

LESSON 9

The Deity of Jesus Christ

Objective : For in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is above power and authority.

Bible Portion : Col.1: 14-29, 2:6-7

Memory Verse : Col.2:9-10

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all ^lprincipality and power.

Introduction:

We have already learnt about attributes of God in previous lessons. What is the greatest mystery in them? What are the personalities in trinity? The most important subjects related to the trinity are the deity of Christ and deity of the Holy Spirit. The will of God for us is that we should inherit his glory through the Holy Spirit, and it is possible through the redemptive activity of Jesus Christ. (2Thes.2:14, Rom. 7: 29-30, 2Cori.3:18) So let us examine the evidences depicting the deity of Jesus ,the greatest God and the savior.

I. The divine names given to Jesus Christ prove his deity.

1. **God:** God gave Jesus different names such as great God, true God, and God who is above all, the Lord and mighty God. No one can deny the deity of Jesus Christ because various Bible verses contain divine names of Jesus. (Heb.1:8, Tit. 2:12 , 1 Jn.5:20, Rom.9:5, Jn 20:28 , Is. 9:6)
2. **The Lord:** The basis of salvation is the confession of sins and acceptance of Jesus as Lord. (Rom 10:9) Jesus as Lord can be seen in many parts of the Bible. The term ‘Yahweh’ used in Old

Testament means 'Lord' (Read Ps,23:1).Ps 110:1, Mt.22: 41-46,Mk 12: 35-36,Lk.20:29-44, Acts.2:34-36, Heb 1:10-13, Acts 15:31,10:36 (Lord for all), 1 Cori.2:8 (The Lord of glory)

3. **The Holy:** Jesus bears the name holy which is given only to the mighty and eternal God. (Hos.11:9, Acts 3:14)
4. **The Beginning and the End** (Alpha and Omega) Jesus carries these names which show the eternity of God. (Is . 4:4, 44:6, Rev.1:8, 1:17, 22:23) The eternal God in Old Testament is Jesus himself.
5. **Immanuel (God is with us):** (Is.7:14, Mt.1:22) Jesus Christ is God who dwells with men.
6. **The son of God:** The term is found 40 times in Bible. There are many vocabularies related to the term are visible in Bible such as 'son of most high', 'my son', 'his son' and 'the only begotten son'.(Mt.16:16,27:63,Mk.1:1, Lk.1:32,2:27, Jn.1:18, 3:16,20,31,1 Jn.5:10-13) What does the term 'the son of God' mean? We must remember that Jesus' son hood was not natural as we commonly see. His son hood is not inherited through the physical birth from Virgin Mary of Jerusalem. His son hood was the eternal plan of God. It is very difficult for the common men to understand. God is eternal God and the son is eternal son. This term is given for us to understand the deity of Jesus, his place in trinity, Oneness in trinity and the warmth relation between triune personalities. The son hood we receive through Jesus is vary from Jesus' son hood. (Jn. 1:12) So Jesus is referred to as 'the only begotten son'.(MK.12:7,Jn.1:18) We inherit the son hood when we accept Jesus.

II. In Jesus Christ , we see all the divine qualities of God.

1. **Omni potent:** (Heb.1:3, Lk.4:39, 7:14, Mt.28:18, Mt. 28:26-27) Jesus carries everything with his powerful word. He has authority over diseases and demons. All the authority, power and Lordship are His. (Eph. 1:20-23)
2. **Omniscient:** In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col.2:3) Jesus knew everyone's thoughts and mysteries from afar.(Jn.4:16-19 , Mk.2:8,J n. 11:11, Mk . 11:2-6)

3. **Omni presence:** As Jesus was on earth, he was also in heaven.(Jn 3:13) Moreover, He promised his everlasting presence to his followers.(Mt.18:20, 28:20)
4. **Eternal (Unchanging) :** Jesus is God because he is eternal. Jn. 1:1-2, Col.1:17, Heb. 13:8, 1:12, Is.9:6, Jn.17:5.
5. **Jesus keeps** all the above mentioned qualities of God. He is the epitome of holiness, love, justice, grace, mercy and faithfulness. (Acts.3:14, Heb.7:26, Jn 14:3, 11:3, Mk.6:3-4,Mt.14:14, Jn 10:11 Mt.11:29, 3:22, 1 Tim.4:8)

III The deity of Christ is revealed through his actions of God.

