

SummerSalon14 - Christology

Until I began seminary study, I had no idea there was such a fuss over getting just right how to understand and describe that God, the Son —is both God and man. My childlike faith based simply on believing that God humbled Himself to come in a likeness we could love and obey was turned upside down by the theological debate of the last two thousand years. I'd heard of the thoroughly false *Jesus Seminar* which meets every two years to discuss and vote on whether Jesus actually said this or that red letter Scripture [?!] But in seminary I learned there continues sophisticated attempts at literally dividing into two parts our Savior who is God. This attempt at bifurcating Jesus is described as the distinction between the "Jesus of Faith" and the "Christ of History." The doctrine of the Hypostatic union should solve this mystery. Unfortunately the controversy goes on. One of the more recent books on this subject is *Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*. The author, Reza Aslan is a remarkable researcher and easy to read. The only problem I have is that I find the ultimate question, "Who do *you* say that I am?" is neither *supplied*, nor *settled* in Aslan's book.

I believe in my spirit that centuries-old intellectual discussion of the bi-furcated Jesus continues simply to satisfy those who don't mind talking about the Jesus who came (the historical Christ) but are aren't quite as ready to talk about He who now sits at the right hand of the Father (The Jesus of Faith). See at www.pprsinc.com under Christology, "Jesus is God." It is the doctrinal teaching of this ministry that unless one believes Jesus is God —it doesn't matter what else one might believe about Him. Even if one believes He saves that one —yet are not convinced He is God in Spirit and in flesh —then, by clear logic —that one must believe someone *other than* the Pascal Lamb saves them —which is not evidence of saving faith. 1 Cor 15:12-25 is the essence of the gospel that saves: Christ died. Christ was buried. Christ rose from the dead. That Scripture is Paul's great legal argument —his "If/Then/But" declaration expressing the reason we are justified to stand before a holy and righteous God —if, in fact we have received and agree the gospel saves us from our natural condition of eternal separation from our Maker. See also a list of over a hundred names, titles, and types of Christ compiled from the Masoretic text, the Septuagint, and the Hebrew New Testament. Jesus is not identified just as "Jesus." He has hundreds of names and titles. When Jesus' deity is denied this is by *willful pride*.

Why is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus necessary? This is the paradox: Human depravity compels God to find a way to justify sinners because He cannot receive to Himself what is unholy —depraved souls. The problem is solved by the One who is the *sacrifice* being the same One who *receives* the sacrifice —the payment for sin on the Cross. It is Jesus alone who fulfills the Levitical requirements as the perfect Passover Lamb, the final sacrifice. There must be shedding of blood in order for sin to be atoned. See Lev 17:11. No other blood sacrifice satisfies the God who cannot look upon sin. Posted also are ten scriptures that are questioned by some as proof JESUS is God. Dr. Geisler simply and thoroughly explains the error of each one, including why “only begotten Son” is not an accurate translation. That corrected error removes the last reason to say the Son was *generated* from the Father. No Person of God generates the others.

Also posted is a review of ***Kosher Jesus***, written by a Rabbi who believes Jesus is someone other than the Messiah who came 2,000 years ago. But the eternal, non-created Son of G-d perfectly *fulfills* Torah’s perfect law. Every prophecy of Messiah’s advent —His supernatural being, His rejection by the culture, His atoning death, His ritually prescribed burial, His post-resurrection appearances —are all fulfilled in the person and work of Christ Jesus of Nazareth. Moshiach ben Joseph has come. Moshiach ben David will come again. These are one in the same God. One of the best descriptions of Jesus' perfect sacrifice is taught in S.H.Kellogg’s book, ***The Book of Leviticus***.

Do you know that God killed Himself? He did not kill His Spirit for that is eternal and cannot die. But His physical life was not taken from Him *involuntarily*. It is fruitless to lie and say the Jews killed God in one sweeping statement —when in fact it was only *certain* Jews in Judea who were complicit. God voluntarily designed and carried out His plan to die in order that you and I would not have to die the *second death*. Nothing in the universe could have prevented from happening that singular, selfless act of love. The question before all men and women is, “Who is Jesus to *you*?”