

JOHN 5:16-27 B
JANUARY 25, 1987
ROME GEORGIA
October 13, 2013
October 20, 2013

SUBJECT: The works of the Father and the Son

THEME: The honor that is due God, is also due the Son!

PROPOSITION: What place does Jesus Christ hold in your life. Is the honor that you afford Him equal to that which is reserved in the heart of man for God? Jesus Himself in **John 5:17-18** makes it clear that He was equal with God!

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK

Notice that the Pharisees took **NO NOTICE OF THE WORKS OF GOD** but rather noticed the **VIOLATION OF ONE OF THEIR LAWS!**

" They **did not acknowledge that the miracle proved Christ's Messiahship**, but they were quite sure that doing it **on the Sabbath proved His wickedness**. "MacClaren

The Sabbath was a central issue in the confrontations that Jesus had with His opponents.

Mosaic law only required that work cease on the Sabbath. The Jewish religious authorities added many other twists to the law which were needlessly complex and burdensome.

Because the crowds repeatedly favored the actions of Jesus over the **traditions** of the leaders, He quickly fell out of favor with them and as v. 16 tells us they sought to persecute Him and ultimately to slay Him. (**Cf. 7:19 and 25.**)

In His confrontation over the grain that was picked on the Sabbath Jesus put the issue into proper perspective when He said;

"THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN, AND NOT MAN FOR THE SABBATH." **MARK 2:27**

In the case of this man, the **RIGID JEWISH TRADITION (not God's Holy Law)** demanded that he be put to death by stoning for the act of intentionally carrying his mat from a public place to a private place on the Sabbath day.

They condemned this man for carrying a mat and they condemned Jesus for healing this man on the Sabbath. **But as Jesus shows in the next few verses, it was not just He and the man who was healed, BUT ALSO GOD THAT THE JEWS WERE CONDEMNING FOR SABBATH BREAKING.**

For, whatever work that Jesus did on whatever day of the week or hour that he did it, He did only at the behest of His father. **IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER AND MORE COMFORTABLE FOR JESUS TO LAY LOW!**

Let's look at the REASON THAT JESUS WORKS.

I. THE REASON THAT CHRIST WORKS 17-20

A. JESUS WORKS BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

17. "MY Father until now works, and I work." ; as if the father's work had not come to an end on the seventh day, but continued until the present hour.

This is the point that Jesus was making to them. THIS HEALING OF THE INVALID WAS THE WORK OF GOD AND IT WAS DONE BY GOD ON THE SABBATH.

God does not stop working every Saturday and rest up for the week. It was His WORK OF CREATION that He rested from on the Sabbath, NOT HIS ABILITY TO DO GOOD OR HIS SUSTAINING WORK OF RULING THE UNIVERSE AND THE AFFAIRS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD!

Their accusation against Jesus then **was really a charge leveled against God**, for it was He who performed the miracle on the Sabbath! This caused considerable exasperation among the Jews who then **"sought the more to kill Him."**

JESUS WORKS THEN BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

And Secondly:

B. JESUS WORKS BECAUSE OF HIS OBSERVATION OF THE FATHER. V. 19

19.. SO PERFECT IS THE SON'S SYMPATHY WITH THE FATHER THAT HE CAN ONLY DO WHAT HE SEES THE FATHER DOING.

JESUS does nothing but what the Father would have Him do..

So, the healing of the invalid man was an act that Christ knew was what the Father would have accomplished, and it was through the power of God that the act was done.

And, the works that Christ does, are done **IN THE SAME MANNER as God would do them, that is, THEY ARE DONE IN A GOD-LIKE MANNER BECAUSE GOD IS DOING THEM!**

If Jesus were physically present in the world today, I wonder if he would be wearing a little plastic bracelet that said, "WWMFD" What Would My Father Do?

