

LESSON 9

DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Reading : Col. 1:14-29, 2:6-7.

Memory verses : Col. 2:9-10

Theme : **To worship Jesus Christ after understanding His divine glory and perfection and grow unto His perfection.**

Introduction: We have been studying the attributes of God in previous lessons. Which is the greatest mystery among them all? Who are the personalities in Trinity? The important topics connected with Trinity are the deity and personality of Christ and the deity of the Holy Spirit. It is God's will for us that we should grow into His image by way of redemption through Jesus Christ and by the work of the Holy Spirit (2 Thes. 2:14, Rom. 7:29-30, 2 Cor. 3:19). So let us study the scripture portions related to the deity of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I. THE NAMES ASSIGNED TO JESUS CHRIST PROVE HIS DEITY:

1. **God:** Jesus is referred in the Scriptures by names like God, great God, true God, God above all, Lord and God and mighty God (Heb. 1:8, Titus 2:12, 1 John 5:20, Rom. 9:5, John 20:28, Isa. 9:6).
2. **Lord:** The basis for one's salvation is to accept Jesus as Lord (Rom. 10:9). The name 'Jehovah' used in the Old Testament means 'Lord' (Psa. 23:1). Jesus is also given the name 'Lord' (Psa. 110:1, Matt. 22:41-46, Mark 12:35-36, Luke 20:29-44, Acts 2:44-46, Heb. 1:10-13, Acts 15:31, 10:36).
3. **Holy One:** The name given to God has been given to Jesus also (Hos. 11:9, Acts 3:14).
4. **Beginning and the end (Alpha and Omega):** Jesus bears this name which is ascribed to God (Isa. 4:4, 44:6, Rev. 1:8, 17, 22:13). The eternal God of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ Himself.

5. **Emmanuel (God with us):** Jesus Christ is God who dwells with man (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:22).
6. **Son of God:** Jesus Christ is referred as Son of God 40 times in the Bible. In addition, there are also names like Son of the Most High, My Son, His son, Beloved Son, Only Begotten Son, etc. which carry the same meaning (Matt. 16:16, 27:63, Mark 1:1, Luke 1:32, 22:70, John 1:18, 1:34, 3:16, 20:31, 1 John 5:10-13). What is the meaning of the name 'Son of God'? We must remember that Jesus Christ did not have a natural birth as everyone else. His sonship is not through His birth from virgin Mary in Bethlehem. It was His status from eternity in the Trinity of God. God is the eternal Father and Christ is eternal Son. The mystery of Trinity is hard to understand by human intelligence. The name 'Son of God'; has been given to Jesus Christ to declare to us in our language, His equal position of Trinity, the unity in Trinity and the love binding the personalities of Trinity. The sonship of Jesus Christ is different from the sonship that we receive by faith in Him (John 1:12). That is the reason why He is known as the 'Only Begotten Son' (Mark 12:7, John 1:18).
7. **I am that I am:** God revealed Himself to Moses in this name (Exo. 3:14). Jesus also used this expression for Himself several times (John 8:58, 8:12; 6:35, 11:25).

II. ALL THE QUALITIES WHICH ARE ATTRIBUTED TO GOD ARE FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST:

1. **Omnipotence:** Jesus upholds everything by the power of His Word. He has power over sickness, death, nature and the devil. He is Lord of everything (Heb. 1:3, Luke 4:39, 7:14, Matt. 28:18, 8:22-27, Eph. 1:20-23).
2. **Omniscience:** "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Jesus understands the secrets and thinking of all men from afar (John 4:16-19, Mark 2:8, John 11:11, Mark 11:2-6).
3. **Omnipresence:** Jesus Christ was in heaven while He was still on earth (John 3:13). He has promised to be with His disciples always, everywhere (Matt. 18:20, 28:20).
4. **Unchanging:** As Jesus Christ is eternal, He is also unchanging God (John 1:1-2, Col. 1:17, Heb. 13:8, 1:12, Isa. 9:6, John 17:5).

