

PREACHING ANOTHER “JESUS”

By Keith Greer

Today, reading preachers' articles and listening to their sermons, I begin to wonder to myself: "Who are these people talking about?" Could there be another Jesus? Please let me explain.

One preacher recently wrote an article ridiculing the idea that Jesus was Deity on earth. Say what? He concludes that Jesus was a man just like you and me--really? If so, what do these passages mean?

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit." {Matthew 1:18} Jesus' birth was according to prophecy. Isaiah 7:14. Can anyone else make this statement concerning their birth?

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel which is translated, "God with us." {Matthew 1:23} Could this be said of any other human being?

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins; then He said to the paralytic, 'Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.'" {Matthew 9:6} Jesus had the power to forgive sins on the earth. Has any man ever had this ability? Remember the thief on the cross? Luke 23:41-43

"As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, 'Stand up; I myself am also a man!'" {Acts 10:25,26}

"...and saying, 'Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them!'" {Acts 14:15}

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" {Revelation 19:10}

What do these three passages have in common? Men were offering worship. Twice, man was offering worship to other men and once, worship was offered to an angel. All refused! Why? God is only to be worshipped.

"And behold a leper came and worshipped Him, saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean!'" {Matthew 8:2} Why did Jesus accept worship if He was only a man? Men came to worship Him at His birth! Matthew 2:11.

A man born of a virgin, having the power and right to forgive sins, able to receive and accept the worship of men, was just an "ordinary man". Who can believe it!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." {John 1:1-3} He was with God in the beginning. Through Him the worlds were made! Just a man?

"...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, "{Hebrews 1:3} Does this seem to be just an ordinary man to you? Can ordinary men make such claims and back them up? If one did, he certainly would be more than "ordinary!"

Sadly, the problem that I think exists among some preachers is trying to find a "new" way of teaching an old truth. Jesus was 100% man and 100% God. While I may not fully understand how all that works, never the less it's a true statement. In John 1:14, the Bible used the phrase "the only begotten Son." What does this statement imply? In simple terms, "one of kind." Jesus was both God and man at the same time – period! That is a Bible truth, just accept it and preach it! ***