

THE DIETY OF CHRIST

John 20:28

"And Thomas answered and said unto Him, 'My Lord and my God.'"

INTRODUCTION

Suppose anybody should talk like that to you and call you their Lord and their God. What would you say? You would say, "Excuse me, sir, but you are a much mistaken man."

You remember what Peter said to Cornelius. Cornelius was about to worship Peter. Peter took him by the hand and said, "Stand up, for I also am a man as thou art."

But did you ever notice that Jesus never rebuked Thomas; He accepted his worship and commended him for it. And when he did it, He was just what Thomas said He was - His Lord and his God.

Who was Jesus? Do you know there is not another question in all the realm of human thought so important as this one unless it is the question of what you are going to do with Jesus after you find out who He is.

There are problems connected wx of course with the person of Jesus, which no human intellect has ever fathomed or ever will. The greatest minds of the world have grappled with His diety and His incarnation and the general mystery that surrounds His personality. But they have said one and all that their explorations

have been like those of (Sir Isaac Newton) who in his search after knowledge said he seemed like a school boy walking by the seashore picking up pebbles here and there while the vast deep rolls unexplored at his feet.

There is (no) doctrine that's been pounded like this one. Of course, we know that (we) can't agree on every little thing, but (I) have no patience really with those heresy hunters who are always whittling away on theology and splitting hairs over views about different doctrines.

But when it comes to (one) thing on which the (whole system) of our Christian religion rests, the diety, the divinity of Jesus Christ, we must be of one mind. The fundamental truth must be accepted. (Deny) this and you knock the keystone out of the ark and the whole thing comes down with a crash.

But now (some) fellow would say, but you are confusing your terms when you talk about diety and divinity. Well, ~~perhaps~~ perhaps let me give you something about the difference between the two. (There) is but one who is divine, and he is God. And (if) Christ is God, (if) the apostle John was right when he ~~was~~ said the word was God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, then Christ and Christ alone was divine as God is divine.

(If) a difference between diety and divinity ^{must be} ~~was~~ admitted, let it not be the kind of difference that some people want to make. The difference that makes Jesus

less than He really is. The Unitarian says, "I believe Christ was divine." But
 how do you believe that He was divine? I can believe that He arose. And a Unitarian
 can say, "I believe that a rose is divine" - or even a cat. But he says you know that
 if you don't know it, hear it now and never ~~for~~ forget it. Christ is divine just as
any other man is divine - that is, He has no distinctive divinity. He had a divinity
peculiar to Himself such as other men do not have. He was a good man, the best man
that ever lived. In this sense, he had more divinity than any other man ever had, but
 it was only the same kind of divinity that you and I ourselves have.

Now if that isn't a true and fair representation of the Unitarian position
 of Christ, then I just can't read the English language in black and white. But that
 at once robs Jesus of His Saviourhood. It really strips Him of His power to redeem.

Now, I want a God to be my Saviour. You know what the unbelievers of
 this world have tried to outdo each other in applauding the character of Jesus Christ.
Pilate called Him the man without fault. Diderot called Him the unsurpassed.

Napoleon called Him the Emperor of Love.

David Strauss called Him the Highest model of religion.

John Stewart Mill called Him the Guide of Humanity.

Lecky ~~Liecke~~ called Him the highest pattern of virtue.

Pecant called Him the Holy One before God.

Renan called Him the greatest among the sons of men.

Theodore Parker called Him the youth with God in His heart.

Francis Cobe called Him the regenerator of humanity

Robert Owen called Him the irreproachable.

But none or all of these will do. Doesn't the Bible make it plain enough
and doesn't your own conviction agree with it that no man however great, wise or
good can ever save his own soul, much less the soul of any other man.

Once a man was questioning the Unitarian minister. He said to him,
"Is the Bible the infallible Word of God?" He said, "No, it is the fallible word
word of man." The ~~fixer~~ friend said, "Who was Jesus Christ?" He said, "He was
a good man who lived in Palestine."

