

### **Study 1: Rejoicing in Jesus’ Deity**

Where is satisfaction found in life? In what do you rejoice?

Phil 1:21 “For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.”

Our created purpose to rejoice in Jesus.

The talks follow Michael Reeves's book “Rejoicing in Christ”.

Other things take the position of Jesus as our joy.

John Calvin wrote, “For how come it that we are carried about with so many strange doctrines, but because the excellence of Christ is not perceived by us? For Christ alone makes all other things suddenly vanish. Hence there is nothing that Satan so much endeavours to accomplish as to bring on mists with the view of obscuring Christ, because he knows, that by this means the way is opened up for every kind of falsehood. This, therefore, is the only means of retaining, as well as restoring pure doctrine—to place Christ before the view such as he is with all his blessings, that his excellence may be truly perceived.”

Over the coming weeks, we will speak on Jesus’ deity, humanity, coming, unity, return.

#### **Jesus’ Deity:**

To have a true and proper relationship or understanding of Jesus, we have to wrestle with something of his transcendent nature and his imminent nature.

John 1:1—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

“In the beginning was the Word” – Eternal/Pre-existent nature.

“The Word was with God” – Relationship of Beloved Word/Son

“The Word was God” – Divine

#### **Eternal / Pre-existence:**

We live in a world that is full of beginnings and endings. (Ecclesiastes 3)

Micah 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

John 8 “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” Quoting Exodus. “I AM WHO I AM.”

There was never a time when Jesus was not.

#### **Beloved Word/Son:**

What is the nature of their relationship? The Word and the Father have a relationship of intimate love.

The Ark of the Covenant—The Word in the form of the ten commandments given to Moses rests at its heart.

Isaiah 42:1 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.”

A relationship of love and delight that never fades, grows old, or diminishes, nor does it have any end.

Reeves "Sometimes we find ourselves tiring of Jesus, stupidly imagining that we have seen all there is to see and used up all the pleasure there is to be had in him. We get spiritually bored. But Jesus has satisfied the mind and heart of the infinite God for eternity. Our boredom is simple blindness. If the Father can be infinitely and eternally satisfied in him, then he must be overwhelmingly all-sufficient for us. in every situation, for eternity."

The Gospel of John references the Father/son relationship 120 times. 8 of the references specifically mention it as a relationship of love.

Bartel Elshout wrote that the "Love, of the Father for the Son, is the preeminent motive for all of God's divine activities"

Their love for one another gave reason and purpose to creation and salvation.

Created as a gift of love for the Son.

Saved that they might bring glory to one another.

### **Divine—He is God:**

"There is no God in heaven unlike Jesus".

Humanity wondered upon the eternal.

John 14:8-9 - Philip said to him [Jesus], "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

T.F. Torrance wrote, "There is in fact no God behind the back of Jesus, no act of God other than the act of Jesus, no God but the God we see and meet in him. Jesus Christ is the open heart of God. The very love and life of God poured out to redeem humankind, the mighty hand and power of God stretched out to heal and save sinners. All things are in God's hands, but the hands of God and the hands of Jesus, in life and in death, are the same."

Jesus is the comprehensive revelation of the Father.

When Jesus speaks, He speaks with the authority of God.

God humbled himself to be a man.

The cross has divine power and intention behind it.

We can come to the Word, Jesus, and truly know God.

M. Luther "we were totally unable to come to a recognition of the Father's favour and grace except through the Lord Christ, who is the mirroring image of the Father's heart. Without Christ we see nothing in God but an angry and terrible Judge."