

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvishesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

28 August 2009

THE DEITY OF CHRIST-III

Dr. K.C. Johnson, Mavelikara

C. The Claims of Christ Prove That He Is God

Every now and then you may hear someone say, "Jesus never claimed to be God." Such a statement is a declaration of the person's ignorance of the Bible. The fact is that Jesus Christ everywhere claimed to be God and either He is, or He is the greatest liar or fool or both that ever lived. If He, making the claims that He did, knew that He was not God, then He was a liar. If He was not God and thought that He was, He was a madman. Either way He would not deserve our admiration, much less our worship and trust. Now let's look at His claims.

1. Jesus Christ claimed to be the fulfilment of Old Testament Prophecy. (See Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 21:33-46; John 5:39,46; Luke 24:25-27,44,45. Also compare Isaiah 7:14; 9: 6).

2. Christ claimed to be completely sinless (John 8:46; 14:30). Nobody could show literally "not even one" sin in Him. Jesus here indicates that there is nothing in Him which can respond to temptation (See also John 18:23).

3. Jesus Christ claimed the power and right to forgive the sins of others (Mark 2:5-11; Luke 7:48-50). The Jews who lived in the first century rightly recognised this to be the prerogative of God alone!

4. Jesus Christ claimed the right to receive human worship (John 5:23).

5. Christ claimed to be the Judge of the world (Matthew 7:21-23; 25:31-46; John 5:26,27). The Old Testament claims that God is the Judge (Genesis 18:25).

Jesus Christ is going to judge New Testament believers (2 Cor. 5:10), Old Testament believers (Matt. 25:1-30; Ezek. 20:34,35), Antichrist and his followers (Rev. 19:20,21), Gentiles (Matt.

25:31,32; Acts. 17:31), Satan (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 20:10), and all the wicked ones (2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5; Rev. 20:11-15).

6. Jesus Christ claimed absolute equality with God the Father (John 5:21-23; 10:30; 14:1-6 compare 6: 44; John 17: 3-5).

7. He claimed to be God (Matthew 22:41-46 cf. Psalm 110: 1,2; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1; John 8:58).

D. The God Jehovah of the Old Testament Is the Christ of the New Testament

Jesus Christ is described in the New Testament as the Jehovah of the Old Testament. Though the word "Jehovah" is used in the Old Testament to describe God the Father (Ps. 2:7) and God the Holy Spirit (Is. 6:9,10 cf. Acts. 28:25-27; Ps. 95:8-11 cf. Heb. 3:7-11), more often it is used to refer to Christ, the second person

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TAMLNADU CAMPAIGN (Y M E F South Division)

Witnesses of Cross at Sadayanpalayam

If the team members were assaulted at Govindapalayam at Sadayampalayam the team was welcomed with great pleasure. Many had the thirst for listening gospel in that village with 1000 houses. One retired headmaster of that village greeted and treated us and requested to come again there. At Govindapalayam the team left the police station with tears but they left Sadayanpalayam with much joy to the next village. Praise the Lord for that. The next days God allowed the team members to visit many villages and to share the gospel to many people. At Vattamala they met a Marthomite evangelist and he treated the Lord's servants very well. He gave eatables and gave details of the villages which helped the team for the future programme. We praise the Lord for the abundant grace that we got from the Lord in the past few days.

After that the team worked in Rasipuram which is 70 kilometers away from Erode. God helped to proclaim gospel in many villages there with the help of Bro; Saravanan who is working there. People listened to the gospel eagerly. Please pray so that God may send showers of blessing on that seeds and many may become the children of God and see in the eternity.

We thankfully remember and praise God for the encouragement given by our Lord's servants Bro; V S Mathew and Bro. P.T Abraham. We extend our sincere thanks to all believers who prayed for us when we faced problems at Govindapalayam. Now we have Brs; C.M. Varghese, Kuriakose, Kurien Thomas, Praveen, Prabhakar, Saravanan, Stanly, J. Babu of Erode and Karunakaran with the team. Let us continue to pray for the work at Erode.

C.M.Varghese

Daniel: Godly Living in a Hostile World

Continuation from last issue...