The friend said, "Then He was not your Saviour."

The minister answered, "No." And the friend said, "Have you got a
Saviour?" And he said, "Yes." The friend said, "Who is He?" And the Unitarian
minister said, "I am my own Saviour."

He was painfully consistent with nothing else, but that is the place where
every man must stand who robs the only begotten Son of God of His deity and denies Him
any distinctive divinity.

But now on the scene comes the fool and says "It's a mystery. This thing
of the deity of Christ - let it alone. You can't believe what you can't understand."

Well, so far as believing what you can't understand, don't you know you do that every day?

~~xxxx~~ And (as) for letting this mystery alone, you can't do it. There are other mysteries that you can let them alone, but this one you can't. (Man) is a religious ^{creature} animal, and he simply can't shake off his religious instincts. And right at the center of the religions which faces every civilized human being is the person of Jesus Christ. (What) do you think of Me? Jesus says. (Who) do men say that I am? That is the challenge of Christ Himself, and you can't evade it. You may try to, but (if) you have never done any careful thinking about Jesus Christ, I want you to think about Him now. If there ever was a time when both the world and the church needed a clear, clean affirmation of the fundamental fact upon which Christianity rests and without we have nothing more than a creed as insipid and lifeless as a humanitarian.

(What) about the social unrest of our day? And the anarchists crying "To hell with social order." The criminal decrying responsibility for existence. The toiling struggling masses clamoring against what they believe to be the unjust and pathetic ~~in~~ inequalities of the present day ~~in~~ economic system.

The scholastic testing everything under the ~~xxxx~~ searchlight of experiment.

(Modern society) which too often alas is little more than refined paganism. (Aethiestic)

in head and superstitious in heart. Seeking to relieve its sense of emptiness by horrible extremes and horrible indulgence. What about it?

Is it not true after all that the world's ache at the bottom is a heartache? What kind of a Christ then shall we give to it for the healing of its wounds and the righting of the wrongs?

Shall we give the Christ of John Stewart Mill? Shall we give them the ~~W~~ Christ of ~~John~~ Theodore Parker? The Christ of Renan? Or shall we give them the Christ of God we find in the ~~gospels~~ gospels?

But after all the unhappiest features of this ~~whole~~ unhappy controversy about who Jesus Christ was, is that the church herself needs the clear, clean re-affirmation of her own faith.

If the so-called evangelical ministry had only been more faithful to its call, the question mark which so many church members put today before the diety of Christ would not be there.

Some ministers preach as if this was a thing no longer essential to the Christian faith. Our churches are filled with members who know little if any difference between the Unitarian church and their own. Why is this? It is because we preachers have been remiss in defining the faith.

Sometimes people are so mixed up in their churches that they feared

friction might be the result. Of course we need to get the message of God, but until ~~xxx~~ we absolutely uncompromisingly distinguish between some of these cults and the real faith in Jesus Christ, we will have the problems. The Bible writers ~~xxx~~ claimed that Christ was divine, and that Christ himself claimed to be divine in the sense that no other man can be divine, there can be absolutely no doubt whatsoever.

Isaiah 9:6 called Him a Mighty God, the Everlasting Father.

John 1:1 - 14 said, the Word was God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Paul, 1 Tim. 3:16 - "God manifest in the flesh" and called Him the Lord of Glory in 1 Cor. 2:9. And God over all, Romans 9:5. Now could this be said about you or any other mere man? In 1 John 5:20, John called Him "Jesus Christ, this is the true God." And he told about Christ as the Only Begotten Son of God. Because you being a man claim to be equal with God and so make yourself to be God, and you are a blasphemer, and you ought to die. Matt. 26:63. Luke 22:70. John 19:7.

