

**Preached at GBC on 3/20/22**  
**Christ's Deity And Power, Pt.2**

**John 5:17-19**

In the previous messages on **John 5** we looked at this marvelous miracle of the healing of this “**certain man**” who had been crippled and helpless for **38** years. These Jews who were questioning this man about him carrying his bed in violation of **THEIR SABBATH DAY** couldn't deny that it was a miracle that could only be accomplished by God. The **PROOF** that God had done this work stood before them in this man who was now made **WHOLE** and declared **WHO** had healed him – “*Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was **JESUS, which had made him whole**.*” Instead of rejoicing in the miracle that could only be explained as a **WORK OF GOD**, these men persecuted Christ more, and according to **Vs.16** – “*they sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day.*” When our Lord healed other people throughout His earthly ministry, He exhorted them to **TELL NO ONE** of it, yet they turned around and told everyone. Our Lord had went and found this man in the temple, declared to him that he had been made whole, and commanded him to go and sin no more. In this instance Christ issued no such exhortation to “**tell no man**”, and this man went to those very Jews who accused him of violating the Sabbath. Like I told you in the previous message, his hope was that they would acknowledge and rejoice in this Divine miracle. But the “**carnal mind is enmity against God**.” When these Jews sought our Lord, and persecuted our Lord, Christ spoke with great plainness of speech, declaring to them that **HE WAS GOD OF VERY GOD**. This miracle proved His Deity and power, and He used this proof as a foundation for His declaration of His own Deity and Power. This discourse will ultimately lead to Christ's **PROFOUND** declaration as the **ONLY TRUE AND JUST JUDGE** concerning these Jews ultimate motive and fate – “*Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell [you] the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God.***”(Jn.8:44-47)

Here in **John 5:17** and continuing through **John 5:40** Christ makes **SEVEN DECLARATIONS** of **His Deity**. We'll just get as far as we can today, and then come back and deal with the other ones, because all of them are so important to God's redeemed.

The **FIRST DECLARATION** of His Deity is this: Just like God the Father had a work to do, Christ the Son, being equal **with** the Father, **had a work to do**. If you go back and read **vs.16**, it is obvious that these Jews were intent on accomplishing their goal of doing away with this person, and they attempted to use their false charge that Christ had violated the **SABBATH DAY**. As I told you previously, this was not the first time the Jews charged Christ for violating the Sabbath.

In **Matt.12:1-8**,(turn over there) when they charged His disciples for violating the sabbath because they “**PLUCKED**” the ears of corn and ate them. I’d have you notice that Christ appealed to David’s violation of the Sabbath, and to the priest themselves who defiled the Sabbath by doing **SERVILE WORK** – **Vss.3-8. REMEMBER Exo.31:18** - “*Six days may work be done; but in the seventh [is] the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth [any] work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.*” In Christ’s words concerning both David and the Priest’s actions on the Sabbath, they were doing acts of mercy and grace toward those in need. In **Mk.2:27,28**, when Mark recorded this same incident, he recorded these words by our Lord – “*And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*” In other words, the Sabbath as instituted by God was meant to serve man’s best interest. When they accused Christ of violating the Sabbath for healing a woman who had a “*spirit of infirmity for 18 years*”, Christ declared to them: “*The Lord then answered him, and said, [Thou] hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or [his] ass from the stall, and lead [him] away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*”(Lk.13:15,16) In our text today, instead of appealing to human sympathy like He did on these other occasions, He takes an altogether **HIGHER GROUND** and answers them according to His Divine glory – **Vss.17,18**. Think about what this meant and how these Jews took Christ’s words – “**MY FATHER worketh hitherto.**” Christ declared to these men who claimed Jehovah as their God: Jehovah, “*my Father*”, not by creation, or by adoption, but my Father by nature, “*worketh hitherto*”. Literally translated this verse reads – “**My Father till now doth work.**” **I want to state this as carefully as I can:** Even though the Father “*rested*”, i.e., ended all His work of creation on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, He has continued to work every day, **EVEN ON SABBATH DAYS**, upholding and governing the entire world, dispensing every providential blessing to both “*the just and the unjust.*” Like His Father works, Christ declared dogmatically, “*and I work*”, making His work and the Father’s work **EQUAL**, thereby declaring His Deity. Think of how Isaiah prophesied concerning God’s Messiah, His Son – “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*”(Isa.9:6,7) Just like the Father and in conjunction with the Father, Christ upholds all things by His power, sustaining **ALL MEN**, and doing good for the bodies and souls of men, even on the Sabbath Day of which He is **LORD**. **Listen to the writer of Hebrews** – “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*”(Heb.1:1-3) One old writer stated it like this: “God never ceases to work; but as it is the

