

# The Deity of Christ (1)

## Introduction

### 1. The wise man, Solomon said:

Ecclesiastes 1:9 That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.

- A. **However, each generation has to learn this for itself and many of us never learn it.**
- B. **Old errors are often times recirculated under new titles and given the appearance of originality.**

- 2. Over the years, many views about Jesus have been expressed. Much controversy has taken place over the nature of Jesus:**
- A. Was He God?**
  - B. Was He a Man?**
  - C. Did He really come in the flesh?**
  - D. Did He give up His deity?**
    - 1) These questions can go on and on and many are never satisfied with the answers.**
    - 2) We are human, and must work with finite minds. We get ourselves into trouble when we try to limit Deity with our own finite limitations.**  
**Isaiah 55:8-9**

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

- E. We must be careful how we view Jehovah!**

- 3. The current controversy among brethren concerning the humanity and deity of Jesus is one of those areas of study that is ancient, but new to some of us.**
  - A. It has risen, in part, as an answer to those who would teach that man, because he is a man, must sin (Calvinism).**
  - B. The response by some has been to introduce the nature of Christ in the flesh. He was a man, but He did not sin.**
  - C. It is now being taught boldly among some brethren that Jesus Christ was just an ordinary man who gave up His divinity when He came to this earth!**
    - 1) The conclusion that has been drawn is that if Jesus did not sin, we don't have to sin; Jesus lived a perfect life, so we can live a perfect life.**
    - 2) A truth taken to an extreme, can become error.**
- 4. Thus, while it is true that Jesus was a man, He was not merely and only a man, He was God in the flesh.**

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- 5. In the first part of our four part study, let's look at the doctrine of Calvinism.**

## Calvinism

1. **We must be aware that there are doctrines out there that are "not according to Christ!"**  
**Colossians 2:8**
2. **Calvinism is a whole system of religious error.**
  - A. **You may or not be familiar with the word CALVINISM.**
  - B. **But if you talk to denominational people about faith, repentance and baptism and the need to be saved by the gospel, you are going to run into Calvinism.**
    - 1) **Calvinism is the foundation upon which denominational or evangelical creeds have been built, the root of so much of the religious error today.**
3. **Who is John Calvin?**
  - A. **A Frenchman who lived from 1509-1564.**
  - B. **Recognized as the principle leader of the 16th century Reformation (movement to reform Roman Catholicism).**
    - 1) **Those who left Catholicism were those who gave birth to the Protestant Denominations of our day - John Calvin was there every step of the way!**
  - C. **He developed a Theological System. This system became the basis for the creeds and beliefs of many modern denominational churches.**
    - 1) **For memory purposes, Calvin's theological system has been represented by the acronym: **TULIP**.**

## TULIP

### 1. **(T) Total Hereditary Depravity.**

**A. Human beings have a totally depraved sinful nature; that man is corrupt, perverse and sinful throughout from birth.**

- 1) The natural man is unable to do anything spiritually good - can do nothing pertaining to his salvation.**
- 2) The sin of Adam and Eve is transferred to every human so that when babies are born, they are totally depraved and lost in sin; even before they know right and wrong or commit any act.**

**B. What does the Bible say?**

- 1) Committed sin is what condemns and separates man from God. Sin is defined as transgressing God's law, not something that is inherited.**

**Isaiah 59:2**

**Ephesians 2:1-2**

**1 John 3:4**

- 2) Little children are innocent.**

Matthew 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

- a) One must be able to sin before he can die. That means reaching an age of accountability.**

**Ezekiel 18:20**

**C. The "T" in TULIP represents a false doctrine.**

## 2. **(U) Unconditional Election.**

**A. Also identified by the label PREDESTINATION.**

**B. The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. contains this statement from chapter 3:** "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ... By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestined and foreordained, are particularly unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished."

**C. What does the Bible say?**

- 1) We all are offered the invitation to come to Jesus.  
Revelation 22:17**
- 2) What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?**

Matthew 28:19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

**a) The Lord's "Great Commission" is for all men:**

1 Timothy 2:4 who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**D. The second petal of Unconditional Election on this TULIP must be torn away based on Bible teaching.**

**3. (L) Limited Atonement.**

**A. Calvinism teaches that Christ died for "only the elected ones". His death was a substitutionary sacrifice of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners".**

**B. What does the Bible say?**

**1) Jesus died for not the "elected ones" but for all man.**

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, **might taste death for everyone.**

**2) It is Jesus that is our propitiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world.**

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**C. Limited Atonement is withered away next to Bible teaching.**

**4. (I) Irresistible Grace.**

- A. This doctrine has God saying to sinners that He has chosen "Whether you like it or not...I'm going to save you!"**
- B. "The spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing (the elect) to Christ".**
  - 1) This is sometimes referred to as "the direct operation of the Holy Spirit".**
  - 2) This doctrine rules out the will of the individual entirely. It is "irresistible Grace".**
- C. What does the Bible say?**
  - 1) When Stephen delivered his sermon that resulted in his death, he charged the unbelieving Jews toward whom the spirit had attempted instruction:**

Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit;** as your fathers did, so do you.

