

TEACHING GOAL

To show that Jesus is God.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

S.C. 6; L.C. 9; W.C. of F. II; Savoy 2; Young 7-8

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Hebrews 1:1-2:4

Support Passages: Psalm 2:7, 45:6-7, 97:7, 102:25-27, 104:4, 110:1; 2 Samuel 7:14; John 1:1-18, 5:15-18, 10:24-31; Colossians 1:13-19, 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-14

BIBLE STORY

Mark 2:1-12; Jesus healed the man who was lowered through the roof. Jesus healed his body and soul from which we conclude that only God can forgive sins.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority."
(Colossians 2:9-10, ESV)

APPLICATION

One's personal salvation is predicated on a genuine confession that Jesus is LORD or YAHWEH. We therefore will not escape the wrath of God if we demean the Son of God by relegating Him to something less than God.

SUMMARY

About the year 300 AD, a heated controversy tore at the church. Arius, a Presbyter in the church of Alexandria, insisted that God the Father alone was without beginning and that the Son of God was merely brought into being by the Father. So vocal was his objection to the Deity of Christ that a special Synod was called to deal with the issue he raised, with the result that Arius and his followers were condemned. "We were persecuted," said Arius, "because we say that the Son has a beginning, but that God is without a beginning."¹ The Jehovah's Witness cult carries on the theology of Arius and with him they deny the substantial Deity of Jesus Christ.

The Synod of Nicea met in 325 AD under the aegis of Emperor Constantine who was converted to Christianity in 312 AD and they produced the following creed:² "We believe in one God, Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father; only begotten, that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father: by whom all things were made in heaven and on earth: Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and rose again the third day; He ascended into heaven, and is coming to judge both quick and dead. And we believe in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes all who say that there was a time when the Son of God was not; that before He was begotten He was not; that He was made out of the non-existent; or that He is of a different essence and of a different substance from the Father; and that He is susceptible of variation or change." The earlier Apostles Creed does not take up this matter because the various heresies that led up to the Arian denial, had not yet affected the Church.

What would you have said to Arius?

No passage of Scripture states the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ in stronger terms than does Hebrews chapter 1 where we read, "who (Jesus) being the brightness of *His* (God's) glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,..." Jesus is even attributed eternity in Hebrews 1:8 But to the Son *He says*: "Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your Kingdom." Psalm 45, of which this is a quote, is addressed to the "King" and it is of this King of whom it is said, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever" and "Therefore, God (referring to the King or the Son according to Hebrews 1:8), Your God, has anointed You." In its attempt to discredit the deity of Christ, the modernist RSV reads, "Your divine throne endures for ever and ever." This is a very dishonest translation.

Continuing in Hebrews chapter 1 notice verse 10 where, still speaking of the Son, we read, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands." This is cited from Psalm 102:25 which refers to YAHWEH.. That Jesus bears God's covenant name (YAHWEH) is taught in many Old Testament passages, for example Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-16; Isaiah 40:10-11.

The Apostle John, whose purpose in writing is to set forth Jesus as Messiah and God (John 20:31), says that the Word was God (John 1:1) and is God (John 1:14). Clearly the Jews understood His claim to be God for they tried to stone Him for blasphemy (i.e. claiming to be God; John 5:18, 8:58, 10:30-31, etc.)

No one can deny Paul's view of the Lord Jesus in texts such as Colossians 1:16 and Titus 2:13. So clear is the deity of Christ in Scripture that we can do no other than bow before Him and worship Him as our God and King. What awful blasphemy it is to do otherwise. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

¹ Robert L. Ferm, Readings in the History of Christian Thought, New York, Holt Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1966, p. 129

² Ibid, p. 138