

INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST [PAUL E. ENGLE 1/23]

Session #3 How Do We Know Jesus Was Divine?

INTRO.

1. Mahatma Gandhi _____
2. God means what? _____
- _____
3. J. Gresham Machen
4. Beverly Hills Teddy Bear Company
5. Library of Congress _____

I. HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OUTSIDE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF JESUS OF NAZARETH AS AN HISTORICAL PERSON

- A. Flavius Josephus, (*Jewish Antiquities*, 18.63-64.)
- B. Tacitus, "*Annals of Imperial Rome*," (c.115 AD, 15.44))
- C. Pliny the Younger in his letter to the Emperor Trajan
- D. Suetonius says the Emperor Claudius had expelled Jews from Rome who "*were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus.*"
- E. Professors Gerd Theissen and Annette Merz of the University of Heidelberg (leading critical scholars and not advocates of Christian truth) (The Historical Jesus, pp 93-94
– Quoted in John Dickson, *Life of Jesus* p. 39)

II. EVIDENCE FOR BELIEVING CHRIST IS THE DIVINE SON OF GOD, THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY.

- A. NT writers apply to Jesus things _____
- B. Jesus' _____ show him to be divine:
John 5:18
John 10:30
John 14:9
Mark 14:62-64
Mark 2:5, 7
- C. The _____ show Jesus to be divine.
Peter: (Mt. 16:16)
Centurion at cross: (Mk. 15:39)
Thomas after resurrection: (Jn. 20:26-29)
- D. The _____ of Jesus shows him to be divine.
Jn. 8:46
1 Jn. 3:5
2 Cor. 5:2
- E. He does things that _____:
1. He _____.

Luke 5:20-24. Mt. 9:2-7; Mk. 2:10.

2. He accepted _____.

Mt. 14:33

Mt. 28:9

Jn. 9:38

3. He _____ – John 20:30-31

4. He was _____.

F. Though there's overwhelming evidence that Jesus was divine, yet at the same time he was _____. Cf. 1 Jn. 4:2

"Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God."

What was Docetism? _____

Jn. 1:14

Mt. 4:2 He experienced hunger

Jn. 11:35 He experienced sorrow

Jn. 4:6 He experienced weariness.

Phil. 2:7-8 He took on the form of a servant.

Heb. 4:15

* Westminster Confession 8.2 *"He took on a human nature so that two distinct natures were joined in one person as the unique God-man."* Called the _____
_____—a perfect union between a fully human and fully divine Christ.

G. This evidence leaves us with a choice. Cf. C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity p.41.
Liar, lunatic, truth?

III. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HOLD TO THE HISTORIC VIEW OF CHRIST'S DEITY, CO-EQUAL WITH GOD THE FATHER?

A. Because that's _____

B. Because that's _____

C. Because Christ's deity is essential to _____

* *"No one who denies the Son has the Father."* (1 John 2:23)

* John 8:24 *"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am, the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."*

CONCLUSION – Story of Charles Templeton