And thirdly, Jesus works because:

C. JESUS WORKS BECAUSE OF THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR HIS SON 20.

The reason that the Son is so able to discern and carry out the desires of the Father is that **THE FATHER LOVES THE SON AND SHOWS HIM ALL THINGS**. God is not passive in the matter, waiting until the Son discovers His will, but rather He is actively demonstrating, showing, His works to His Son so that the Son may in turn do these works. God is able to do this because the Son is ready, not only physically but spiritually, to receive instruction from the father. And the Father instructs Him In ALL things that He doeth... **this indicates again that Jesus is equal to the Father for who else could do ALL that God does, but God?**

>>>> In thinking of this relationship, think on the **invalid just healed. His mind and body did not function as one. He could not do with his body that which the brain commanded. He was not whole. In a somewhat similar way we see the perfect working of the Father and the Son. They are not two, but one.** They work not as separate and distinct entities, but as one. Much in the way that we are one with our mind and body...<<<<<

BY WAY OF APPLICATION TO US. The life and ministry of Jesus were unique in that He was and is the only begotten of the father. But His followers today are part of His body and members also of the household of God. Jesus in obedience to the father was able to accomplish His work for 3 reasons.

- 1. He had a unique relationship to God,**
- 2. He observed the works of God**

3. and He was loved of God.

These 3 things are **also true of believers today**. Certainly if we are to labor for our father we must have a unique relationship to Him. This we have through His Son Jesus Christ. Secondly, we must be sensitive to the works of God all around us. We must endeavor to see the hand of God in all of life's situations. And thirdly, God most assuredly loves us. In fact, He loves us so much, that even when we did not love Him, He sent His Son to die for us! God desires us also to work for Him. **EPH. 2:10**

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

BEGIN MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Our work however, is not the same as Christ's work. As He goes on to explain, **JUST AS HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER WAS UNIQUE, SO TOO HIS WORK IS UNIQUE.**

One of the works that the Father showed the Son was the healing of the invalid. This was observed by the Pharisees. But Jesus says that they will see greater works than these, that they may marvel. HE SAID IN EFFECT, YOU THINK THAT THE WORK OF HEALING IS ENOUGH TO CONDEMN ME. **YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN YET!**

In 21-24 Christ reveals what these greater works are

II. THE REALM OF CHRIST'S WORKS 21-23

21-23 "The works given by the Father to the Son are generally, **LIFE GIVING** and **JUDGING.**"

The acts or works of God which are **wrought through Christ** do not primarily concern the physical aspects of healing broken bodies but rather they deal with the **SPIRITUAL ASPECT** of **REGENERATING** those who are **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** and **JUDGING** all men, saved and unsaved alike. **21-22.**

Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Joh 5:23 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.

God's purpose in bestowing this honor on His Son is so **V. 23.** *** **"that ALL men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father."** In fact, to fail to give equal honor to Christ, is to fail to honor God at all.

"He that honoureth **not** the Son, Honoreth **not** the Father, who hath sent Him."

{ Remember a few weeks ago, when we were looking at the parables? , cf. parable of the servants who slew the **vineyard owners son.** **MATH. 21:33-41 38** "But when the farmers saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance." **Cf. John 5:16**

5:16 When they saw the works of God by the Son of God they said. 5:16

Joh 5:16 And therefore did **the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him,** because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

HE IS COME TO GIVE LIFE AND TO EXECUTE JUDGEMENT.

TO THOSE WHO WILL RECEIVE LIFE AND HONOR THE SON, THERE IS THE ESCAPE FROM JUDGEMENT!

BUT JESUS IS COME TO WORK, AND WORK HE WILL! **EITHER AS YOUR SAVIOR OR YOUR JUDGE!**

IT'S YOUR CHOICE, AND YOURS ALONE. BUT HOW? BY HEARING THE WORDS OF JESUS!

****24**** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**

Jesus words were in themselves able to impart Life to those who would heed them. The JEWISH LEADERS heard the word of Christ and sought to slay Him. But many others heard His word and **responded in obedience of faith and received from Christ, eternal life and escape from the judgment of the unsaved and shall even escape from the penalty of sin which is death.**

SEE ALSO **John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

READ 25-27

There are many religious leaders today who would add to the words of Christ every burden imaginable

DB May 21, 1970. " The religious leaders of Christ's day hated Him when He unmasked their hypocrisy. They were also angered by His claims of deity and His emphasis upon the fact that **SALVATION IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH ALONE.**

Still today many religionist are offended by the unique place the Gospel gives Jesus Christ, while others, rejecting God's grace, seek redemption by works.

Fox news this morning. People are concerned about the New Pope. He is down in the **POPEULARITY** POLLS. Why? B/C H he is preaching Mercy tempered with Love.

Jesus did not attack sinners – i.e. the woman caught in adultery. He said he that is without sin later He told her go and sin no more. Likewise, Zacchius.. . .