Now if I miss my guess, if those old Jews who lived with Him and heard Him talk didn't know as much about what He claimed for Himself ~~was~~ as the modern Unitarian or anybody else, why didn't Jesus Christ set them right if they were wrong in their estimate of what He ~~xxxxxx~~ claimed? Of course He claimed to be just what the Jews said He did, and then He did it. He was either what those Jews said He was, a

And, talked to ~~young~~ men about a pulpit committee searching for a pastor -
The comm. said where can we find a man that believes the Bible & preaches the word.
Everywhere we go, we are disappointed - 8 one preacher they heard refer to the mess
in the script he did not believe they told him about it. He stated that was the way he
blasphemer, or He was just that very person He ~~is~~ claimed to be, unless He was a Believer,

fool and didn't know any ~~xxx~~ better. (He claimed His divinity) on the three-fold ground
of His divine knowledge, His divine power, and His divine authority.

I. As to His divine knowledge he said no man knoweth the son but the father, and
no man knoweth the father but the son, and he to whomsoever the son will reveal him."

Matt. 11:27

What a daring, what a tremendous statement. How profane, how shocking
if he were only a man. Would any mere man dare to say that he knew God as well as
God knew him? Would you?

II. As to His divine power. Among other things He said ~~xxx~~ these three.

First, that he had ability to do whatever ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the Father did.
Whatsoever things the Father doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. What man ever
used language so daring as that to claim the full right and the power to do all that
the Eternal Father had the right and the power to do?

Second, that He had the power to raise the dead. "As the Father raiseth
up the dead and quickeneth them, even so the Son quickeneth whomsoever he will."

He said He would raise up His own body. John 2:19-21. And that the day was coming
when all the dead would hear his voice and come forth out of their graves. How could
he do this if He were not God in some sense that no other man had ever been?

Third, that He had power (to forgive sins.) He said so in so many words.

The Jews were right when they asked, Who can forgive sins but God only? But Christ not only claimed the right and the power to do so, but he emphasized his claim and proved it by a miracle.

III. As to His divine authority, He said in the plainest terms that He will be the universal judge at the last day. He said the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. He says that He will sit on the throne of His glory, and all shall be gathered before Him.

Now what mortal could say things like these? Who is this that professes to be able to search the ~~SECRET~~ secret motives of men? To ~~SEE~~ sit in judgment upon their words, their deeds, and claims the authority to grasp and to send divine thunder bolts of retribution if He is not something more than a man? Did man ever make such a claim? Would you a man dare to make it?

These are the few of His claims.

✓ He said before Abraham was, I am. Could you a man say that?

✓ He said, Glorify thou me, O Father, with the glory I had with thee before the world was. Could you say that? Could Napoleon say that or Gladstone or Roosevelt?

✓ He said ~~to~~ to the weary soul, Come unto me and I will give you rest. Could a man say that?

✓ He says that faith in Him means eternal life. Could you a man say that?

✓ He said that He was sinless. He said, Which one of you convinceth me of sin? Could you or any other man say that?

✓ He not only allowed Thomas to worship Him as Lord and God, but He distinctly said in so many words, All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father.

Could you a man say that about yourself?

✓ He says He is coming again in the clouds with great glory. Could you a man say that?

✓ He said He is going to bring His holy angels with Him. How many angels are you, a man, going to bring with you?

— A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man can look all over the sky at high noon on ~~in~~ a cloudless ~~in~~ day and not see the sun.

I know that you say, Didn't Jesus say, My Father is greater than I?

Yes, and God was greater than Jesus was in his humanity. Because if Jesus was only a man, what need was there that he should tell us that His Father was greater than He was?

Now, let's go a little further. Why do I believe in the divinity and the diety of Jesus Christ?

(First) for the reasons just given. Because the Bible writers said He was divine, and because Christ himself claims that He was divine.

In the second place, I believe it because of His matchless character. He never for a single second wavered in the most sublime way in which He lived. He really delivered the goods, we would say. His God-like ~~life~~ life was His answer to every questioning and uncertain soul.

He was born in a peculiar race and in a peculiar age. The whole world in our age as well as His has found Him its ideal to every spiritual appeal.