- 2) Jesus said:**
  - John 5:24**
  - a) Can hearing and believing be resisted? Obviously it can be. Verse 29 says:**
    - John 5:29**
    - 1) Anyone can accept Jesus and choose to do good. Most will not make this choice!**

- D. Irresistible Grace has been destroyed by the Bible. There remains just one more petal.**

**5. (P) Perseverance of the Saints.****A. This doctrine is also called "once saved, always saved!"**

- 1) **A Baptist preacher in Louisville, KY once made this statement: "If I killed my wife and mother and debauched a thousand women, I couldn't go to hell ... in fact, I couldn't go to hell If I wanted to."**
- 2) **Hoyt Chastain, in debate with brother A.C. Grider said: "If I left my wife and ran off with a 16 year old girl, God would work it out for my good."**
- 3) **In 1974, while President of a Baptist College in Lakeland, FL, Dr. Albert Gardner was asked: "Is the eternal salvation of the child of God, saved by the blood, absolutely unconditional in that he is not required to do anything to go to Heaven?" His answer was, "Yes!"**

**B. What does the Bible say?**

- 1) **Paul, indicating concern over keeping himself well disciplined in the Lord said:**

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, **I myself should become disqualified.**

- a) **Was it possible for the apostle Paul to be cast away? Of course it was. That's what motivated him to discipline himself.**

- 2) **In James 5:19-20 it says:  
James 5:19-20**
  - a) **James is addressing Christians. It is not only possible for Christians to wander from the truth, but when he does he becomes a sinner, needing to be saved from death!**
- 3) **Many believe it is not possible for a Christian to depart from God as shown by the "once saved, always saved" doctrine.**

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

- 4) **Peter writes to those who have obtained precious faith, that they need to keep what they had received.**
  - a) **They then need to add to their faith the Christian characteristics to make their election sure. Then Peter adds:  
1 Peter 1:8-10**
- 5) **Peter said that it would have been better to never have known the way righteousness than to become a Christian and then return to the world.  
2 Peter 2:20-22**

- 6) One of the clearest passages teaching the possibility of apostasy (falling away) is Hebrews 10:26-31.**  
**Hebrews 10:26-31**
- a) Here is an example of one that after receiving the knowledge of the truth, sins willfully.**
  - b) When this happens, what does this sinner face? (Verse 27).**
  - c) Apostasy is real! There are many warnings given that indicate that we can fall once we have become a Christian!**  
**1 Timothy 4:1**  
**Revelation 2:5**  
**Romans 11:22**

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

## Calvinism in Summary

1. **There is nothing a lost one can do to be saved.**
2. **Once saved, there is nothing he can do to be lost.**
3. **The Holy Spirit bodily takes up His abode in the saved one and since God is stronger than the devil, such a one can never be lost to the devil.**

- **If you seek it, you can't get it.**
- **If you get it, you can't lose it.**
- **If you lost it, you never had it.**

4. **There is nothing left of the Calvinistic TULIP but the Word of God.**
5. **In contrast to Calvinism the Word of God teaches the following points:**

- A. **People become sinners by transgressing God's law.**

**Romans 3:23**

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

- B. **Sinners can become saints by obeying the gospel.**

**Romans 1:16-17**

**Romans 6:17-18**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him,**

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus.** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**C. Once you are saved, you must keep yourself saved.**

Colossians 1:23 **if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him**,

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace**.

**6. Calvinism is not according to Christ's teaching. Many denominations use all or part of John Calvin's TULIP theory.****A. If it is not according to Christ, it is not worth having confidence in. Remember the words of Paul:**

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and **not according to Christ**.

## Conclusion

1. **We have set the ground work for our future study on the Deity of Christ.**
  - A. **Calvinism teaches that man, because he is man, **must sin**.**
  - B. **The Bible teaches that man does not have to sin (we have a choice), but that **man does sin** (Romans 3:23).**
2. **The premise for the doctrine that says "Jesus was just an ordinary guy, a guy like you and me" is based on the issue of whether or not man "has to sin". They say that since Jesus was an ordinary guy and did not sin, that man can also go without sinning.**
  - A. **Think about it? There is a difference. They say man can live as to never sin. The Bible teaches that man has a choice, BUT that man will sin (Romans 3:23).**
  - B. **Only Jesus, God in the flesh, His spirit housed in an earthly body could live and not sin, because He was not just an ordinary guy, He was God in the flesh; He was deity on earth!**
  - C. **Those who don't adopt their theory that Jesus was just an ordinary guy and that we can live a life as He did without sin, are accused of being Calvinists because Calvinists believe that all men are born in sin and continue to sin.**
    - 1) **We have already proven that Bible Christians do not believe this. Again the Bible teaches that man does not have to sin, but will.**
3. **In our next lesson we will show that Jesus was Deity (God) while He was on earth.**

