

## 1. Introduction to my task: I am speaking on the deity of Christ

- A. I want you to come out of this with one thing cemented down – Christ is God
  - 1). I want to give you some ammunition so you not only know it but can tell others about it
  - 2). So if you talk with a Muslim or an Atheist you know what you're talking about

## 2. Why is this necessary that we spend time on this subject?

- A. Because the deity of Christ is under attack today
- B. We live in a day where people either reject any idea of Christ being important at all  
Or they are clinging to ideas about Him that are wrong
  - 1). The false Christ of Islam: He is a great prophet but He's not God
  - 2). The false Christ of Jehovah Witnesses: Not the creator but a created being
  - 3). The false Christ of the Mormons: Not eternal God
    - a). The brother of Satan who worked his way up to godhood
  - 4). When we were in England – the false Christ the “Lord Maitreya”
    - a). Full page ad – Christ has returned – living in a flat in London
  - 5). Every cult – false religion has their own view of Christ

**Thought:** No wonder there is so much confusion about who Jesus is

- A. There are so many supposed Christ's out there
  - 1). But only one can save you – it's important we get this one right

**Transition:** So people are saying all kinds of things about who Christ is

- A. But what does the Bible say? I'd like to act like a lawyer and call some witnesses to the stand
  - 1). I'm always amazed when people say the Bible never says Jesus is God  
We're going to check and see if that is true

# I. SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE REGARDING THE DEITY OF CHRIST

## 1. I call Isaiah to the stand: Who do you say Christ is?

**Is 7:14 (ESV)** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name *Immanuel*.

- A. Immanuel literally means “God with us”  
**Mt 1:23 (ESV)** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (*which means, God with us*).

- 1). What an amazing truth – God stooped down to rescue man  
And for 33 years Almighty God was with us – physically  
**Anonymous:** He who made man was made man.

## 2. Let's call the Apostle John to the stand: Who do you say Christ is?

**Jn 1:1 (ESV)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- A. Who are you talking about John?  
**Jn 1:14 (ESV)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - 1). So the Word that was God is the same one that became flesh = Can only be Jesus Christ

## 3. Thomas how about you: What did you discover?

**Jn 20:27–28 (ESV)** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”<sup>(28)</sup> Thomas answered him, *“My Lord and my God!”*

- A. Because of the resurrection – Thomas believed He was who He said He was
  - 1). He was the one that death could not defeat

#### 4. Paul? Who did you teach who Christ was?

**Ro 9:5 (ESV)** To them (the Jews) belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, *is the Christ, who is God over all*, blessed forever. Amen.

**Tt 2:13 (ESV)** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of *our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*,

#### 5. Let's call the Father to the stand. What does God say about Jesus Christ?

**Author of Hebrews in speaking of the superiority of Christ: Heb 1:5–8 (ESV)** For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>(6)</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>(7)</sup> Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>(8)</sup> But of the Son he says, “Your throne, *O God*, is forever and ever...

A. So God the Father calls Him God

**Transition:** The next one I love – this is worth the price of admission to this study

#### 6. Jesus Christ claimed to be God in a very interesting way – turn to John 8

A. Jesus is in a conversation with the Jews – He is trying to show them who He is

- 1). The Jews were telling Him that they were right because they were Abraham’s children
- 2). They were basing their spiritual confidence on being one of his descendants  
“Our father is Abraham. Therefore we will be accepted into heaven”

B. Jesus counters “If you were the true children of Abraham – you’d act like he did”

- 1). Abraham rejoiced in the truth of who I am – but when you hear that truth you reject it

**Jn 8:56 (ESV)** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

- a). Many suggestions as to what that “Day” was and how Abraham saw it
- b). Argument for another time – point is:

*Jesus was the one Abraham was looking forward too*

- 2). When Christ was revealed to Him (However that came about) Abraham was glad

- a). Unlike these Jews – Christ revealing Himself to them and they wanted to kill Him

C. This shocked the Jews – who believed Jesus was just another man

**Jn 8:57 (ESV)** So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

“You’re saying you saw Abraham whose been dead 1000’s of years! You’re not even 50 years old!”