1. **Creator:** Jesus is seen as the creator along with God and the Holy Spirit. Everything was created through Jesus, the very word. (Jn.1:1-3,14, Gen 1:1, In the beginning ‘God’...Here the rout plural term for ‘God’ is Elohim. It consists of father , son and the holy spirit. Heb. 1:3, 10 reveals Jesus as creator. Jesus’ wonders show that he is the creator (Turning water into wine, feeding of thousands with five loaves of bread : Jn 2:1-11, 6:5-13)
2. **One who watches:** Jesus is the one who watches us. He carries everything with his powerful word. Heb .1:3, Jn.10:9
3. **Giver of eternal life:** Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe and follow him.(Jn.10:27,28)
4. **One who raises the dead:** At the second coming of Jesus, one who hears his sound shall resurrect from dead. (Jn.5:21-25, 6:39-44) Jesus, in his public ministry revealed the power of raising the dead. (Jn.11 : 43-44)
5. **Forgiver of sins:** Forgiving sins belongs to God’s authority. Every sin is the disobedience of his commands. So receive the forgiveness of sins from God. Jesus revealed his deity in his public ministry by forgiving sins.(Mk.2:5-11, Lk. 7:41) Jesus ,now also forgives sins according to his sacrificial offering. (Heb.9:26, 1Jn .1:7-9)
6. **One who transforms our bodies:** When Jesus comes, he will transform our earthly bodies into glorious ones. (Phili.3:21, 1Thes.4:6-17)

7. **The Judge:** Jesus has got the authority to judge.(Jn.5:22-23, Acts.10:42). After the second coming of Jesus, he will be the judge for three judgments. Our Lord will be the one who judges everyone. (2Cori.5:10, Mt.25:31-33, Rev.21:11-15, Rom.14:20)

IV. Worthy to be worshipped:

God is worthy to be worshipped. The people at the time of Jesus had worshipped him and he accepted it. Neither men nor angels are given the power to receive worship.(Rev.22:8-9,Acts.10:25-26,Mt.4:10) Jesus had received worship because he is God.(Mt.2:10-11,14:33,LK.24:52,17:16) Jesus also told that worshipping him is giving honor to God.(Lk.17:16-18) It is the will of God that everyone should respect Jesus in the same way they honor Him.(Heb.1:6,Rev.5:13,14 , Jn.5:22-23) Jesus had agreed when Thomas testified him as 'My Lord and My God'. Jesus would correct him if he was not God.

V. The resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The most powerful evidence of the deity of Jesus is his resurrection.(Jn.10:17-18, Rom.1:4) Apostle Paul holds the view that Jesus was declared to be the son of God ,through the

VI. Remonstrance and the answers to them

1. The most important view of denying the deity of Jesus is that 'if Jesus be God, there will be more gods'. They hold this view because of their ignorance of the oneness of God in trinity. These issues were discussed in previous lessons.
2. Some hold the view that Jesus is not God because he had already mentioned that the father is greater than him. Jesus had said this not on the basis of his being or nature. It denotes the place in trinity. God, son and the Holy Spirit are equal. We notice the fact that Jesus as an incarnated being, was only received a place lower than God. (It can be compared to a committee which has three members in equal status, but one holds the role of chairman as a matter of convenience)
3. Some others have the opinion that Jesus cannot be considered as God because the Bible calls him man and son of man in many places.

Jesus was born and brought up in the World as a complete man and complete God. For men he was a man and for God he was the son of God. The son of man means the Jesus became a son of man.

Questions:

1. What are the names given to Jesus Christ to prove his deity?
2. In which sense 'son of God' is used for Jesus Christ?
3. What are the qualities of God seen in Jesus Christ?
4. What are the activities that prove the deity of Jesus Christ?
5. Assert the fact that Jesus is worthy to be worshipped?
6. State three views against the deity of Jesus Christ and refute them?
7. Establish that Jesus is the unique son of God?
8. Who was Jesus for you? Do you like to inherit the glorious nature of Jesus? To whom will you worship?