PEOPLE KEEP SEARCHING FOR SOME DRAMATIC OR EMOTIONAL THRILL. How tragic! The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is **not by "works of righteousness** that we have done."**(Titus: 3:5)**, and also shows that experiences, varying from person to person, cannot be the basis of our hope of heaven.

- **Lydia**, for example, was saved when the Lord simply opened her heart **(Acts 6:14)**;
- **Paul** was blinded on the road to Damascus **(Acts 9:3-8)**;
- the **Phillipian jailer** believed when an earthquake rocked the prison **(Acts 16:26-34)**.

Though under different circumstances, EACH RECEIVED ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Paul never insisted that others have a "Blinding Light conversion," and I am sure that the **Phillipian jailer** did not base his salvation upon an "**earthquake experience.**"

Have you heard the "voice of Jesus? Do you believe in His name, and have you received what the Bible says of Him?....."

DB March 24, 84. "Several years ago we were intrigued by a television advertisement for life insurance. It's about a businessman who thinks that he was almost hit by a car.

Somewhat ruffled, he says, "**WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE. I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT.**" Suddenly two men in white suits join him on the busy street and one of them replies, "**YOU DIDN'T!**" The three then engage in some light talk as they begin walking together. The businessman then remarks that at least he has peace of mind because he knows that his family is covered by insurance. Then they all **mysteriously walk through some solid objects to show that they are now existing in a NEW DIMENSION.** The real punch line comes in the last line of the ad, however, as the man and his two escorts are riding an escalator up into the clouds. It is then that you hear him say with relief. "**I'M SURE GLAD WE'RE GOING UP!**"

That last line was to provide some comic relief, but for the thoughtful person it raises the serious issue of heaven and hell. It reminds us of Jesus words in **Jn. 5:29** that not all people are "going up." ****READ 5:28-29****

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, Joh 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

If you have not put your trust in Jesus, why not do so today? Then you can say with confidence, "I'M SURE GLAD I'M GOING UP!"

CONDITIONS of SALVATION:

V. 24 "he that heareth my word and believeth" and in **25** "they that hear, shall live."

"THE HOUR NOW IS!"

v. **25. Joh 5:25** **Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.**

Have you heard and obeyed the word of God? Are you obedient each day to the Lord's will. Can you see God working around you? Do you desire to be used of God? Will you be able to say as the man in the commercial did, "**I'm Sure Glad I'm Going Up!**"

I remember quite well talking to my mother about the prevailing scuttlebutt of the day that “**God is Dead**”. I argued from the position that a scholarly theologian had so expostulated.

This concept had been brought to the public’s attention by the Cover article in Time Magazine April 8, 1966. It was picked up and headlined in the Atlanta Urinal and Constipation, which it is undoubtedly read it. *thouh, being a libray worker, I may have read the Time Article or at least seen the cover.

The cover of the April 8, 1966 edition of [Time](#) magazine asked the question "[Is God Dead?](#)" and the accompanying article addressed growing atheism in America at the time.^[2] At the time, a movement called "death of God" was arising in American theology.^[3] The death of God movement is sometimes technically referred to as "theothanatology", deriving from the [Greek](#) words [theos](#) (God) and [thanatos](#) (death).

The main proponents of this [theology](#) in its original incarnation included the Christian theologians [Gabriel Vahanian](#), [Paul Van Buren](#), [William Hamilton](#), [John A.T. Robinson](#), [Thomas J. J. Altizer](#), and the [rabbi Richard L. Rubenstein](#). Today, thinkers self-consciously indebted to the death-of-God movement of the 1960s include [John D. Caputo](#), [Slavoj Žižek](#), [Charles Winquist](#), [Mark C. Taylor](#), [Robert P. Scharlemann](#) and [Peter Rollins](#).

