

(Attribute #3) - Jesus Christ has the attribute of Omniscience.

Omniscience is the attribute of God that means He is unlimited in knowledge or stated another way, He is all-knowing. As God, he knows everything, including things past, present and future. He knows things possible and actual.

Dr. Charles Ryrie observed that Jesus Christ "...showed knowledge of things that could only be known if He were omniscient" (*Basic Theology*, p. 248).

When we look to the Scriptures, we discover that Jesus Christ demonstrated this attribute on many occasions: 1) Matthew 16:21; 2) Luke 6:8; 3) Luke 11:17; 4) John 1:47-48; 5) John 2:24-25; 6) John 4:29; 7) John 5:5-6; 8) John 21:17; 9) Revelation 2:23

Two passages of Scripture seem to present a perplexity concerning this attribute because they seem to contradict the Omniscience attribute - Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32. In resolving this seeming perplexity, we make the following observations:

- 1) These passages do not lessen nor contradict the other passages that clearly establish His Omniscience. We cannot disregard all of the other passages for they are in the Bible and they do reveal the Omniscience of Jesus Christ.
- 2) Many passages of Scripture clearly and plainly state that God the Father has turned all judgment of God completely over to Jesus Christ - John 5:22.

The entire future judgment program of God has been entrusted by God the Father to God the Son. In order to judge all, He must know all. This includes:

- A. The Bema Seat judgment of believers called judgment seat of Christ - II Cor. 5:10
- B. The Judgment of the Nations - Matthew 25:31-34
- C. The Judgment of National Israel - Matthew 25:31-34
- D. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ in which He judges the world - Rev. 20:4-6
- E. The Great White Throne Judgment in which He condemns all unbelievers - Rev. 20:11

- 3) Jesus Christ is the entire prophetic program of God - Revelation 19:10
- 4) Jesus Christ reveals prophecy to the Church - Revelation 22:16

When we examine these passages, it is clear that Jesus Christ does not lack any knowledge of the future program of God. He has full and complete knowledge and is in charge. He is not sitting in heaven hoping He can figure out the right moment or time to start breaking open the seals (Rev. 6:1). He is not sitting in heaven wondering what time He should rapture the church (I Thess. 4:16-17). These are critical moments to the entire prophetic program of God and Jesus Christ is in charge of these moments.

In the history of interpreting this matter, there have been a couple of interpretations that make solid sense:

1) Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer does a good job of explaining this: "...it is probable that the Savior is employing a form of speech which is common to the Word of God. As the Apostle said to the Corinthians, 'I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified' (I Cor. 2:2), so Christ may have been speaking. In this statement to the Corinthians, the Apostle is saying that he determined to limit his message to one theme. Certainly he did not become ignorant for the time being of all else that he had known. It is easily believed that it was not and is not the purpose of God to reveal the day and the hour of Christ's return" (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 5, p. 19).

2) Another possibility is that this was part of Christ's progressive development process in His humanity, which was all part of His willingness to empty Himself to step out of heaven to become a human (Phil. 2:7). We know for example that part of His willingness to come in human form demanded human form maturation (Luke 2:40). At age twelve, Jesus was listening, questioning, and learning about God in human form (Luke 2:46). We do know that Jesus was not a normal twelve-year-old for as the God/man or, in this moment of time, the God/boy, He was so far beyond the rest of the theological group that they were utterly amazed (Luke 2:46-47).

Jesus Christ, as a human, is growing as a normal human; but as God, when He is growing and developing, He is in a class all by Himself. He was completely different in His level of comprehension and understanding. It does appear as if Christ's maturation, as the God/man, is somewhat progressive.

When we read Matthew 24:36 or Mark 13:32, it is possible that Christ, at that moment of time, did not have the exact date in question. He was focused on the cross and in both contexts is trying to motivate His disciples to faithfulness (Mark 13:33; Matt. 24:46).

Had Jesus started revealing a date some 2,000-plus years into the future, it would have been counterproductive to His message. It certainly appears in His answer in Acts 1:6-7 that Jesus Christ fully knew the date but would not tell the disciples what the date was. In fact, the pronoun "you" in verse 7 establishes contrast between what He knew and what they could know.

We know from Matthew 28:18 that all authority of the entire program of God has been turned over to Jesus Christ. We also know that when the Bible ends, the prayer is "Come Lord Jesus." Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming quickly" (Revelation 22:20).

From this we conclude that Jesus Christ has all knowledge of everything and the date matter of Matthew and Mark do not in any way diminish His Omniscience.