

## **The Wednesday Word, October 11, 2017: Yes Indeed, He Must Be God!**

*“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).*

When the first missionaries arrived in Japan they encountered a young Japanese man who wanted to improve his knowledge of English. So they gave him the Gospel of John to translate. In a short time, the would-be learner became very restless and agitated. At last, he gushed out with the question, "Who is this Man about whom I have been reading, this Jesus? You call him a man, but He must be God."

Yes indeed, He must be God!

But, not only can we say, He must be God, we can, with certainty, declare that He is, in fact, God. Notice how His deity is spoken of loudly and clearly in Titus 2:13. Observe how Jesus is clearly and plainly designated as the 'great God.'

There can be no ambiguity about His deity. This passage is unmistakably about Christ.

In verse 11, He is called the 'grace of God', and in verse 13, He is designated as the 'great God.' Then, in verse 14, this same one who is termed the 'grace of God' and the 'great God' is said to be the one who has redeemed His people from all iniquity. It doesn't get plainer than that.

Those who deny the deity of Christ try to argue that this verse says both the Father and the Son will appear at the blessed hope. However, nowhere in Paul's epistles is the Father said to 'appear.' The word 'appear,' on the other hand, is used continuously of Christ. He is the revelation of the one True and Living God. He 'appeared,' as already mentioned, in verse 11 of this chapter. In 1 Timothy 6:14 we are told to, "keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." And we are informed He shall "judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;" 2 Timothy 4:1.

The One who will appear is both the great God and our Saviour. What a stunning and humbling thought this is, that the man who suffered and shed His blood for us is none other than the great God whom the Old Testament declares to be;

"God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regards not persons, nor takes reward:" (Deuteronomy 10:17).

This same great God who died for His people and rose again from the dead will appear a second time. For,

"Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto those that look for him will he appear the second time, without sin, unto salvation, (Hebrews 9:28).

So, when we read that we are, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (Titus 2:13), we know that, contrary to the JW (Jehovah Witness) teaching, Christ is in no way to be considered the little God, but the great one.

And that’s the Gospel Truth!