

Doctrine of God: Part 2 – God the Son

Jesus was God's supreme revelation of Himself to the human family. In the words of Herschel Hobbs, "Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is the key to man's knowledge of God and history. The Old Testament sounds the messianic hope. The Gospels record Christ's incarnation; Acts relates His continuing work through the Holy Spirit; the Epistles interpret His person and work; Revelation proclaims His final triumph and glory" (see Herschel Hobbs, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, p. 39). The Gospels clearly present five facts about the person and work of Jesus Christ:

1. **The Virgin Birth** - He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. His virgin birth was predicted by Isaiah 600 years before the fact (Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23). The confirmation of the virgin birth is clearly presented in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 1:26-35) and implied by Paul (Gal 4:4).
2. **The Humanity of Christ** - One of the mysteries of the incarnation is the fact that Jesus was fully human and fully Divine. He experienced the full range of human circumstances including hunger (Mt 4:2), weariness (Mk 4:38), pain (Mk 10:34), death on the cross (Lk 23:33). He faced temptation (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 22:28) and was tempted in all points like any human being, yet without sin (Heb 4:15).
3. **The Deity of Christ** – Jesus shares all the seven attributes of God the Father (see *The Connector*, for 10/9/05). Jesus presented himself as the Great "I Am," which looks back to Exodus 3:14 (Jn 8:56-58). He was active in Creation (Jn 1:3) and is the sustainer of the universe (Col 1:16-17). He alone is God in bodily form (Col. 2:9-10). Jesus is One with God (Jn 10:30; 17:11) and was the expressed image and likeness of God the Father (Jn 14:8-11; Heb 1:1-4).
4. **The Atonement of Christ** – Because of his sinless perfection He was the only one qualified to provide atonement for the human family (Heb 4:15; 5:6-8). He became the propitiation (a mercy seat or place of mercy, Ex 25:17; 40:20; Lev 16:13) for our sins (Rom 3:21-26). He is our Great High Priest (Heb 9:11-15) and our once for all sacrificial offering for all kind of sins (Heb 9:23-28).
5. **The Bodily Resurrection of Christ** – Jesus' bodily resurrection is one of the best-authenticated events in history. It appears in all four Gospel records and reported in secular history by Josephus in his *Antiquities*, XVIII, iii, 3. The resurrection is the heart of the gospel message (1 Cor 15:1-34). His resurrection is the guarantee that God has given us life and hope. Its truth and validates the ministry of Christ and the hope of our own bodily resurrection (1 Cor 15:35-58).

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.