

WITNESSES TO JESUS' DEITY

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. Three Possible Approaches:
 1. Divine attributes
 2. Divine prerogatives
 3. Witnesses to Jesus' deity
- B. This Approach:
 1. We'll look at 13 proofs
 2. PROPOSITION: We need to be assured of the DEITY of Jesus Christ!

I. WITNESSES BEFORE HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY:

- A. Witness In Anticipation: (Isa. 9:6 - 7)
 1. Many prophets to choose from
 2. "Child BORN" - Teaches His humanity
 3. "Son GIVEN" - Declares His deity
 4. Exalted titles fit only for God
- B. Witness In Proclamation: (Luke 1:35)
 1. Angel Gabriel as God's messenger
 2. No doubt what he told Mary
 3. "The Highest" is El Elyon of Gen. 14:22
- C. Witness In Attestation: (Luke 2:8 - 11)
 1. The night of Jesus' birth
 2. Angels give corroborative witness
 3. Deity in human flesh is come to earth
- D. Witness In Presentation: (Matt. 3:16 - 17)
 1. Follows 30 years of silence
 2. Inauguration of His ministry by John's baptism
 3. Delight of the Father is made known
 4. The terms "Father" and "Son", as used of the Godhead imply co-equality in nature and co-eternality of existence

II. WITNESSES DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY:

- A. Witness In Temptation: (Luke 4:1 - 4)
 1. Inadvertent testimony of the Adversary
 2. The "IF", of the KJV translation is really "SINCE" in the Greek original, indicating a state of reality
 3. Even the world's first and greatest liar bears testimony
- B. Witness In Opposition: (Mark 5:6 - 8)
 1. Any witness has some weight
 2. A hostile witness is a powerful witness
 3. Demons acknowledge who Jesus was and is
 4. Enemies of truth vouch for the truth
- C. Witness In Confession: (Matt. 16:13 - 17)
 1. Men had various views of Jesus
 2. Unbelief does not agree
 3. The GENERAL question is narrowed to a SPECIFIC question
 - A direct inquiry to the assembled disciples (Matt. 16:15)
 - An OPEN CONFESSION by Peter
 - Only possible because of divine revelation
 4. John 20:31

D. Witness In Transfiguration: (Matt. 17:1 – 5)

1. The curtain of time is opened so we see the future
2. Peter equates Moses, Elijah, and Jesus as EQUALS
 - “Let us make here 3 tabernacles”
 - Low appreciation for Jesus is instantly corrected
3. “Hear ye HIM!”; Jesus stands ALONE & UNIQUE

E. Witness In Accusation: (John 18:38; 19:4, 6)

1. Pilate finds no evidence of Jesus’ guilt; no fault
2. Yet the Jews persisted
3. The REAL TRUTH comes out in their charge (19:7)
4. His claims and His life matched perfectly
5. He was the ETERNAL GOD come down to redeem them

III. WITNESSES AFTER HIS CRUCIFIXION:

A. An Eyewitness Exclamation: (Matt. 27:24)

1. Miraculous circumstances
2. Centurion in charge bears testimony
3. Present at many crucifixions, but this one was DIFFERENT!!
4. Faith in that soldier is evidenced by his exclamation

B. A Doubter’s Adoration: (John 20:19 – 20)

1. Thomas was absent the night of Jesus’ resurrection
2. All week the other disciples badgered him
3. Thomas refused to believe
4. Jesus appeared and invited Thomas (20:26 – 27)
5. Response
 - Confession is clear
 - Worship is evident
 - Worship is appropriate (Heb. 1:6)

C. A Doctrinal Declaration: (Rom. 1:3- 4)

1. The gospel has content concerning God’s Son
 - HUMANITY – “made of the seed of David according to the flesh”
 - DEITY – “declared to be the Son with power...by the resurrection from the dead”
2. The Bible teaches BOTH as factual realities

D. IN PERSONAL DISSEMINATION:

1. Each must hear and then believe the message
2. No one can share what he/she does not embrace
3. Believers have responsibility
4. Paul is an example – Acts 9:20!
5. Have you believed? Are you sharing?

CONCLUSION:

A. Message Content:

1. Witnesses BEFORE Jesus’ Earthly Ministry
2. Witnesses DURING Jesus’ Earthly Ministry
3. Witnesses AFTER Jesus’ Earthly Ministry

B. Content Of That Witness: (Rom. 10:9 – 11)

1. Confession to God of personal need
2. Believe in your heart Jesus died and rose for you
3. Content of belief
 - “Lord” – His deity
 - “Jesus” – Savior who is our SUBSTITUTE
 - Resurrection – Because He lives, we have eternal life