

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

14) Life and Judgment through the Son

'For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God'

(John 5:16-18)

- ✓ **The real issue was not that Jesus violated the sabbath but their interpretation of it**
- ✓ **God gave the sabbath as a day of rest. But they turned it into a day of suffering in which next to nothing, even relieving suffering, could be done**
- ✓ **Jesus implied the Father does not stop working on the sabbath when human need demanded it**
- ✓ **This made them more angry because calling God His Father was a claim to equality with God**
- ✓ **Also, the statement made God a participator in His 'crime' of breaking the sabbath**
- ✓ **The verbs 'broke' and 'said' are both in the continuous tense**

- ✓ **Equality with God is how the Jews understood the claim that God was His Father**
- ✓ **Jesus never disputed this interpretation. No other inference could be drawn from His words**
- ✓ **Jesus did not charge them with twisting His words**
- ✓ **The result was that they 'sought the more to kill him'**
- ✓ **He never backed away from this claim but kept repeating it and got the same response**
- ✓ **Examples...**

'Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him'

(John 8:58-59)

'I and My Father are one.'" Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God"'

(John 10:31-34)

'Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel"'

(John 5:19-20)

- ✓ **Jesus, though eternally the Son of God, is now God manifest in the flesh**
- ✓ **He never ceased to be God, but added to His deity full humanity**
- ✓ **Here we see what true humanity was meant to look like...God manifest in the flesh**

- ✓ **On earth He subordinated Himself to the Father and was the only human being to live in total obedience to Him**
- ✓ **From His first recorded saying unto the end of His earthly life He was obedient to the Father**
- ✓ **Sin originated in Lucifer who repeatedly said '*I will*'. He brought that rebellious spirit to earth and tricked Adam and Eve into saying, 'Not Thy will, but mine.' Jesus broke that power by saying, '*Not My will, but thine*'. E.g. John 4:34**
- ✓ **In this He shows us what godliness is – God behaving in humanity**

- ✓ **He refused to try to be the cause of His own effect**
- ✓ **His work and His godliness were the direct result of the manifestation of God's life through Him**
- ✓ **This is the mystery of godliness – God manifest in the flesh. What does it take to be godly? God!**
- ✓ **Godliness is the life of God in the soul of men and women** *'Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures'* **(James 1:18)**

- ✓ **The Father loves the Son and shows him His plans, and the Son delights to do His will**
- ✓ **In the life of Christ the Father leads and the Son follows. Telling the man to take up his bed and walk was not an independent act of Jesus but was what the Father showed Him to say**
- ✓ **Jesus said if they marvelled at this, they would see even greater things**
- ✓ **Jesus lives in us so we too can be about our Father's business**
- ✓ **When we believe this, that's when our ministry begins**

'For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him'

(John 5:21-23)

Notice two things here confirming the deity of Christ:

1) The Son is a life-giver

***God has appointed two representative men - Adam and Jesus. They are similar yet different. 'The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven' (1 Cor.15:47)**

***Both received their earthly life directly from God by impartation. In contrast, all others received their life by generation or offspring. Both represent their seed and pass on to them their life form**

***Adam never passed on the life God gave Him, but a life made in his own image of sin. 'This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God... And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth' (Gen.5:1+3)**

***Jesus never sinned and so He gives His life to His seed. "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit' (1 Cor.15:45)**

***This is how we are to understand John 5:26, 'For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself'**

***The resurrection life of Jesus is a vital ingredient of the gospel**

2) All judgment has been given to the Son

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man'

(John 5:24-27)

***The hour has come when believers will receive the very life of God, i.e. the divine nature, as promised to the woman at the well**

***In order to explain how Jesus gives life John returns to his main theme: He who believes has everlasting life**

***Salvation is immediate upon believing in the Father Who sent Jesus**

***True belief in the Father is belief in the Son, and true belief in the Son is belief in the Father**

***Those who believe have assurance of salvation and will not even come into judgment**

***Those who believe have passed (crossed over) from death to life. They have left the land of the dying for the land of the living. *'...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me'* (Acts 26:18)**

****'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love'* (Col.1:13)**

***He has taken us out of Adam into Christ. There is not even a hint in Scripture that this transition could ever be reversed. This is perfect tense, indicating a permanent state**

***Not only has the Son been granted this life to give to others, but also, He is qualified to judge humanity because He has partaken of it and His sacrifice on our behalf leaves us without excuse**

***In Scripture the Son of Man was a reference to Messiah to whom all judgment has been given, *'Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory'* (Matt.24:30). *'Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven"'* (Matt.26:64). See also Dan.7:13-14**

'Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me'

(John 5:28-30)

Over and over again in this gospel we are told that salvation is for those who believe in Christ

Here it is implied that we are saved not by good works but unto good works