

# **Christian Literature and Living**

**“Was Blind, But Now I See!”**

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## **Jesus Christ**

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## Deity of Christ

I want to write on the Deity of Christ. It is the key ingredient to the recipe of sound theology. If we deny the true nature of Jesus we have missed the whole point. The uniqueness of Biblical Christianity is its foundational belief that Jesus Christ was the God of Israel in the flesh. God came in Person to fulfill and inaugurate His restoration agenda. No one could bear the sin of the world, truly demonstrate what God was like, perfectly represent mankind, inaugurate new life, and reveal God's kingdom, but the King Himself.

## The Truth of Jesus

I will spend some time on a few verses that clearly reveal the truth of Jesus. I hope that these will be a benefit to those who need a guide on how to defend the Deity of Christ to those who deny it, and also a benefit to those who deny it.

Hebrews says about Jesus, "Let all God's angels worship him" (1:6). We know very well that no one gets worship but God alone (Exodus 34:14, Matthew 4:10). Even angels (who the Colossians were tempted to worship, 2:18) would not receive worship (Revelation 22:8). Furthermore, Jesus was worshiped by His disciples (Matthew 14:33, 28:9).

Another interesting point is that the Jehovah's Witnesses say that "firstborn" means first created (Colossians 1:15). That is not what the term means. It means most important or one with primary rights. Besides, if it means first created then why are all the angels worshiping Him?

## Revelation, Isaiah and Others

Revelation has a very revealing verse, "To the one seated on the throne **and** to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (5:13). There it is! Jesus gets equal worship with the Father. Jesus said the same thing in John 5:23. How could the point be missed? These verses would be blasphemy if Jesus was not Deity.

In Isaiah 45:23 it says that every knee should bend and tongue confess to God. In Philippians it says, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (2:10-11). The parallel is obvious. Jesus Christ is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the flesh.

### **Jesus Is God**

There are places in Scripture that Jesus is actually called *God*. Hebrews 1:8 speaks about Jesus, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.” In John 20:28 Thomas says, “My Lord and my God!” The point to note is that Jesus did not deny that title or rebuke Thomas for worshipping a false god. If we compare Revelation 1:17, 22:13, and 1:8, we see that Jesus Christ is the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, and God Almighty. It is inescapable.

The most famous verse is John 1:1, where it states, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” We see from verse 14 of the same chapter that the Word is Jesus Christ. The evidence is conclusive.

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the Deity of Christ. In their “translation” it says in John 1:1 that the Word was “a” god. First off, that is manipulation not translation. Second of all, with their perversion they actually paint themselves into a corner because there is no such thing as “a” god. That would be polytheism. God makes it very clear that there are no other g/Gods but Him (Isaiah 43:10, 44:8).

### **A Challenge to the Jehovah’s Witnesses**

I care for those who deny the Deity of Christ. I have a challenge to the Jehovah’s Witnesses. One day they will see Jesus in Person. When they do they will have to explain to Him why they spent their lives going door to door trying to demote Him. That is what they are doing! They are trying to get people to believe that Jesus really is not Who He is. That is a scary endeavor indeed.

I also challenge the Jehovah’s Witnesses to look to what God has said in His Word rather than to what the leaders of the Kingdom Hall say. I also challenge the Jehovah’s Witnesses with this: there is a reason why the entire Christian Church rejects their theology. All true Christians believe in the Deity of Christ. That is the absolute clear teaching of Scripture when one approaches it with a humble heart rather than an indoctrinated agenda.

### **Why Jews were Trying to Kill Jesus?**

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In John 5:18 the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus. Why? Because He was calling God is own Father and thus making Himself equal with God.

### **Parallels from Old to the New Testament**

A clear way to understand the nature of Jesus Christ is to see the parallels from Old to New Testament. The names given to *YHWH* (Israel's God) are also given to Jesus Christ—Savior (Isaiah 43:11/1 John 4:14), Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4/Philippians 2:11), Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:15/ John 10:11), First and Last (Isaiah 44:6/ Revelation 1:17), King (Psalms 24/ John 1:49), Judge (Psalms 50:6/ Acts 10:42), I AM (Exodus 3:14/ John 8:58), and Creator (Psalms 102:25/ Hebrews 1:10). These comparisons cannot be misunderstood. To deny them only reveals a preconceived bias.

These titles were not an oversight. Paul and other New Testament writers knew exactly what they were saying. Only God could say, do, and be what Jesus was saying, doing, and being. These monotheistic Jews were not abandoning their heritage, but their view of the one true God was redefined and further understood in Jesus of Nazareth.

### **Falsehood of Jehovah's Witnesses**

An interesting thing is that virtually every verse that I have mentioned in this chapter can be found intact in the Jehovah's Witnesses' "Bible." So, from their own corrupted version you can prove that Jesus is indeed Deity. They deny that, but their own "translation" betrays them. They are left with their foot in their mouth. They have manipulated some verses to their distorted ends (Colossians 1:16, John 1:1, Hebrews 1:8), but they did not pervert enough of them. By the way, I shudder to think what God will say to those who translated the New World Translation when they went out of their way to manipulate God's Word to downgrade the true status of the Son of God.

### **Jesus Knew His Vocation**

He knew that His vocation was that of Messiah. He knew that what He was doing in and for Israel, and for the world, was something that only God could do. He was very aware of the things He was saying, what was being said about Him, and how He was fulfilling prophecy. Besides, He never denied the claims made about Him. If they were not true, then He as a righteous man would have denied them.

None of this takes away from His humanity. Some people find a few verses that emphasize the human element of Jesus and assume that means He was not Divine. The purpose of His Incarnation was not to exploit His privilege of Deity but to fulfill the

purpose of Messiah (Romans 1:3, Galatians 4:4-6, Philippians 2:6-8, Hebrews 2:9). He temporarily set aside those privileges so that He could identify with mankind, bear their sin, defeat the Devil, become the High Priest, and inaugurate new life.

### **Grasp the Whole Biblical Narrative**

Finally, I could mention many more verses to augment this point. But beyond all the individual passages, we only need to grasp the whole Biblical narrative. As we take a step back and look at Genesis to Revelation, we see the story of our Creator.

Sin brought the curse and so God set out to restore His fallen creation. He chose Abraham and the Israelites, which ultimately ended up with the Messiah. God knew that no one, not Abraham or Moses or Paul or an angel or a “god” could have done the job. Again, God knew that to perfectly represent God to man and man to God that He had to come Himself to bring about restoration. That is the beauty of the Gospel. God Himself took on human flesh to become the unblemished sacrifice and the point of new life by His Resurrection. To deny the Deity of Christ is to miss the whole point. It misses the heart of God.

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Stan Schmidt  
[stannumber20@aol.com](mailto:stannumber20@aol.com)