property of fire to burn, and of snow to cool, so of God to work. And what most men call fortune, He calls the divine Logos, or word, to whom he ascribes all the affairs of providence.” How did these JEWS respond to Christ’s declaration of being ONE with the Father concerning His work – “*Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*” Their desire to kill him increased, because He had not only broken the Sabbath as they thought, but He had made Himself equal with God, which was blasphemy. In reality, Christ had not broken the law of the Sabbath. If these Jews really understood what God’s word declared: “*I desired mercy, and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offering*” (**Hosea 6:6**), they would have been convinced that Christ hadn’t violated the Sabbath by an act of mercy to a poor, distressed sinner.

In **Vs.19** we see Christ’s **SECOND DECLARATION** of His Deity, namely that His **WILL** and the Father’s **WILL** are **ONE**. According to the verses we just read, these men didn’t audibly ask a question or actually make a charge against Christ, other than to do so among themselves. It is similar to their thoughts when Christ said to a man sick of palsy – “*Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*” (**Matt.9:2**) Listen to vss.3,4 – “*And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This [man] blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*” Christ knew these JEW’S thoughts just like He knew the Scribe’s thoughts, so Christ answered their charge by telling them – “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*” Christ’s words don’t indicate any weakness in the Son or a lack of power to do anything **BY HIS OWN POWER**. In Christ’s words concerning the Shepherd and the Sheep in John 10, Christ declared **HIS OWN POWER** – “*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*” (**Jn.10:17,18**) By His own power Christ spoke all things into existence – “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*” (**Jn.1:1-4**) Christ **BY HIMSELF** bore our sins – “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*” (**I Pet.2:24**) Christ by His obedience unto death “*purged our sins*” – “*Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*” (**Heb.1:3**) Christ’s words to these Jews expressed **HIS PERFECTION**, i.e., that He does nothing and can do nothing contrary to the will of the Father seeing their wills are the same. Christ makes this plain in Vs.30 of this chapter – “*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*” Over in **Jn.6:38** Christ declares – “*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*” What is the will of the Father? **THE SAME EXACT WILL AS THE SON AND THE**

**HOLY SPIRIT** – “*And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*”(Jn.6:39) All three persons in the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one in Deity and Power, all with the same exact **WILL** – **Turn to I Jn.5:5-13**. Since Christ is One with the Father, He never acts separate from Him, or contrary to Him, but always co-operates and acts with Him, and therefore is never to be blamed for what He does, because the Father’s will is His will. I know that to be the case because of Christ’s next words – “*but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*” The Father loved a people from the foundation of the world, and the Son being equal with the Father and One with the Father, loved those the Father loved with an everlasting love and willingly laid down His life for them – “*Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*” (Jn.13:1): “*I am the good shepherd, and know my [sheep], and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, [and] one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*”(Jn.10:14-18 This **WILLFULL** place of humility Christ the Son took upon Himself was for the salvation of all those eternally loved by the **GREAT THREE ONE** God – **Phil.2:5-11**. Let me read you what John Gill wrote on this verse and we’ll close – “The Son does the selfsame works as the Father does, such as the works of creation and providence, the government both of the church, and of the world; and he does these things in like manner, with the same power, and by the same authority, his Father does, and **which proves him to be equal with him**; the very thing the Jews understood him to have asserted, and which they charged him with: and this he strongly maintained.” Christ hadn’t made Himself equal with God as these JEWS charged, **because HE WAS GOD.**”

We’ll come back next time and pick up with the Christ’s other declarations.