5. Jesus Christ shines as the embodiment of all virtues like holiness, love, righteousness, mercy, grace and faithfulness (Acts 3:14, Heb. 7:26, John 14:31, 13:1, Mark 6:34, Matt. 14:14, John 10:11, Matt. 11:29, Heb. 3:2, 2 Tim. 4:8).

III. JESUS CHRIST HAS SHOWN HIS DEITY THROUGH HIS DIVINE ACTIVITIES:

1. **Creator:** He is seen as Creator together with Father and Holy Spirit. All things have come into existence through 'Word' who is Jesus (John 1:1-3, 14). 'Elohim', the name used for God in Gen. 1:1 who created the heavens and the earth is a plural form. That name includes the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is described as the Creator in Heb. 1:3, 10 and Col. 1:14-16. Some of His miracles show Him to be the Creator. E.g.: i) Turning of water into wine (John 2:1-11).ii) Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:5-13).
2. **Sustainer:** He sustains everything by His word (Heb. 1:3, John 10:9).
3. **Giver of eternal life:** He gives eternal life to those who believe on Him and follow Him (John 10:27-28).
4. **Raises the dead:** Those of the dead who hear His voice at His second coming will rise from the dead (John 5:21-25, 6:39-44). He showed His power while He was on the earth (John 11:43-44).
5. **Forgives sin:** God alone can forgive sin because all sin is transgression of God's law. Jesus Christ showed His deity by forgiving sin while He was on the earth (Mark 2:5-11, Luke 7:48). He forgives sin even now on the basis of His atoning death (Heb. 9:26, 1 John 1:7-9).
6. **Transforms our body:** At His second coming, He will transform our lowly bodies by His power so that they will be like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21, 1 Thes. 4:16-17).
7. **Judge:** Judgement is given to Jesus (John 5:22-23, Acts 10:42). He will officiate at three judgements (2 Cor. 5:10, Matt. 25. 31-35, Rev. 20:11-15). He will judge all (Rom. 14:10).

IV. WORTHY OF WORSHIP:

He is worthy of our worship as only God is. Neither men nor angels are entitled to our worship (Rev. 22:8-9, Acts 10:25-26, Matt. 4:10). Jesus accepted worship from men because He is God (Matt. 2:10-11, 14:33, Luke 24:52, 17:16). He even stated that worshipping Him is giving glory to God (Luke 17:16-18). It is God's desire that both Father and Son are given equal honour (Heb. 1:6, Rev. 5:13-14, John 5:22).

V. RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD:

The strongest proof for the deity of Jesus is His resurrection (John 10:17-18, Rom. 1:4). Paul states that Jesus Christ's status as Son of God was strongly established by His resurrection from the dead.

VII. OBJECTIONS VOICED AGAINST THE DEITY OF CHRIST:

1. The main objection of antagonists is that if Jesus is God, then one will have to accept more than one Gods. The compound unity of Trinity is the answer to this argument.
2. Another argument put forward by some is the statement made by Jesus that Father is bigger than Him. But Jesus was not referring to His personality or His nature. In principle, Father, Son and Holy Spirit have equal status. But when Jesus took the form of man, He took it upon Himself a role subservient to Father.
3. Another argument is that Jesus Christ has been called 'man' and 'son of man' and so He has no deity. But Jesus took the form of man for man's redemption and lived among men as a man. Hence He was a perfect man and a perfect God when He lived on the earth.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ is true God and eternal life. His name is the only name given to man for his salvation. Let us dedicate ourselves to live a true Christian life in His presence after accepting Him as Saviour and Lord.

Questions

1. Which are the names of Jesus Christ proclaiming His deity?
2. What is the meaning of the name 'Son of God'?

3. Which attributes of God are seen in Jesus Christ?
4. What are the activities of Jesus Christ which show His deity?
5. Prove that Jesus Christ is worthy of worship.
6. Give the arguments of the antagonists of the deity of Christ and prove that they are wrong.
7. Establish the fact that Jesus Christ is the unchanging Son of God.
8. Who is Jesus Christ to you? Will you decide that He is the only One worthy of worship?

