

Pastors' Conference 2018

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BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE ETERNAL WORD (John 1:1-5)

- I. Introduction: the Son who became incarnate and lived among us as Jesus Christ of Nazareth is, prior to the incarnation, the eternal Word of the Father, God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. Marvel at the eternal fullness of deity of this Son, shared fully with the Father, and marvel at his distinct personhood, God the Son, the eternal Word and eternal Son of the Father.
- II. The Eternal Word was “with God” and “was God” (1:1-2)
 - “In the beginning” ties the Word of John 1:1-2 to *the God of Genesis 1:1* who exists eternally
 - “the Word was *with* God” indicates the Word exists eternally distinct from God (the Father)
 - “the Word *was* God” declares explicitly that the eternal Word is fully God along with the Father
 - Trinitarian understanding is necessary to see this – there are two necessary elements to the doctrine of the Trinity: distinction (the Word was “with God”) and identity (the Word “was God”). As Word of the Father, He is fully equal to the Father in essence, yet he is also distinct from the Father in personhood and role.
- III. The Eternal Word is the Father’s Agent of Creation (John 1:3)
 - “In the beginning” ties the Word of John 1:1-2 to *God the Creator of Genesis 1:1*
 - As “Word” of the Father, He is the Father’s Agent of Creation – the Father creates as He speaks, as Gen 1 records (cf. Ps 33:6; 1 Cor 8:6; Heb 1:1-2)
 - “All things came into being by Him . . .” confirms the Word as the exclusive Creator of all that is created. As Creator of all, He has intrinsic ownership of and authority over all.
 - “Apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” confirms that He Himself is not and cannot be one of the multitude of things that has been created (cf. Col 1:15-17)
- IV. The Eternal Word is the Self-Existent Source of Life and Light (John 1:4-5)
 - “In Him was life” indicates that He has existence *of Himself* – no one has brought Him into existence, nor was life given to Him. As Calvin has said, the Son is *autotheos*, “God of Himself.”

- The life that was “the Light of men” is, then, His own life given so others may live – regardless of whether the Light is received or not (cf. John 3:19), this Light alone is true Life for it alone comes from the One who is the exclusive source of Life and Light.

VI. Conclusion: Never forget—the One who took on our human nature, to live and die for us, is none other than the eternal Word, God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. Amazing love!

NOTES:

BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE INCARNATE SON (Phil 2:5-11)

I. Introduction

In all of human history, never has a life been lived, or a mission accomplished, as was done in Jesus. Consider these features of the life, mission, and obedience of Jesus:

- There never has been a **higher place** from which one has stooped;
- There never has been a **lower position** to which one has aspired; and
- There never has been a **costlier obedience** by which one has served.

II. Stooping Low (2:5-8)

A. Highest Height (2:6)

1. Existed in the “form” (*morphē*) of God – essential nature (cf. 2:7)
2. Equality with God – nothing is equal to God but GOD

B. Lowest Depth (2:7)

1. He “emptied” or “poured out” Himself (note: He did not pour something *out of* Himself)
2. How? By *taking* the form (very nature) of a servant—an emptying by adding; subtraction by addition

C. Costliest Obedience (2:8)

1. He displayed the deepest and most profound humility – “He humbled himself by becoming obedient”
2. He rendered the perfect and most pervasive obedience – “to the point of death, even death on a cross”

III. Exalted High (2:9-11)

A. Exaltation's Basis (2:9a)

“Therefore” or “For this reason” . . . indicates the basis for the exaltation is the humble, costly obedience of the Son. Here is the ultimate expression of the principle of James 4:10!

B. Exaltation's Expression (2:9b)

Name above every name given to Him. As God? No! But, as a man, the Messiah, the second Adam, the seed of Abraham, the Son of David, he won the right to rule the nations! (cf. Psalm 2:7-9; Matt 4:8-10; Matt 28:18-20; Eph 1:20-23; Heb 1:1-4)

C. Exaltation's Response (2:10-11)

Every knee will bow; every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Note here the appeal Paul makes to Isa 45:21-25 displaying the deity of the Son as the God-man in the worship given him by all persons from all time.

IV. Conclusion:

- Rejoice! – the lowest humiliation and costliest obedience has won the greatest victory!
- Repent – bow now in gratitude and faith, or bow then in fear of certain judgment.
- Resolve – to follow Christ as Lord, for Lord He is! Yield to, trust, obey, and follow him.

