAN WHAT THEY SAY, TO TURN AWAY FROM THOSE WHO ARE DISHONEST, WHO USE LANGUAGE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DECEIVE YOU INTO THINKING THEY MEAN SOMETHING THEY DO NOT MEAN, TO THE ETERNAL WORD OF AN EVERLASTING GOD WHERE WE ARE ALWAYS ON FIRM FOOTING. WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS "JESUS IS GOD" IT DEFINES IT AND DEFINES IT PRECISELY. WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS THAT JESUS IS GOD IT DOES IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO DOUBTS AT ALL ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS OR WHAT IT EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE WHEN WE CONFESS "I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD." WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS "JESUS IS GOD" IT DOESN'T ASK US TO FORGET A SINGLE, SOLITARY THING THAT IT HAS SAID ABOUT GOD THE FATHER. FOR INSTANCE, DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GOD THE FATHER THAT HE CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH? HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT GOD THE SON: "ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE." DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT GOD THE FATHER IS INFINITE, ETERNAL, AND UNCHANGEABLE? WHEN IT SAYS THAT "JESUS IS GOD" IT DOESN'T ASK US TO FORGET THAT, FOR JESUS SAID, "I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE FIRST AND THE LAST." AGAIN,

"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD." AND AGAIN, "HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS AND BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST." DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT GOD IS HOLY? WHEN THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT "JESUS IS GOD" IT DOESN'T ASK US TO FORGET THAT. JESUS HIMSELF LOOKED AT HIS GENERATION AND CLAIMED HOLINESS FOR HE SAID, "WHICH OF YOU CONVINCETH ME OF SIN?" THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD CONVINCE HIM OF WRONG DOING. DOES THE BIBLE SAY GOD IS JUST? IT DOESN'T ASK US TO FORGET THAT WHEN IT SAYS "JESUS IS GOD." IT SAYS THAT JESUS THE SON WILL SIT UPON THE THRONE OF ETERNAL JUSTICE. DOES THE BIBLE PRESENT A STUPENDOUS VIEW OF GOD THE FATHER? IT DOES, AND THEN IT TELLS US THAT "IN HIM (THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST, IN THE CARPENTER OF NAZARETH) DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY." YES, THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS DIETY.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PASSAGES WE COULD USE TO INDICATE THIS AND THE REASON THAT WE USE SO FEW IS NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE FEW IN NUMBER. THERE ARE SO MANY THEIR NUMBER IS EMBARRASSING. BUT THESE ARE SOME WHICH ARE MORE MEANINGFUL TO ME AND I HOPE MAY BE TO YOU. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT JESUS IS DIETY BY THE WAY THAT JESUS SPEAKS OF GOD. WHEN JESUS COMES TO SPEAK OF GOD THE FATHER, WHEN HE IS SPEAKING TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS, HE ALWAYS SAYS CONCERNING GOD, "MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER." HE NEVER SAYS "OUR FATHER." WHY? BECAUSE THE SAME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DOESN'T EXIST BETWEEN YOU AS A SON OF GOD AND JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD IN A UNIQUE SENSE THAT NO OTHER BEING HAS EVER BEEN AND HE MAKES THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT "MY FATHER" AND "YOUR FATHER." SOME ASK, "WHAT ABOUT THE LORD'S PRAYER WHERE JESUS PRAYED, 'OUR FATHER, WHICH ART IN HEAVEN.'" JESUS DIDN'T PRAY THAT PRAYER. HIS DISCIPLES SAID, "TEACH US TO PRAY," AND JESUS SAID, "AFTER THIS MANNER THEREFORE PRAY YE, OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN." HE TAUGHT THEM TO PRAY "OUR FATHER." THAT THIS IS NOT A PRAYER WHICH JESUS PRAYED CAN BE EASILY SEEN JUST BY GOING ON DOWN THROUGH THE PRAYER, "AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS (OR OUR SINS) AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS (OR THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US)." JESUS NEVER HAD ANY SIN TO ASK THE FATHER TO FORGIVE, SO THAT WASN'T A PRAYER THAT JESUS PRAYED. HE TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY IT. WE REPEAT, JESUS NEVER PRAYED OR NEVER SAID, "OUR FATHER." HE ALWAYS SAID "MY FATHER" AND "YOUR FATHER."

