

things has the preeminence, that is first place. In **Colossians 1:15**, He is the highest expression of God, in that, He is the “*image of the invisible God.*” In **Colossians 1:16-17**, He is the hand of creation., “*For by Him were all thing created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth.*” Then in **verse 18**, He is the Head of the church, “*and He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*”

Last of all, He is the Heart of the gospel according to **Colossians 1:20**, “*and having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things into Himself.*” The following Scriptures also reveal Jesus Christ exalted position and the fact that He was God manifest in the flesh (**I Timothy 3:16, Ephesians 1:20-23, Philemon 2:5-11, Hebrews 1:1-14, Colossians 2:9**).

The Bible is very clear that God only is to be worshipped according to **Matthew 4:10**. But it is evident that the Son of God received worship from angelic beings as well as men. Not once did He ever stop anyone from bowing before Him in worship but He gladly received it. Please, consider the following Scriptures (**Hebrews 1:6, Matthew 2:2,11, 8:2, 14:33, 15:25, 28:9,17, Mark 5:6, John 9:2 and Philemon 2:9-11**).

Revelation 5:12, “*...Worthy is the Lamb...*” and **Revelation 5:14**, “*...And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*”

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. I John 5:13



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“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16:31

The RICHES

OF GRACE

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“hath appeared to all men.” Titus 2:11

The Deity of Jesus Christ

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 20:31

The Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Holy Trinity, God incarnate, who is to be worshiped and praised by all men. He must be accepted as Lord and Savior in order to be saved and enter into the Kingdom of God.

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 5:23

I and my Father are one. - John 10:30

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. I John 2:23

The same fundamental question posed by our Lord to His disciples in **Mathew 16:13** is still being asked today, “*Whom do men say that I the son of man am?*” The answer of course is found in **Matthew 16:16** where Peter said, “*Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God.*” The person and work of Jesus Christ has been under attack from the beginning. This is why Jesus asked the Pharisees in **Matthew 22:42**, “*...What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?...*” While some believe Jesus to be a created being, Michael the archangel, or the spirit brother of Satan, we accept the fact of Jesus’ deity and that He was God manifest in the flesh.

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ claimed pre-existence, for there is no mention of His beginning or ending. The gospel of John proves beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.

In **John 1:1**, the Bible states that, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” The Word is a personal name of the Eternal God. Please note, Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word, who was in the beginning, not from the beginning. He was not only with God, He was God. According to **John 1:3**, Jesus created all things, and this wonderful truth is also confirmed in the following Scriptures, (**Colossians 1:16-17**, **Hebrews 1:2**).

In **John 1:14**, the eternal Son of God became God manifest in the flesh to show forth the glory of the Father. Again, the purpose of His incarnation is to reveal Himself to mankind and die for the sins of the world. (**John 1:18**).

Please consider the following references to the pre-existence of Christ in the Gospel of **John**. In chapter **1:15**, “*John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.*” John the Baptist, who was born six months before Jesus Christ, testified that Christ was before him. The same is true in **John 1:29-30**. Jesus said of Himself in **John 3:13**, “*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*” Also consider **John 3:31**. The Lord said in **John 5:36**, “*...that the Father hath sent me.*”, **John 6:31**, “*For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven,...*”, **John 6:38**, “*For I came down from heaven,...*”, **John 6:50**, “*...which cometh down from heaven,...*”, **John 6:51**, “*I am the*

living bread which came down from heaven:...” Also consider the following Scriptures: **John 6:58 & 62**, **John 7:28 & 29**, **John 8:23,42**, **16:27**, **17:5, 8**.

In **John 8:56-58**, Jesus said, “*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*” The Jews understood that He was placing Himself on the same level with God. The Jews tried to stone Him because of His claim of Deity for “I Am” is the name of God according to **Exodus 3:14**. Abraham lived 2000 years before Christ was born and yet, Christ existed before Abraham. Then in **Micah 5:2**, we find a prophecy of the birth of the Messiah in the small town of Bethlehem. This verse also declares Him to be “from everlasting” that is, the eternal Son of God. The Jews clearly understood this truth of His birth according to **Matthew 2:1-8**.

THE PERFECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Lord’s perfection (sinlessness) sets Him apart from the rest of humanity. The Scriptures reveal His perfection in His birth, life, death and resurrection.

He was “*Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,*” **Hebrews 7:26**; “*was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,*” **Hebrews 4:15**; “*who did no sin,*” **I Peter 2:22**; “*In Him is no sin,*” **I John 3:5**; “*He knew not sin,*” **II Corinthians 5:21**; “*He had done no violence, neither was any deceit found in His mouth*”, **Isaiah 53:9**. The reference in **Isaiah 53:9** speaks of both His external and internal perfection. That is, everything He did and said was without sin. We have a perfect Savior.

If Jesus Christ was God manifested in flesh, and He was, then He was impeccable. He took upon Him the nature of the seed of Abraham and was made in the likeness of sinful flesh yet without sin (**Hebrews 2:14-17**, **Romans 8:3**). The point being, He was not liable to sin in any way. The temptation in the wilderness was to prove Him to be the promised Messiah, the perfect Son of God (**Matthew 4:1-11**, **Mark 1:12-13**).

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

According to **Colossians 1:12-20**, the Lord Jesus Christ in all