The Importance of United Prayer

Not only do we learn about the impotence of this world's wisdom when it comes to spiritual things, but we learn the importance of united effort in prayer. In the crisis, Daniel shared the problem with others of like mind and then they combined their efforts in prayer. If we would know how to remain undaunted in the crisis we must not bear the burden alone. Involve others. Paul exhorted the Galatians "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gala 6:2). Uniting in prayer can bring great results. The early disciples faced the daunting challenge of preaching the gospel to a waiting world, and then of establishing local churches

following the apostles' doctrine. How did they handle this crisis? We read, "These till continued *ziffi one accord in prayer and supplication*" (Acts 1:14). Following this prayer meeting, 3000 souls were saved. If we pray believing, we will receive a response from God beyond what we could ever imagine.

God's Servants are Indestructible Till Their Service is Done

It is a principle that runs through Scripture, that God's servants are indestructible until their service is over. God protects and preserves His servants until His purpose for their lives is complete; then He takes them to Himself. Daniel and his friend, were exposed to the ruthless

decree of all uncaring king, and could have been swept away along with the other wise men of Babylon, but God had other plans for them. Neither Nebuchadnezzar nor any other, could thwart these plans. We will see this principle in operation frequently in the book of Daniel. We also see this exemplified in the life of the Lord Jesus. For example, in the Gospel according to John we read time and again, "His hour a'as not yet conic" (John 7:30). Men could not take Him and kill Him at their whim, because the life of the Lord Jesus was being ordered according to His Father's timing. So it is with our lives. We can rest secure that He will keep us right to the end, and that His

General Y M E F Youth Camp

If it be the will of the Lord the youth camp which takes place in every two years will be conducted from 23.12.09 to 26.12.09 at the Kozhikodu Brethren Assembly Hall under the auspices of the General Y M E F. Brs Varghese Kurian, Jose Mankudy, P G James and Biju K are the main speakers. We solicit the prayer of the saints

Sabu Mathew Secretary

THE FEAR OF FEVER

When the treatment and treating methods are advancing new types of diseases and symptoms are developing. The cancer which is a silent killer has the second position after heart attack. And it is the 13% of the total death toll. According to the census of World Health Organization in the year 2000 about 6.2 lakhs of people died due to cancer. But in 2007, 12 millions were affected by cancer. Even though there is no perfect remedy for cancer many people are coming back to the life by the advanced medical technology.

When the scientist succeeded in the field of cure and prevention, A I D S caught hold of the world. The amount of the Aids patients can not be numbered. By the help of latest medicine the life of the Aids patient can be extended to certain years even though it is not possible to eradicate.

Fever is a natural phenomenon to expel the impurities which enter into the human body. In the ancient time people thought that if there is no fever it was harmful for the body. But the fever has frightened the whole world. Last year our country was under the clutches of a contagious fever.

And again a new virus called H1N1 appeared. It started in Mexico and flew to many countries. 'Many places at high speed' that is its character. The world is in a dilemma. The future of the people is in a very dangerous state. When the technology and knowledge advances the life is falling in to greater miseries.

Who is changing the nature? To which place the nature is taking us? When will the life end? The people are worried by all these questions.

The greatest specialty of Christianity is the knowledge about the periods. The prophecy about the future is fulfilling today. The Thessalonians were aware of the periods. So Paul in 1The 5:1 said like this "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren you have no need that should write to you." The future is fulfilled when a man enters in to a new stage and the imperfectness of the present is rectified. When a child of God passes through the time and seasons the drawbacks of his life will be corrected and when it will end, his eternal life will attain the eternity. That eternal life helps us to be with our God eternally.

But today people are not aware of the eternity. The worldly pleasures and worldly things have stolen our hope of eternity. We are worrying for the present pleasure instead of telling others about the terrifying end of this world. How many problems are consuming the modern man? Which are Sin, Diseases, Sorrows, and Deaths etc? But how far we can enjoy the sweetness of the eternal life which offers us a life which exceeds all these problems? Jesus Christ is the only remedy for the problems of this time. So we have to proclaim the gospel which is beyond all the time and seasons to the world which is under the clutches of the time and seasons. Mean time it is the need of this time that we should be aware of the fact that we are created for an eternal life and the worries of the present world should not control us.

Jose Philip

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of the Trinity (Is. 6:1-5 cf. John 12:41; Is. 40:3 cf. Matt. 3:1-3; Is. 43:11 cf. Acts. 4:12; Joel 2:32 cf. Acts. 2:31,38; Is. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 cf. Rev. 1:8,7,18; 22:12-16).