IN MARK 1:11 WE HAVE THE HEAVENLY WITNESS WHEN GOD CAME AND SAID "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASSED." WHEN GOD OVERSHADOWED THE EARTH AND, FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, SAID, "THIS IS MY SON," JESUS DID NOT BECOME THE SON BECAUSE HE HAD DIVINE APPROVAL. JESUS HAD THE DIVINE APPROVAL BECAUSE HE WAS THE SON. IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS THE SON AND BECAUSE HE HAD EVER BEEN THE SON THAT GOD ACKNOWLEDGED HIM AS SUCH.

I THINK THAT PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVIDENCE OF ALL (AND EVERYTHING COULD CENTER AND HINGE IN THIS) IS THAT IN THE TEACHING OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY JESUS ALWAYS PRESENTED HIMSELF AS THE OBJECT OF FAITH, NEVER AS AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH. THOSE WHO SAY JESUS IS GOD AND THEN ROB THE TERM GOD OF ALL ITS MEANING OF DIETY TALK ABOUT JESUS AS BEING THE SUPREME EXAMPLE. THEY TALK ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST THOUGH THEY WON'T FOLLOW HIM TO THE CROSS. THE CROSS DOESN'T HAVE MUCH MEANING FOR THEM AS FAR AS ATONEMENT IS CONCERNED. BUT JESUS NEVER SAID ANYWHERE, "I AM THE EXAMPLE OF FAITH." HE PRESENTED HIMSELF AS THE OBJECT OF FAITH AND FROM BEGINNING UNTIL END THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IS A GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS AND IF YOU WERE TO TAKE JESUS OUT OF THAT GOSPEL AND SUBSTITUTE ANY OTHER MAN OR ANY OTHER NAME, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LEFT. JESUS DID NOT SAY AT ANY TIME, "HAVE FAITH IN GOD LIKE I HAVE FAITH IN GOD." HE SAID, "YE BELIEVE GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME." FROM BEGINNING UNTIL THE END JESUS ALWAYS LOVED THE FATHER IN FULL OBEDIENCE, IN FULL TRUST, IN FULL HUMILITY. IN FACT, THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN JESUS TRUSTED THE FATHER WHEN EVERY HUMAN REASON FOR TRUST HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM, BUT NEVER FROM

HIS LIPS NOR FROM HIS APOSTLES' LIPS DO WE EVER HAVE ANY REFERENCE AT ALL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TO THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT HAVE FAITH IN GOD. NOW THAT MAY COME AS A SHOCK. THE EVANGELISTS HAVE A RICH STORE OF EXPRESSIONS TO DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND CHRIST. THEY SAY CONCERNING HIM, "WHOM HE HEARD," "WHOM HE KNEW," "WHOM HE SAW," BUT YOU NEVER FIND ANY STATEMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT SAYS JESUS CHRIST BELIEVED IN GOD. WE SUGGESTED A MOMENT AGO HE NEVER SAYS, "YOU BELIEVE IN GOD LIKE I BELIEVE IN GOD," BUT RATHER, "YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, YOU BELIEVE ALSO IN ME." JESUS CHRIST COULD NO MORE CONFESS HIS FAITH IN GOD THAN HE COULD CONFESS HIS SINS, FOR JESUS CHRIST HAD A UNIQUE COMMUNION WITH GOD. HE HAD A UNIQUE COMMUNITY WITH GOD. HE HAD A CERTAINTY OF THE FATHER BECAUSE IT WAS THE FATHER WHO HAD SENT HIM, AND IT WAS THE FATHER FROM WHOM HE HAD COME FORTH.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE FOURTH EVIDENCE OF THE DIETY OF CHRIST, AND THAT IS THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON. TURN TO MATTHEW 11:27 AND YOU READ, "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." "NO ONE KNOWETH THE FATHER BUT THE SON." THERE IS NOBODY WHO REALLY KNOWS GOD, BUT JESUS SAID, "I KNOW HIM." THERE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT GOD THAT THE MIND OF FINITE MAN CANNOT BEGIN TO FATHOM BUT JESUS SAID, "I FATHAM THESE THINGS, I KNOW THESE THINGS ABOUT GOD." "NO ONE KNOWETH THE FATHER BUT THE SON, AND NO ONE KNOWETH THE SON BUT THE FATHER." OH WE KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US ABOUT JESUS CHRIST BUT THERE ARE INFINITE MYSTERIES IN WHICH HIS VERY BEING IS INVOLVED THAT WE CANNOT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND. NOBODY KNOWS BUT THE FATHER. THIS IS A RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP. THERE ARE MYSTERIES IN THE FATHER AND THERE ARE MYSTERIES IN THE SON THAT ARE KNOWN ONLY TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND CANNOT BE KNOWN TO YOU AND ME.