D. Jesus uses their mistake to say something that is as amazing as anything in scripture

**Jn 8:58 (ESV)** Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, *before Abraham was, I am.*”

- 1). Shouldn’t He have said “I am he” – why just “I am” – a bit abrupt isn’t it?
- 2). Listen up! You have to see what He was saying here – this is the majesty of Christ
- 3). He was identifying Himself as the one who spoke to Moses in the burning bush

**The account of the burning bush: Ex 3:13–14 (ESV)** Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>(14)</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: *‘I AM has sent me to you.’*”

- a). Jesus is saying I am the one who was at the burning bush  
I am the one who called Israel out of Egypt – I am almighty God!
- b). *Have I seen Abraham? I created Abraham!*

E. Do you think they got what Jesus was saying?

**Look at : Jn 8:59 (ESV)** So they picked up stones to throw at him...

**John 8:59 (NIV)** At this, they picked up stones to stone him... (NLT to kill Him)

- 1). Do you see why they would accuse Him of blasphemy
  - a). If He really isn’t God – then He was a blasphemer of the worst kind

b). But He was God wasn't He?

**Question:** Is it important we believe that? – does that really matter?

As long as I believe in somebody called Jesus right? Wrong!

A. Jesus considered it to be vital

**Look at: Jn 8:24 (ESV)** I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that *I am* he you will die in your sins.”

1). Your Bible probably has “He” in italics – why? Because it wasn't there in the original

**What it should say: Jn 8:24 (ESV)** I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that *I am* you will die in your sins.”

B. What is Jesus saying? This is incredible! And vital to see

1). He was telling the Jews – unless you believe that I am the great I AM

The same one that spoke to Moses out of the burning bush

The one that called Israel out of Egypt

a). You are lost – you will remain in your sin

2). I remember growing up – we knew this older gentleman who was a Mormon

a). We were confused – He was so nice – he said he believed in Jesus

Maybe he is saved

1a). But he believed in a Jesus who couldn't save him

2a). His Jesus was not almighty God – the great I am

It was a man-made Jesus – brother of Satan

b). The JW's that come to your door – say they believe in Jesus

Yes! But the wrong Jesus – one that can't save you

**Point:** So is it important to believe that Jesus is God?

It is if you want to be saved

**Jn 8:24 (ESV)** ... for unless you believe that *I am* you will die in your sins.”

A. If you don't think He is the God that is revealed in the Bible

1). If you just think He is a great prophet – rather than the one the prophets spoke of

2). If you think He is just a created being rather than the creator

3). If you think He was just the brother of Satan that worked Himself up to be God

Rather than the one who always was God – eternal God

4). If you think He was just a great man, a great teacher, a great example

a). You're following a false god – a god made up from man's imagination

You're following a savior who can't save!

B. ***This is why theology is so important isn't it?***

**Transition:** So Scripture is clear isn't it. But I have one more powerful witness to call

## II. PERSONAL ACTS THAT PROVE THE DEITY OF CHRIST

**Intro:** Not only do the scriptures specifically assert He is God - His actions also prove this

He possessed divine attributes that only God possesses - go through these quickly

### 1. Jesus demonstrated the attribute of omnipotence (all power)

A. When He stilled the storm with a word - Matt 8:26-27

B. When He multiplied the loaves and fishes - Matt 14:19

C. When He changed the water into wine - John 2:1-11

### 2. Jesus demonstrated the attribute of omniscience (knowing all things)

- A. When He knew people's thoughts - Mk 2:8
- B. When He knew the state of man's heart - whether they truly believed or not - John 6:64  
**John 2:25 (NIV)** He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

### 3. Jesus spoke of possessing the attributes of omnipresence (being everywhere)

- A. Of course this is after His resurrection - during his time on earth He was limited to the location of His body  
**Mt 18:20 (ESV)** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
  - 1). No matter where that happens – anywhere on earth – He will be with them  
**Mt 28:19–20 (ESV)** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>(20)</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, ***I am with you always, to the end of the age.***"
    - 1). I love this – whether you go overseas on a mission trip  
Or to the Spectrum on a local mission trip – the evangelism table – day laborers
      - a). We don't go alone – Jesus enters into that work with us