In 1961, Vahanian's book *The Death of God* was published. Vahanian argued that modern [secular](#) culture had lost all sense of the [sacred](#), lacking any [sacramental](#) meaning, no [transcendental](#) purpose, or sense of [providence](#). He concluded that for the modern mind "God is dead." In Vahanian's vision a transformed [post-Christian](#) and [post-modern](#) culture was needed to create a renewed experience of [deity](#)

From Wikipedia on the God is Dead concept

God is dead" ([German](#): 🗨️ "["Gott ist tot"](#)" ([help](#)·[info](#)); also known as **the death of God**) is a widely quoted statement by [German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche](#), though the phrase appears several times in the works of [G. W. F. Hegel](#).^[1] It first appears in 1882 in [The Gay Science](#) ([German](#): *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*), in sections 108 (New Struggles), 125 (The Madman), and for a third time in section 343 (The Meaning of our Cheerfulness). It is also found in Nietzsche's 1883 work [Thus Spoke Zarathustra](#) ([German](#): *Also sprach Zarathustra*), which is most responsible for popularizing the phrase. The idea is stated in "The Madman" as follows:

Self-Professed ‘Bible Scholar’ Makes Explosive Allegation About Jesus That He Believes Could Rock the Christian Faith to Its Core (From Glenn Becks newsletter this week, Oct 11, 2013.)

Oct. 11, 2013 7:20am [Billy Hallowell](#)

On Oct. 19, self-professed Biblical scholar Joseph Atwill is planning to make public some very flammable allegations. At a day-long symposium called “[Covert Messiah](#)” in London, England, he’s set to unveil purported evidence that Roman aristocrats manufactured Jesus Christ – a claim that, if substantiated, would devalue the core of the Christian faith.

The only problem? Most Biblical experts disagree with the scholar’s pronouncements.

A [press release announcing](#) the purported new evidence claims that Atwill has discovered “ancient confessions” that purportedly prove that Romans invented Jesus Christ in the first century. He has long argued that the faith system was used as a political tool to control the masses — something he says is still going on today.

“I present my work with some ambivalence, as I do not want to directly cause Christians any harm, but this is important for our culture,” [he said](#) of the alleged debunk – one that he believes will eventually be universally accepted.

In the release, Atwill said that governments often create “false histories and false gods” and that this is often done in an effort to secure social order.

Rather than a theology, Atwill believes that Christianity was concocted as a government project that was used to control Roman citizens. During a time in which Jewish residents were waiting for their Messiah, he says they were a constant source of insurrection, leading the Romans to seek out an equalizing and tempering force.

“When the Romans had exhausted conventional means of quashing rebellion, they switched to psychological warfare,” Atwill explains in the press release. **“They surmised that the way to stop the spread of zealous Jewish missionary activity was to create a competing belief system.”**

And that’s when Jesus was allegedly created – a man who advocated peace rather than violence. Atwill contends that the Christ that billions embrace never actually existed and that he is a **“fictional character.”**

He bases his theory on a study of “Wars of the Jews,” a book by Josephus, a scholar who provided insight and documentation first-century Judea. The historian contends that the prophecies of Jesus line up with Josephus’ writings about the Jewish-Roman war and are, thus, proof that “the biography of Jesus is actually constructed, tip to stern, on prior stories, but especially on the biography of a Roman Caesar.”

“Is this the beginning of the end of Christianity?” the press release cryptically [asks](#).

While Atwill doesn’t think it is, he did say that the purported discovery will give those who are looking to leave the Christian faith the perfect motivation to do so. He maintains that his evidence shows exactly where Jesus’ story came from.

“Although Christianity can be a comfort to some, it can also be very damaging and repressive, an insidious form of mind control that has led to blind acceptance of serfdom, poverty, and war throughout history,” he said. **“To this day, especially in the United States, it is used to create support for war in the Middle East.”**

Patheos blogger James F. McGrath, though, doubts that the symposium will be groundbreaking. Of Atwill’s claim to be a Biblical scholar he [wrote](#), “there is no evidence that he has relevant qualifications or research to his name.”

Atwill’s [biography claims](#) that, while he went to school for computer science, he has spent years studying the origins of Christianity.

Professor James Crossley from the University of Sheffield in South Yorkshire, England, agreed with Atwill’s critics, telling The Daily Mail that theories like Atwill’s are not accepted among academics.

“These types of theories are very common outside the academic world and are usually reserved for sensationalist literature,” [he said](#). “They are virtually non-existent in the academic world.”

Atwill’s views are no surprise. Online articles and a book he wrote in 2005 entitled, “Caesar’s Messiah: The Roman Conspiracy to Invent Jesus,” all include similar themes. His view that Jesus was manufactured is well-documented. Most mainstream Bible scholars, though, don’t seem to be buying into it.

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