

## John 30 – Who is Worthy?

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John 8:51-59

### Conclusion of Christ's Dialogue

- Christ gives the conclusion of His argument:
  - Believe in His words and you will not die
- Jews jeer at Him because everyone dies
  - Abraham and the Prophets are dead is their proof
- Reification Logical Fallacy [Same term: Different defs.]
  - Christ speaks of spiritual death: they, of physical death

### What is Death?

- Man defines death in simple empirical terms; i.e., the body ceases to function and decays (Eccl. 3:19)
  - Only proves the flesh is temporary
  - Does not address soul/spirit [Non-empirical]
- Bible defines death as separation from God (Is. 3:36; 2Th. 1:9)
  - Physical death occurs as the soul separates from the body
  - Spirit death, *separation* from God D/T sin: At Conception (Psalm 51:5)

## Lazarus and Rich Man Example

- Christ contrasts *life* of Lazarus with *death* of the Rich Man *after separation* of the soul from the body (Lk 16:22-31)
  - Both are conscience aware of their respective fates
  - Abraham *comforting* Lazarus (Spiritual life) (Happy experiencing Christ's salvation (Day))
  - Rich man is in torment, judged by his works, being searched for righteousness by seraphim: Second Death: Eternal *separation* from God (Isa- 9:27; Re 20:5, 14-15)

## Rejection of the False Dilemma

- Jews reject Christ unless He complies with their worldview (He must sin, lie about God salvation)
  - Christ again states He has not come to glorify Himself, set up His own rule
  - If He denied the truth of His message He would be a liar as they are (They are lost; He would be lost)
  - Christ rejects the False Dilemma speaking God's truth

## Reference to Abraham

- Since the Jews referenced Abraham, Christ also references Abraham to support His conclusion
  - He said Abraham *rejoiced* to see Messiah come: Middle voice meaning Abraham's joy caused by Christ's coming
  - Christ makes a statement of fact: Abraham saw Christ's coming and was glad, comforted Lazarus
  - Thus, Jesus existed before His birth (Quality of God)

## Jews Reject His Claim

- Jews incredulous at His statement since He is young
  - Abraham had been physically dead nearly 2,000 years
  - Impossible for Jesus to physically know Abraham
- Christ makes statement of deity: I Am (ἐγὼ εἰμι)
  - He directly identifies Himself with God (God's Son)
  - If not true then He sinned; unworthy as Pascal Lamb
  - Jews seek to stone Him for blasphemy

## Christ Leaves the Temple

- Christ loses Himself in the crowds evading *pious* Jews
  - Easily accomplished in the cacophony of the thousands in the Temple
  - This ends their dialogue; but, not our analysis
- John arranged his narrative around three *amen, amen* or *truly, truly* {Absolute truth} statements

## Amen, Amen Statements

### Lucifer 01:8:20

- Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin
- Slave does not stay in the house forever
- Lucifer first sinner {Not-God} {All sin is not-God}

### Christ 01:8:50

- All who believe Christ will never taste death
- If Son sets you free you are truly free, from sin
- (ἀμὴν, ἀμὴν) Son is God, in the house, family, forever (1:8:58)

## Underlying Assumptions

- Nothing new under the sun; same sin and temptations  
(Ec 1:9-20; 1Co 10:13)
  - Thus sin and temptations preceded creation
  - Ergo, sin's beginning was before man
  - Lucifer is the first sinner in eternity past before creation
- Remember, Heaven is outside of time
  - Unless given a time correlation, events difficult to place

## New Covenant Salvation Planned

- God's salvation began before this creation (Ez 1:3-10)
- The call, "Who is worthy...?" was in Heaven, outside of time, in eternity past' (Law of Logical Inferences) (Re 5:1-6)
  - No one was worthy implies someone tried to be worthy
  - Some created being believed himself equal to be as God
  - Rejected, as he was not God, unable to atone for sin