E. Scriptural Portions That Explicitly Assert the Deity of Jesus Christ

Scripture explicitly asserts the deity of the Son in many Old Testament and New Testament passages.

1. Old Testament Portions

a. Ps. 45:6, 7: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows." God who is addressed here in "Your throne, O God" is the Lord Jesus Christ.

b. Is. 7:14: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." The virgin will be giving birth to Immanuel. Immanuel means 'God with us.' That means, One who is going to be born of the virgin is God Himself.

c. Is. 9:6: "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." Here, God the Son is described as the Mighty God.

2. New Testament Portions

a. Matt. 1:23: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which translated means, 'God with us.'"

b. John 1:1,14: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." From the statement "and the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) it is quite clear that John 1:1 refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jehovah's Witnesses translate "Word was God" (1:1) as "Word was a god." By this translation they want to affirm that Jesus is not equal with God the Father. If we carefully translates this verse on the basis of the Greek grammar, we can prove that the Jehovah's Witnesses' translation is wrong. In Greek New

Testament, there is no definite article before the word *God* (theos). Therefore, Jehovah's Witnesses translate this part as "Word was a god." According to Greek grammar, when a copulative verb comes (is, are, were, etc.), usually there comes two nouns in the Nominative case. In such occasion, the noun in Nominative case that is expected to be the subject of the verb has a definite article and the other noun that is the predicate Nominative comes without the definite article. Third part of John 1:1 is "and the Word was God." Here, the definite article is given to 'word' because 'word' is the subject of this clause. The definite article is not given for 'God' because 'God' is not the subject of this clause. We also should remember that there is no indefinite articles (a, an) in Greek language. I want my readers to note that in John 1:6,12,13 and 18, the word 'God' is used without the definite article to refer to God the Father.

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Y M E F NEWS

One Day Meeting

Y M E F South Division

If it be the will of the Lord the Y M E F (SD) in association with the SBS unit of Pathanamthitta wish to conduct a one day conference on 12.09.09 at the Gospel Hall Pathanamthitta from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Kindly pray for it and the youth and SBS workers and members may kindly attend it with prayer.

Bible Classes

Be useful or beneficial to the owner – Roy Mathews, Omallur

Local Assembly vision or oversight – T J Thomas, Kinarmukku

Train a child in the way he be trained – P G James, Thannitodu

Final Message – Lesly John, Tiruvananthapuram

Special Classes and competition will be held for the children under 12.

For SBS Shoji George 9961319231

Jacob P Mathew 09847000691

Dallas: In association with the local assemblies in and around Dallas the Y M E F unit held an outreach programme during annual festival of Ananda Bazar. Thousands of leaflets and hundreds of booklets, New Testaments and may Bibles were distributed to the large gathering of Indians who came for the carnival. The brothers who participated in the event showed great interest in the ministry. Let the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of those who have received literature and copies of the Word of God.

SBS News

General Prayer

Vennikulam: The monthly prayer meeting of the SBS General for the month of September will be held on 10.09.09 at 6pm in the residence of brother Sam Joy of Kalanjoor. All the Balasangam workers are requested to attend this prayer meeting with prayer **C M Chacko**

Thrissur: A one day meeting of the Thrissur SBS was held on August 8, 2009 at the Nadathara Community Hall in co operation with the Nadathara Brethren Assembly. Nearly 350 people attended this meeting including the leaders. Brother A J Saji spoke on the theme 'Seek the face of the Lord' Presents were distributed to those who was in the competitions. Awards for SSLC students were also given. Kindly continue to pray for this unit work.

Prasad David

Gospel Meetings

Bangalore: A special gospel meeting is arranged on 1.10.09 to 4.10.09 at the Clarence School Auditorium. The meetings were held in every from 6-8. Brother John P Thomas will speak in the meetings. Kindly pray for this meetings.

Delhi: If it be the will of the Lord the Dilshad Rehaboth Brethren Assembly wish to conduct Gospel Meetings from 9.10.09 to 11.10.09 at the Dilshad Gardens. Brother Chandapilla Philip will speak in the meetings. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of this meeting.