### 4. Jesus possessed the attribute of divine Sovereignty

- A. What I mean is the kind of authority that only God Himself possesses
  - 1). Seen in the fact that He could forgive sins - Mark 2:5-7
  - 2). Unlike the OT prophets who prefaced what they said with "thus says the Lord"  
Jesus could simply say "But I say to you"  
**Mt 5:27–28 (ESV)** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'<sup>(28)</sup> ***But I say*** to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
    - a). Tremendous authority - as He overrides all the incorrect teaching they had received
      - 1a). With three words He sweeps away the teaching of the Pharisees

### 5. Jesus possessed the divine attribute of Immortality

- A. OTW death was unable to hold Jesus
  - 1). Jesus had the power to overcome death and resurrect Himself back to life  
**Jn 10:17–18 (ESV)** For this reason the Father loves me, because ***I lay down my life that I may*** take it up again. <sup>(18)</sup> ***No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.*** I have authority to lay it down, and ***I have authority to take it up again.***
    - a). Only God could say - I choose to lay down my life – I'll die at precise moment I choose
      - 1a). Without the aid of anything to assist me – just by exercising my will
      - b). But I will also choose to take up my life again - death won't win - that is power!

**Summary:** We could continue on – but that is enough

- A. We've called many to the witness stand – reliable sources – they claim Jesus is God
- B. We see through the acts of Christ that He did what only God could do
  - 1). For those to say the deity of Christ is not taught – what book are they reading?  
**W E. Biederwolf:** A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man can look all over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day and will not see the sun.

**Transition:** So Jesus is God. That is absolutely clear in the New Testament

- A. But why was it necessary that it was God who came to earth?
  - 1). Couldn't He have chosen a representative? A good man to become a sacrifice?
  - 2). Why did the Savior have to be God?

## III. WHY WAS THE DEITY OF CHRIST NECESSARY?

### 1. Because only God could save a sinner

**Jon 2:9 (ESV)** "...Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

A. Not only the choice to save – but the ability to save

**Transition:** I want to try and prove - If He's not God then we are all still lost

A. But why is salvation only possible if the one saving us is God Himself?

1). Because of what salvation requires

B. This will be a repeat for some – but we need to tie it in to the deity of Christ

1). Why God had to come in the flesh to be the Savior

## 2. For you to be saved you need to be righteous

**Mt 5:20 (ESV)** For I tell you, unless your *righteousness* exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

A. Righteousness is 100% compliance to God's law – perfect obedience without one failure

**Why Jesus added: Mt 5:48 (ESV)** You therefore must be *perfect*, as your heavenly Father is *perfect*.

B. Perfect obedience to God's law – if you want to get into heaven on your own

**Jas 2:10 (ESV)** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

**Objection:** Well then nobody goes to heaven right? Because nobody is perfect. Right? Wrong!

Fortunately there was one who was perfect = **Jesus Christ**

A. He earned a righteous standing through His perfect obedience — to give to us

1). We say salvation can't be earned – not by us – but it was earned for us by Him

**Ro 5:19 (ESV)** For as by the one man's disobedience (Adam's) the many were made sinners, *so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

a). So by the one man's perfect obedience

The many will be viewed by God as if they had obeyed perfectly! Amazing!

**Question:** But what happens if Jesus was just a good man? A great prophet?

A. All this falls apart – because mere men – great men – great prophets sin!

1). They inherit that Adamic nature

**Ro 3:23 (ESV)** for all (**every man**) have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

B. Since I have no hope of earning my own righteous standing – I have broken God's law

1). But Jesus is just a man – not God – He has no hope of living a righteous life – I'm lost!

C. But He did live out perfect obedience – watch what happens when we believe

**Ro 4:5 (ESV)** And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is *counted as righteousness,*

1). God takes the righteousness of Christ and puts it into our account

Then looks upon us as if we had obeyed the law perfectly

2). We now stand before Him "In Christ" – and the law can find nothing in us to send us to hell

**Transition:** That's great – but there is still a problem – God counts me as righteous in Christ

A. So do we just overlook the sin I've committed? What do we do with it?

1). Didn't God say the wages of my sin was death?