Every man has some good points, but Jesus Christ had them all, and He had them all in ~~absolute~~ absolute perfection. He was the only impenitent man that ever lived, and He died that way. He prayed for others and said, "Father forgive them." But you never read where Jesus prayed for Himself, and said, "Father, forgive me." Because there was nothing in life which He had to be forgiven of. And so that matchless character of Jesus helps me to believe in His deity.

(Third) I believe in it because of His masterly teaching.

He spoke as never man spoke. That's what the officers said when they came to arrest Him. And they were right. If the books that have been written about His words were gathered up, they would fill a thousand congressional libraries, but His words alone would hardly make a vest pocket addition. But ~~the~~ their heights

have never been scaled, and their depths ~~have~~ never been sounded.

Now, the (infidel) comes along and sets up the teachings of Confucius and Buddha over against that of Jesus Christ. But you can ~~xxx~~ challenge the comparison. And we know that (great truths) fell from the lips of non-Christian religions, and that many ~~xxx~~ ethical utterances worthy of profound admiration. But we have ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ conceded too much.

Now, if (Mr. Uthant), one of the head leaders in the United Nations, can stand up and say that I owe all of my success in life to Buddha, why can't we as Christians stand up and say that we owe everything we have to Jesus Christ? Take the teachings of Jesus Christ about the great fundamental ethical concepts, such as love, truth, purity, beauty. Where in non-Christian religions or non-Christian teachers did you ever hear such moral philosophy that is so profound, so radiant, so ~~god~~ God-like? It came from the heart and the mind of the marvelous man of Galilee who was a master teacher.

Fourth, I believe in it because of His marvelous influence. The biggest proof of the deity of Jesus is just Christianity itself. What did Darwin mean when he said, "A man about to be shipwrecked, on some unknown coast, will devoutly pray, that the lesson of the missionary will have reached that far"? He meant that where the gospel has not gone, civilization has not gone. And such a shipwrecked man would likely find himself in the soup of a hungry tribe of husky cannibals.

I remember once Dr. Connor said something about the philosophy ~~about~~ around the diety of Jesus Christ that some people tried to teach. He said they reminded him of a man in a dark room, chasing a black cat, that isn't there at all. That they have no light of Jesus Christ at all. You take Jesus Christ and Christianity out of civilization. Take it out of art, out of music, out of literature, and most of all out of the human heart and life, and you would have mighty little left worthy of the name.

Confuscianism, and Buddhism, Mohammedism have proven by their results that their founders were not divine, but to account for Christianity on any other basis than divinity is a historical impossibility.

You might as well say that I'll take a candle and illuminate the earth and do away with the sun.

What Jesus Christ always has been He is today - the Transformer of the world's life and Reconstructor of human society. He is the one master and by this we know that he is divine because of ~~his~~ His marvelous influence.

In the fifth place, I believe in the diety of Jesus Christ ~~because~~ because of His mighty works.

Now, Jesus said, The works that I do bear witness of me that the Father hath sent me.

Look at ~~this~~ miracle - like Nicodemus, you will have to say, that God was incarnate in the man who did such wonderful things.

Look at the greatest of all miracles - his resurrection. There is no better fact in history. I am more certain that Jesus ~~is~~ rose from the dead than I am that there ever was a Declaration of Independence in this country, or a civil war ever fought.

But greater after all of these are the (miracles of His grace.) These He is doing today as in the days of old.

He is redeeming all kinds of people, the good, or rather what we call the good, as well as the bad. He takes the rich and he shows them how really poor and naked they are. ~~Then~~ He takes the self-sufficient and He shows them how really dependent they are. He takes the moral man and the moral woman and strips off their worthless rags of self-righteousness and redeems them. One and all.

Yes, He does the same thing for those who may be drunken sots. He may be a chemist in an oil company, he may be foul and filthy with grit and impure. And now yet what a man can do with soaps and things today and cleaning off the dirt and grime from his body, Jesus can take the human heart that is black with sin and make it white as snow. He can take a human character that is befouled, polluted, and transform it into one of the world's most mighty instruments for righteousness.