Manchavilakom (Trivandrum): The ministries of the Manjavilakom Brethren Assembly is going smoothly by the grace of the Lord. If it be the will of the Lord a special gospel meeting is planned on 17,18, 19, of September 2009. Along with this meeting house visitings and open air meetings are also planned. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of this programme.

N Balaraj

Monthly work and Monthly Meeting

Peechi: By the grace of the Lord the monthly outreach took place in association with the Peechi Brethren Assembly. House visitings were conducted in and around Peechi and open air meetings were conducted in six places. Bible classes were taken by James Williams. In the evening meetings C J Mathai, Lijo Varghese and Babu Varghese spoke from the Word of God. In the monthly meeting Br K C Simon gave the message. The next months meeting will be held in association with the Aarakuzha Brethren Assembly.

Prayer: There is prayer meeting along with this ministry on the last Saturday of every month at 10am in the Thrissur Kizhakkokotta Brethren Assembly and the last Sunday at the Kadanattom Brethren Assembly. Please present at this meetings.

Youth Camp

Delhi: If it be the will of the Lord a youth camp will be conducted from 1.10.09 to 4.10.09 at Mount Carmel School (Dwaraka). "Strengthen in Grace" is the theme of this years camp. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of this camp.

Monthly Prayer Meeting of the Evangelist

Kottarakkara: The monthly prayer meeting of the evangelist in southern Kerala will be held on 1st September 2009 from 10am at the Elampal Brethren Assembly Hall, Punalur. All the evangelists are requested to attend it with prayer.

Sam Zachariah

Thiruvalla Medical Mission

The annual general body of the Diwan Bahadur Dr. V Varghese Hospital Trust was held on 15th August 2009 at the TMM Auditorium under the chairmanship Ret.Col Alex Varghese. They took an evaluation of the previous financial year 2008-2009. Brother Wilson Thomas was nominated to the executive from the General Body. Col. Varghese will continue as the chairman of the trust. Brother V M Abraham was elected as the vice president. Brother John V Abraham will be the secretary and brother T J Thomas will hold the post of the Treasurer. Then the audited account was presented and got approved after detailed discussion on it. The Lord is using this committee to work for the progress of the hospital. This is achievement is because of the payers of the saints and the chairman remembered the commendable service provided by Brother N John Jacob who retired from the committee after ten years in glowing words. Then the meeting came to a close after submitting the new executive and general to the mighty hands of the Lord. We request you to continually pray for TMM and its functions.

John V Abraham (Secretary)

Cooks Wanted

Experienced and expert cooks are required for the Brethren Bible Institute, Pathanamthitta. Couples from the brethren assemblies are given preference. Others will also be considered. Those who wish may kindly apply to Secretary, Brethren Bible Institute, P B No.46 Pathanamthitta or by Phone 0468 2224045, 04682342105

Secretary

Sisters Meeting

If it be the will of the Lord the next sisters meeting of the Punalur centre will be held on 12th September 2009 at 10 am in the Anchal Brethren Assembly Hall. All sisters are requested to attend it with prayer.

Rosamma Samuel Secretary

Contd from Page 1 Daniel ...

pur-poses for our lives will be fulfilled. Only when His purposes for us are complete will we be taken to His presence. Until then, our lives are invincible. Paul also rested secure in this knowledge. Writing to the Philippians he said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). Again he wrote that, "Christ shall be ^{niagiiffol} ^{III} my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Phil. 1:20). Life and death for Paul were in the hands of the Lord. Even when it be-came evident that God's purposes for him were nearing completion, and he was to die on Nero's execu-tion block, he wrote, "I ant now ready to be offered, and the time of my depar-ture is at hand" (2 Tim. 4:6).

A True Servant Does Not Attract Attention to Himself

It is worthy of note that whereas Daniel could have used the crisis in the palace of Babylon as an opportu-nity to glorify himself, he studious-ly avoids doing so. Daniel

told the king There is a God in heaven that vealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days" (Dan. 2:28). He goes even further, "But as for Inc, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more: than any liv-ing" (Dan. 2:30). Daniel made it his business to ensure that he was given no credit for the revelation, and that glory was ascribed to God alone. Jo-seph likewise directed the glory to God when he interpreted Pharaoh's dream. He said, "It is not ^{III} me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace" (Gen. 41:16).