YOU KNOW THIS VERSE MAY NOT MEAN MUCH JUST TO TAKE IT LIKE THAT, BUT IF YOU HAVE YOUR TESTAMENTS I WANT YOU TO OPEN THEM AND LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL CONTEXT IN WHICH THIS STATEMENT ABOUT GOD AND THE SON AND THEIR UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP IS PLACED. PRECEDING THAT STATEMENT WE READ THIS, "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 HAS REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES. EVEN SO, FATHER; FOR SO IT SEEMED GOOD IN THY SIGHT." THEN FOLLOWS, "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." AND THEN FOLLOWS THIS LANGUAGE, "COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY-LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART; AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."

THE QUESTION IS, ARE THESE THE WORDS OF AN IMPOSTER OR ARE THESE THE WORDS OF THE SON OF GOD? HOW SWEET THESE WORDS ARE ON THE LIPS OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT HOW REPUGNANT IS THIS LANGUAGE ON THE LIPS OF ANY OTHER. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THIS IS A DIVINE INVITATION. NEVER A MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS. THIS IS EITHER THE LANGUAGE OF A DECEIVER OR THIS IS THE LANGUAGE OF GOD, AND THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN THE BIBLE AS BEING THE REVELATION OF GOD BELIEVE THIS LANGUAGE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD HIMSELF, GOD THE SON. YET IT IS OBJECTED THAT THERE ARE MANY WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IT. NOT ONLY ARE THEY MANY, BUT THEY ARE LEARNED WHO WILL NOT BOW BEFORE JESUS AS BEING GOD. BUT IS THIS NOT THE VERY WAY THAT JESUS SAID IT WOULD BE? "I THANK THEE, OH FATHER, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, BECAUSE THOU HAST HID THESE THINGS FROM THE WISE AND PRUDENT AND HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES." THE QUESTION IS, "WHICH ARE YOU?" THE QUESTION IS, "INTO WHICH OF THESE CATEGORIES DO

YOU FALL?" ARE YOU AMONG THE WISE AND PRUDENT WHO WILL BE KIND AND PATRONIZING TO JESUS, WHO WILL SAY THAT HE HAD SOME GOOD MORALS, THAT HE TAUGHT SOME GOOD THINGS. PEOPLE ARE SO KIND AND PATRONIZING AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT JESUS TODAY, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY WILL ADMIT HIM TO BE ANYTHING AND ALLOW HIM TO ASCEND TO ANY HEIGHT AS LONG AS IT IS NOT DIETY, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT GOD. ARE YOU AMONG THAT NUMBER? GOD GRANT THAT IT NOT BE SO. GOD GRANT THAT YOU MAY BE AMONG THE NUMBER WHO WOULD SPEAK THE WORDS OF DOUBTING THOMAS OF LONG AGO WHO BOWED IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST AND SAID, "MY LORD AND MY GOD." GOD GRANT THAT YOU WILL BE AMONG THE BABES, THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS A LITTLE, AS A WEAK, AS A HELPLESS CHILD WHO CANNOT DO ANYTHING FOR YOURSELF BUT WHO NEEDED JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF THE ETERNAL GOD TO DIE FOR YOUR SINS AND SHED HIS BLOOD ON YOUR BEHALF AND CLEANSE YOU THEREBY AND SET YOU INTO THE KINGDOM, THE ETERNAL KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN BY ALL THE WARS AND THE WEAPONS OF MEN. THIS IS WHAT JESUS HAS FOR YOU IF YOU WILL ACCEPT HIM AS GOD, IF YOU WALK IN HIS PATH, IF YOU WILL BE SAVED BY HIS GRACE.