He takes the poor, staggering, drunken river thief and ~~kaxka~~ transforms him into a man of whom the pastor of the great Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City said that he had more power for God over the people of that metropolitan city than all the pastors combined, and whose death brought endless streams of people, rich and poor to pile flowers on his coffin so high that they hid the pulpit and beneath that pyramid of flowers slept (Jerry McAuley.)

He takes a rough and godless safe-blower with a kit of burgular tools wrapped up in a piece of carpet, and transforms him into (Harry Monroe.) He takes a drunken poor barber who had left his wife with her dead baby in the hovel he had made for them while he rolled in the gutter on a beastly drunk, and by the working of His mighty spirit, he takes him over and makes him into (a Mel Trotter.)

He took (Saul), the murderer, the bigot, and made him into Paul, the mighty apostle, the greatest preacher the world has ever known.

He took (Augustine) the young libertine and sport of Rome, and made him into St. Augustine, the great theologian.

He took (John Bunyan), the drunkard, swearing tinker, touched his heart and mind, and caused him to be able to write Pilgrim's Progress.

Try to explain such marvelous transformations of human character apart from the might miracle working power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and ~~is~~ you do violence

to reason. You insult the memory of all these Godly men and pour contempt upon the name of Christ who saved them.

When a student in Princeton University went down into the lower parts of New York City and worked in the old mission, the Jerry McAuley mission, he met there a marvelous man, Samuel Hopkins Hadley, and he learned from him the story of his wonderful conversion. That student used to sit and listen and hear him tell it. He said, I was a bad man and I wanted to be good. I wanted to be honest, but I was crooked. I wanted to pray, but I was always cussing. I wanted to be truthful, but I was a liar. I wanted to be sober, but I couldn't stay on the water-wagon. And I said, what am I to do? My ideals are all right, but I can't reach them. What must I do to be saved?

Yes, that's the greatest question. If you have never asked it, if I pray God you might ask it today.

Now the universalist would say to you, quit your ~~meanness~~ meanness, but you'll be saved anyhow if you do your best.

Another would come along and say, aspire, and you'll be a God in a million years from now.

The spiritualist ~~begs~~ bobs up, and he says, Wait until you are disembodied and you can make better progress.

The Christian ~~Scientist~~ Scientist smiles and says, "Sin has no reality."

You've nothing to be saved from."

The Unitarian would say, "Be good, and you'll come out all right."

But Hadley had tried to be good long enough, and never got anywhere. He said, I am sick of sin. I am burdened, I am guilty. I want the burden to roll off. I want peace. I want to be good. I want assurance that I can stand on my feet the rest of my days and stand the test of life and death and eternity.

Then Jesus Christ the mighty Saviour whom God sent walked out and stood before him. And Hadley said, "I saw Him." He stood there before me and said, I can do all this for you. Will you let me do it? It was in a saloon at the corner of 125th Street and Third Avenue. And Hadley walked up to the bar, struck it with his fist and said, "I'll never take another drink if I die." And the great ~~big hog-jawed son of perdition~~ big hog-jawed, red-nosed son of perdition ~~was~~ behind the bar laughed in his face, and told him to go to hell. Hadley staggered out into the night and staggered around until he found a cop, and said to him, Officer, I am going to have delirium tremens. Won't you please lock me up in a cell, and whatever you do, don't give me any whiskey. The officer locked him up in a cell, and if a man ever spent a night in hell, poor Hadley went through ~~it~~ that night. Late in the afternoon of the next day, he asked to have his cell door opened, and he walked out so weak that he could scarcely walk. As he walked

by the saloons ~~x~~ that glared at him on every side, he said he could smell the

whiskey clear through the bottle and the window pane. And for refuge ~~he~~ went

into the mission ~~x~~ where Jerry McAuley was telling how Jesus met him and saved

him from his wild, thieving, drunken ~~xxxxxxxx~~ career. He made his way trembling down to

the front and knelt down with a number of other drunkards. There was no woman

among them, and Jerry McAuley prayed and said, "Dear Jesus, the devil has got these

men in an awful hold. Won't you help them out?" Then he told them to pray, and Hadley

tells the rest of the story.