We are living in days when men in the world systems vie with each other for a place in the limelight. Whether it be in the political arena, the sports field, or wherever, man is always striving for self-glorifica-tion. Sadly this spirit is also at work among the people of God. Remem-bering among themselves as to "who should be the greatest" (Mark 9:34). As the servants of God we cannot allow

ourselves to be caught up in the frenzied attempt to get the glory. We have to remind ourselves constantly that, at best, we are only servants. The great Apostle Paul had grasped this when he tells us that everything that men would count as a credit towards self, he counted but dung. He wrote, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus ^{iiiy} Lord: for whom I have suf-fered ^{he} loss of all things, and do count there but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:7-8). He further exhorts us, "Let this mind be ^{III} you, which was also ^{III} Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5), and he went on to describe the downward path taken by the Lord Jesus, which culminated in the cross. May God grant us the same spirit of self-effacement and self-abasement that we see in Daniel, as ^{we} serve the Lord. And if the Lord has given us a unique and valuable insight into His

will and His word, and if we are able to serve the Lord ⁱⁿ the public forum, influencing assembly life for good by our ministry, let's refuse to take any glory to ourselves. We are but bond-slaves. The glory belongs to Him whom we serve and to Him alone.

We Must Take into Account the Big Picture

Daniel was able to show Nebu-chadnezzar that, in his dream, God had revealed the whole course of Gentile power, and how it would end. His dream of the great image covered from the time of the Baby-lonian empire, until time, yet future when the revived Roman empire will again be i force ⁱⁿ the world. In his dream Nebuchadnezzar saw the image struck by a stone cut without hands out of the mountain. It finished the image to pieces and it to powder. The stone was then seen to become a great mountain that filled the whole earth. Dan-iel able to show that the empires of this world are headed for destruc-tion and that when Christ returns in power and glory, it will not be to improve the world system but to destroy it completely. Christ will establish His kingdom in the world where men once cried. Away with Him, crucify We will not have this man to reign over us (Luke 19:14).

Now we might wonder what all of this has to do with us. This rev-elation is significant to us because, knowing what God has in mind for the political and social systems Of our world, we will understand that the Kingdom of Christ will not come through a process of gradual improvement in the human con-dition, nor through our political or social involvement. No. God's plan is to destroy the world sys-tem, and on its ashes to establish His Kingdom of Righteousness. This knowledge will preserve Lis from expending our energies on improving world conditions. Instead we should direct them toward spreading the gospel of Christ, which tells man that he is hopelessly depraved and that the answer ^{is} not in improving his nature or his world, but in receiving new birth.

The Good Conscience

.....and herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men. Acts.24:16

Once a Red Indian was asked to explain what is conscience? After thinking for sometime, he said by pointing towards his chest. That is a three edged thing inside this. When I did a mistake that will turn inside and it will hurt me very badly. But if I continue doing mistakes the edges will become blunt and later it won't disturb me anymore. Even though the explanation is in an awkward way, it is a very meaningful one. Because when we neglect the warnings of conscience and

continue our sinful deeds, its power will reduce. If we misuse, it will become a useless thing. (1Tim.4:2). So nobody should behave harshly towards conscience and destroy it.

Conscience as a mind reminder is a good treasure but still it is in utter destruction when man sinned. If it has to be good companion without any error it has to be purified and enlighten on the basis of scripture. Then only we can rely completely on its works.

This sound that is inside a true Christian is complaining him for hurting his friend, then he should say sorry to his friend and should do whatever compensation is

needed. Sometimes conscience will remind you for grieving God in his personal life. To have "blameless conscience before God and men" at once he should go before God and confess his guilt.

The reverse reactions and wrong practices that we do as a result of not giving ears to the soft voice of conscience will diminish the light of the spirit. We will receive a clear conscience only when we offer ourselves to the hands of God for purifying and leading us on the basis of His words.

For Meditation: The mariners compass can guide one to the North Pole when his life is based on the Word of God. Then only the conscience can point to the North Pole of goodness and kindness.

Obliged

In TV Channels

Sathgamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel
All Fridays (Malayalam) 5.30-6.00 p.m.
Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

Jeevamritham Television Program

Every Saturday 9 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in Power vision channel. by Evg Chandapilla Philip

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