## Looking at Lucifer's Fall Again

- Lucifer reflected God's glory; however, he was a cherub, a ministering spirit of God (Ez 28:14-15; 1Is 6:1-10)
  - The call, "Who is worthy," goes out and Lucifer answers (Is 14:13-15)
  - His opportunity to show himself worthy to open the scroll; except, only God is worthy; and God's Son
  - His pride rebelled, separating him from God eternally; his sin ignites violence, rebellion: angels & man (Ez 28:16-17; Re 12:4-12)

## Parable of the Wedding Feast (Lk 14:7-11)

- The message: better to be humble and then honored than honor one's self and be rejected as not worthy
  - Sin revels in pride of life; rejects humility (1Jn 2:15-16)
  - Lucifer, in pride, believed himself more worthy than God's Son; yet, was rejected as unworthy by God (1Pt 5:6-9)
  - Christ, in humility, is worthy to open the scroll; this is why He was sent, He humbled to take man's form (Ph 24:3-5; Ph 2:5-11; Re 5:5-12)

## God's Discussion with Cain (Ge 4:3-7)

- Cain's anger over rejection by God may have mirrored Lucifer's anger at his rejection by God {Messiahship}
  - Lucifer immediately consigned to Sheol though it will not occur until end of the earth (Is 34:15; Re 20:7-10)
- Lucifer believed himself worthy to be Messiah, D/T pride, just as Cain believed himself worthy to be Messiah {god}; both lived in violence, evidence of sin

## To be Messiah is to be Sin

- Lucifer became sin because he wanted to rule over rather than serve man {Pride} (1Co 6:2-3; He 1:10)
- Christ became sin, separated from God, suffering God's wrath for man's sin; {Salvation} {Humility}
  - Sinless Christ became sin, in the flesh, for us (Ph 22:6-8; Mk 15:30)
  - Christ not left in Sheol because He succeeded (Ph 16:10; Re 5:5-12)

## Why was Lucifer Unworthy?

- Lucifer, and man, could not satisfy God's righteousness
  - Lucifer and man are created, *finite* beings; therefore, atonement could not satisfy judgment of *infinite* God
  - Neither could not even save his own soul by dying
  - Neither would seek to die but wanted to rule over others
- Christ did not seek this path Himself; Father told Him to be faithful to death, He was; thus, worthy of honor  
(He 2:9)

## This is the Difference

### Lucifer

- He sought place of honor
- Rejected he showed himself sinful
- He revealed his sin (not-God) nature
- He is father (first) to sin

### Christ

- He did not seek honor
- He became sin on stauros for man (Innocent of sin)
- Christ reflects Father's nature as do all saved
- God is Father of all saved

## Thus Either God or Not-God

### God

- Source of all truth (Jo 14:6-11)
- Source of spiritual life
- Reflects God's character
- No one comes except through Christ

### Not-God

- Rejects God's truth
- Spiritual death
- Reflects sin character
- There is no other way to be saved (Jo 4:8-12)

## John's Message: Which Burden

- Christ's message from the Father, "Believe in the Son and find life"
  - Take my yoke, my burden is light (Jk 11:29)
- Lucifer's {Sin's} message, "You were made to be ruled and I will rule over you!"
  - By implication Lucifer's burden is great seeking to devour all who are prideful, elevating himself (1Pt 5:6-9)

There can be only one!

## Dialogue Shows Christ as Sent

- John began this dialogue with Christ's brothers telling Him to go to Sukkot to gain more disciples if he was to have a following; Lucifer's {Sin's} approach
- Christ went to Sukkot promoting Father's salvation
  - He emphasized He was sent by the Father, for the Father
  - Opposing His truth reveals you as sin, same as Lucifer (Only two natures: God's or not-God's {Sin})

## Christ's Clear Message Rejected

- Sin always rejects God's truth (Jk 8:54)
  - This is shown in the Bible, we see it in the world today
  - We who are saved will also be rejected and persecuted till the time of our bodily *separation* (Jk 5:11-12; Rm 5:1,6-8)
- Christ ascended to glory with the Father *never* to be *separated* from Him and neither will any who are saved (Ps 24:3-5; Rm 8:36-39; Rv 21:3-7)