B. Because I haven't obeyed the law perfectly – That brings up the next reason Jesus had to be God

## 3. For you to be saved you have to have your guilt cleared

A. This is where the death of Christ comes in

1). He lived the life God required you to live to be righteous – to earn heaven for you

He also died the death God demanded for sin – because you couldn't live that life

**Transition:** Let's look at His death

B. Let's start with this:

For Jesus to be an acceptable sacrifice He had to be *a lamb without spot or blemish*

**1 Pe 1:19 (ESV)** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- 1). Again the necessity of that perfect life – not one moral blemish
- 2). That was the whole picture of the OT sacrifice
  - a). Why did God demand the lamb be without spot or blemish  
I've heard famous Pastors say – because God doesn't want your junk – really!
    - 1a). It's because every lamb sacrificed was an illustration of the final lamb  
The lamb that would come and take away the sins of the world
- 3). Therefore if Jesus was just a man who inherited that fallen nature of Adam
  - a). He would be born infected by sin – and He would live a life that included sin
  - b). Therefore His sacrifice on the cross would be rejected by the Father
- C. Plus think of the immensity of judgement poured out upon Him
  - 1). Somehow He had to pay an eternity's worth of wrath for everyone who would believe
  - 2). That's the reason why people spend eternity in hell – they can't ever pay off the debt
    - a). So we can't even imagine the firestorm of wrath that hit Him
    - b). And He endured it until every sin for everyone who would believe was paid for
      - 1a). I look at it this way – imagine those books are open – sins of men  
God places those sins into Christ's account – then pours out His wrath
      - 2a). Suddenly in those books – line after line after line starts disappearing  
Page after page becomes blank – no sin on it
      - 3a). When that last sin is blotted out – He cries out – it is finished!
  - 3). Only the immensity of God Himself could bear that kind of punishment

#### 4. Only somebody that is truly God can be a mediator between God and man

**1 Ti 2:5 (ESV)** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

- A. Because Jesus is man He can represent man perfectly to God
  - 1). As their sympathetic high Priest - who has walked in their shoes and knows what it's like
- B. Because Jesus is God He can represent God perfectly to man
  - 1). Revealing what He is like - what He desires perfectly
  - 2). As He comes to man as nothing less than Almighty God Himself

**Point:** This unique person who is both God and man is the perfect mediator between God and man

- A. He has links to both sides and can identify with and maintain the interests of both

**Transition:** So salvation is of the Lord! I guess. No man could provide it

## CONCLUSION

### 1. We've answered most important question we can ask: Who is Jesus Christ?

- A. The answer to that could not be more important – think of the repercussions
  - 1). If He isn't God – then Christianity is nothing but a cruel joke foisted upon mankind
    - a). All of our hope – the thought of being forgiven – the thought of escaping hell  
All of it means nothing – we've worshipped nothing more than another man
      - 1a). Who lied to us about being able to save us
  - 2). Either He is God or He is a liar because He said He was God

**C . S. Lewis:** A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd be either a lunatic - on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he'd be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse...But don't let us come up with any patronizing

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nonsense about his being a great human teacher (or a great prophet). He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to.

- a). If you are going to receive Him in a saving way – you receive Him as who He is
- b). Don't think you're honoring Him by calling Him a great prophet, man, teacher
  - 1a). He is Almighty God – NOTHING LESS

**Point:** If Jesus Christ isn't God – Christianity collapses

- A. The Bible you believe has fooled you – deceived you – because it says He is God
  - 1). The book you claim to love is nothing more than a cruel hoax
    - a). It speaks of a hope it can't produce
    - b). It speaks of a victor over death who was victimized by death
- B. But if He is God – Christianity becomes amazing beyond our wildest imagination
  - 1). Almighty God – the Great I am – stooped down in love and entered our desperation
  - 2). He came and He lived the life we needed to live to get into heaven  
He came and He died to pay the penalty for our sin because we couldn't live that life
  - 3). Because He is God Christianity is filled with hope

## 2. Let me ask this – do you know Him?