

The Wednesday Word, October 4, 2017 - Jesus, God Over All

Romans 9:5. "Of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen" (ESV)

God became a man. He became a member of the human race. He became flesh and blood.

Stunning!

Although He became human, He remained entirely and thoroughly the Lord God from Heaven.

Even more stunning!

He was and is the Mighty God, the eternal, self-existent one who was and is and is to come.

He is 'over all.'

That means,

There is no one above Him.

He is over all angels.

He is above all created beings.

He governs all.

What exceedingly good news! It was the Lord of Glory Himself who came to redeem us. We were helpless, and God Himself loved us enough to come to the rescue.

The God of the Arians (Jehovah Witnesses and others) didn't love us enough to come here to save us. He, according to their teaching, created and sent someone else to do the job for him.

Perhaps their god didn't want to get his hands dirty? Or maybe it was because he didn't like the idea of pain, suffering, rejection and humiliation? Or perhaps he was occupied with more pressing matters? But whatever the reason, he, according to them, stayed in Heaven and sent a substitute to represent Him. He can, therefore, be likened to a man who while walking over a bridge with his son spies someone drowning in the river below. His heart is so smitten with concern that he asks his son to jump over the side to rescue and save the drowning man. But, not so the God of the Bible! He laid down the vestiges of royalty, wrapped himself with humanity and came here Himself to rescue and save us from the river of death by bearing our sins on the cross. Jesus was man's substitute, not God's. As Bonar said,

"Turn your eye to the cross and see these two things, - the Crucifiers and the Crucified-----See the Crucified. It is God himself, incarnate love. It is the God who made you, suffering, dying for the ungodly. Can you suspect his grace? Can you cherish evil thoughts of him? Can you ask anything farther to awaken in you the fullest and most unreserved confidence? Will you misinterpret that agony and death by saying that they do not mean grace, or that the grace which

they mean is not for you? Call to mind that which is written, - 'Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us'" 1 John 3:16.

Horatius Bonar: Christ Died for the Ungodly.

In the scheme which denies Christ's Deity, we are presented with a god who was either unwilling or unable to come here himself and rescue us. We must then ask, had their god become too frail to undertake the mission? Did he need someone more energetic and youthful to complete the task? Candidly speaking, this business of God creating some super-angel to do His redeeming work leaves God looking somewhat suspect in His commitment to us. Frankly, I'm not impressed with a god who wouldn't come here Himself to rescue me! A god who stayed in heaven while I was utterly ruined cannot melt my heart. A god who delegates my redemption to another cannot command my loyalty. On this matter, I take my stand with Luther who said, "Wherefore, he that preaches a God to me that died not for me the death on the cross, that God will I not receive."

Martin Luther: Smalcald Articles.

And that's the Gospel Truth!