He said this poor man cried and the Lord heard him.. ^I ~~He~~ said, "Jesus,

I'm a drunkard. Can you make me sober? Jesus, I am unclean. Can you make me pure?

Jesus, I am profane and I am a blasphemer. Can you ^{help} ~~make~~ me to pray? Jesus, I am

lost. Can you help me? Save me? And Jesus said, I can and I will. And like the

might Christ he is, he took the poor worthless ~~drunk~~ drunken bum, redeemed him by

his infinite power, and made him one of the mightiest apostles to outcasts the world

has ever known.

Yes, (it) takes something, someone who is more than (a mere man) to redeem
humanity like that. And I can see vast ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ multitudes gather around his

standard from every quarter of the globe. The rich, the refined, the intelligent,

the poor, the millions who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Napoleon said would die for Jesus. And they

shout with one glad grateful voice, This is the Christ we know, the Christ who saves. May God bless His holy name.

Men and women, listen to me. Has he ever touched your life? Do you want a Saviour like that? A Christ who is omnipotent? One who ~~took~~ being in the form of God took upon himself the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of ~~a~~ man, and being found the fashion of a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, wherefore God hath also highly exalted him and given Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth and ~~things~~ things under the earth. And every tongue should confess that ~~§~~ Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

There is a verse of scripture that says, What shall the end be to them that obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?" But now, right here in ~~this~~ this life, you can't afford to live without him Him.

What are you going to do when your ~~own~~ conscience walks out in front of you and points its accusing finger at you? What are you going to do when misfortune and ~~the~~ the ways of adversity overwhelm you?

What are you going to do when the undertaker comes and takes the measure for the little shroud? What are you going to ~~do~~ do in the night of despair when

the stars are dead but the end is coming just the same and what are you going to do then?

~~WHEN~~ ^A One man said, I have stood and looked through the gates of heaven. I have stood as it were by an angel's side, and I have stood there. The spirit of ~~an~~ a rich man came and tried to get admission. He told the ~~ang~~ angel of his wealth and ~~his~~ his vast treasures. But the angel pointed to his gold, the paved streets with that stuff, and you don't have enough to buy even a glimpse of the celestial city.

~~And~~ And then this man pictured a moral man coming and told the angel of his morality and talked of his good works that he had done, but the ~~ang~~ angel said, "Not of good works, lest any man should boast. You can't come in." Then came the spirit of another man and laid before the angel his respectability and talked ~~a~~ about his good name among his neighbors. But ~~an~~ the angel, "There is nothing here, no other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved," than the name of Jesus." Then there came another spirit, and this man said, "Nothing in my hand I bring. Simply to the cross I cling. The blood of Jesus Christ hath cleansed me from sin." And the gates of heaven rolled back on their jeweled hinges, and the angel cried, "Unto you is administered an abundant ~~entrance~~ entrance to the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." And as the gates rolled back, he saw a whole army of redeemed ~~individuals~~ individuals. Some had been drunkards, but sinners of all kinds, a legion

of them. Some had been redeemed from the vilest of ~~many~~ sins. Men and women who once had trusted in morality and their good ~~name~~ name, but gave it all up for the righteousness that was not their own. And they had crowns on their ~~heads~~ heads, and they had victory in their hands. And he saw the face of one that ~~was~~ was

Like unto unmistakable. /Jesus ascending the throne, and they took their crowns and cast them at his feet, and they waved their palms, "Wonderful Counselor, the Might God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Yes, that (amazing grace) about which John Newton wrote, and think how that amazing grace took that slave trader, vile man, and changed his life until he could write about it.

All hail the power of Jesus' name,

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown Him Lord of All.

Will you crown Him the Lord of your Life?

No Man Will ever know God As long As he
Has His back turned on Jesus Christ - (or strong)
Find The Lord first -