NOTES:

BEHOLDING THE GLORY THE SPIRIT ANOINTED MESSIAH

I. Introduction

- Why would Jesus, the God-man, need to have the Spirit of God upon him? What can the Spirit of God add to the deity of Jesus?
- How can Jesus in his sinless obedience and sacrificial service rightly be upheld as a model for how we should live, since he was the God-man and we are not?

II. Jesus' Life of Submission and Obedience in the Power of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:1-2 – ¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Luke 1:32-35 – ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

Luke 2:40, 52 – ⁴⁰ The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. . . . ⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 3:21-22 – ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

Luke 4:1-2a – ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. Or, even stronger is Mark's account. Mark 1:12 reads – Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.

Luke 4:14 – And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

Luke 4:16-21 – ¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.” ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to

the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.
²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Matthew 12:28 – But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

John 3:34 – For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure.

Acts 2:22 – Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst

Acts 10:38 – You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 1:1-2 – ¹ The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

III. Jesus' Resisting Temptation, and Growth in Faith, in the Power of the Spirit

A. Jesus' Impeccability, Temptations, and Sinlessness

1. Jesus was sinless: 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 Pet 2:21-23; 1 John 3:5
2. Jesus was tempted: Luke 4:1-13; Heb 4:15
3. Jesus was impeccable: Luke 1:35; Heb 1:10-12; 13:8
4. Explaining the reality of Jesus' temptations in light of his impeccability. Four considerations:
 - a. He was really tempted "in all things as we are" (Heb 4:15). This cannot be jeopardized.
 - b. Because he never succumbed to temptation, he experienced its full force
 - c. Because so much was at stake, Satan would have tempted and afflicted him with the greatest intensity possible.
 - d. Distinction: Why is it that Christ *could not* sin? and, Why is it Christ *did not* sin? are different questions, requiring different answers. Illustration: Swimmer and boat

B. Jesus' Growth and Maturity in Faith

Seeing this helps explain some things that otherwise are quite puzzling, to be sure. Consider for example, the following statements about Jesus:

Hebrews 5:8-9 – ⁸ Although He was a Son, He *learned obedience* from the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been *made perfect*, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation [emphasis added].

III. Conclusion

Jesus' life, ministry, miracles, obedience, resisting temptation, and accomplishing the mission which the Father sent him to accomplish – all this was done as a man in the power of the Spirit. Jesus, then, is the epitome of the new covenant person, living in the power of the Spirit. And as he has now given us his Spirit, we are called to live lives modeled after him. Indeed, we are called to follow in his steps (1 Pet 2:21) and live new covenant lives that bring honor and glory to Christ, by the power of the Spirit.

NOTES:

BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE REIGNING KING (Psalm 2)

Introduction

- How full or complete is your Christology? Who is Jesus, as you understanding Him to be?
- A Study in Contrasts — the first (John 3:17) and second (John 5:27-29) comings of Christ
- Background to Psalm 2 — a psalm of David, despite lacking superscription (see Acts 4:25); an inaugural or enthronement psalm, applicable in part to David but only fully applicable to David's promised Son (2 Sam 7:12-13), the coming eternal King of kings (cf. Luke 1:31-33).

I. The Raging of the Nations (vv 1-3)

- Nations/peoples (v. 1); kings/rulers (v. 2) — against the LORD and against his Anointed, though they do not even know that they are doing this!
- They view the good and wise ways of God as “fetters” and “bonds” to be cast aside (v. 3), but they devise a “vain thing” (v.1)

II. The Rebuke of the Lord (vv 4-6)

- Laughter is God's response (v. 4), which soon turns to fury (v. 5)
- God's answer to this rebellion? Installation of his King on Mt. Zion, the future King from David (v. 6)

III. The Retaliation of the Son (vv 7-9)

- Decree — indicates God's plan from eternity, not an *ad hoc* response to the present rebellion
- “You are My Son, today I have begotten You” — quoted by Paul in Acts 13:33 of the *risen* Son
- “Ask of Me . . .” — the nations are the possession of this risen, exalted Son as they are *given* to him; He has earned the right to reign over them (cf., Matt 4:8-10; 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:1-4; Rev 5)
- V. 9 — Fulfilled at the 2nd coming of Christ (Rev 19:11-16, 19-21)

IV. The Refuge of the Wise (vv 10-12)

- Kings and judges addressed again, this time in an appeal of mercy. The fury of God, though real, does not cancel out the mercy of God toward the very sinners who incite his fury and deserve his wrath.
- Right response to such deserved fury and undeserved mercy: bow, repent, worship, rejoice, tremble

Conclusion and Application

- What is your attitude toward God and his ways?
- Knowing the future reign of Christ over all, do not despair, but take heart and have hope!
- Today is the day of salvation! How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

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