

Message 3: The Eternal Pre-existence of Christ

2 Pet 2:1-2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you (*in the professing church*), who privily shall bring in (*subtly or sneakily introduce*) damnable (*destroying; ruining*) heresies (*lit divisions or opinions; teachings contrary to the word of God*), even denying (*rejecting*) the Lord that bought them, (*so these damnable heresies result in a rejection of Christ*) and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious (*uncontrolled; unbridled*) ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

- I. So these false teachers, in the professing Christian church, will subtly bring in damnable heresies, which if embraced, result in a rejection of the Lord.
 - A. Note that these teachers have experienced salvation (the Lord that bought them). But they have strayed from the truth.
 - 1. The Apostasy is a falling away or defection from the truth by those who once knew the truth.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first.
 - B. II Jn 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.
 - 1. A right relationship with God must be built upon sound doctrine...
 - 2. However, knowing facts & doctrine isn't the same as, nor a replacement for, a relationship w/ Him.
 - 3. Hopefully this teaching will **deepen your understanding** of the person & work of Christ, **increase your faith**, and **help you draw closer to Him**.
- II. We will be studying the 7 fundamental truths concerning the person and work of Christ.
 - A. The person & work of Christ refers to "**who Christ is**" & "**what Christ has accomplished for us**".
 - B. The 7 fundamental truths are Christ's...
 - 1. Eternal pre-existence
 - 2. Virgin birth
 - 3. Sinless life and nature
 - 4. Deity
 - 5. Complete atonement for sin
 - 6. Bodily resurrection
 - 7. Second Coming (Physical Return)
- I. **Definition Christ's Eternal pre-existence.**
 - A. **Definition of each word:**
 - 1. Eternal = continuing forever.
 - 2. Pre-existence = existing before something.
 - B. The eternal pre-existence of Christ means that **He has always existed.**
 - 1. His existence did not begin at the manger
 - 2. His existence is not the result of creation; (He is God the Son)
 - 3. His existence has no beginning
- II. **Why is the eternal pre-existence of Christ important doctrinally?**

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A. If He is not eternally pre-existent:

1. He had a beginning...
 2. He is part of creation
 3. **He is not God.**
 - a. Scripture teaches that
 - (1) He is "God with us" Isa 7:14 Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - (2) God became flesh & dwelt among us. Jn 1:14
 4. **The sacrifice of the cross is meaningless** (*if Christ is not eternally pre-existent*)
 - a. What would be the great sacrifice if God sacrificed a created being for your sins
 - b. "God so loved the world He **gave His only begotten Son**" NOT a **created angel**, **a human**
 - c. A human would be sinful & can't pay for the sin of others, he'd have to pay for his own sin.
- B. To deny His eternal pre-existence is to deny His Divine nature and the power of the cross and therefore it is a rejection of Him.

III. Why is the eternal pre-existence of Christ important personally? (Why is it important to you?)

➤ One could think this has **no practical application** & doesn't seem relevant to your life... **think again!**

A. RE: Your daily life

1. Does it make a difference if you entrust your daily life in the hands of a created being?
 - a. A mere mortal
 - b. A created angel
2. ...Or in the hands of the eternally existent Son of God

B. RE: Your hope for eternity It's the difference between trusting your hope for eternity...

- a. in a created being (such as an angel or a human)
- b. Or in the eternally existent God

C. RE: answers to Prayer: John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

D. RE: the life changing power of God

1. Rom 1:16 not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, it is the power of God unto salvation unto all who..
2. Rom 1:3-4 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be **the Son of God with power...** by the resurrection from

IV. Scriptures that show Christ's eternal pre-existence.

A. It is implied by John the Baptist.

Jn 1:30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before (*in front of; denoting rank*) me: **for he was before (*existed ahead of*) me.**

1. He is not referring here to the incarnation of Christ since Jesus was born in Bethlehem 6 months **after** John the Baptist was born.

B. John The apostle uses the same term for the pre-existence of Christ as Genesis 1:1 does for God;

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➤ not only **showing Christ is God**, but also **showing His eternal pre-existence as God**.

1. Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - a. The Word is God the Son: (John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...)

C. **Jesus expressed His eternal pre-existence.**

1. John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

2. John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

a. (Cp) Exod 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

b. "I Am" = "I exist". Not I existed

(1) So this term expresses the eternal existence of Christ along with that of God the Father.

D. **The writer of Hebrews** said "He has neither beginning of days nor end of life"

Heb 7:3 W/out father, w/out mother, w/out descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life

E. **Paul said He existed "before all things"**.

Col 1:13-17 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who (*His dear Son*) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before (*in front of; prior to*) all things, and by him all things consist.

G. **Isaiah declared His eternal pre-existence**

Isa 9:6 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, (*Lit = the father of eternity - expressing His eternal pre-existence*) The Prince of Peace.

F. **Micah** clearly declared His eternal pre-existence

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

➤ The literal rendering: **"Whose origins have been from before time and eternity"**.

H. **Some other verses** showing Christ eternal pre-existence.

1. Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.
2. The following verses are clearly Jesus speaking
 - a. Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: ...
 - b. Rev 2:8 ...These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

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- c. Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

OTHER VERSES USED IN THE MESSAGE THAT WERE NOT PART OF MY ORIGINAL NOTES:

- V. **Refuting the so-called “Gospel of inclusion”**; the belief that all people of all faiths, or no faith, are automatically saved, because of what Jesus did on the cross, and there is no need for personal faith in Christ, repentance or conversion.
 - A. Luke 13:2-3 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**
 - B. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto **salvation to everyone that believeth.**
 - C. Romans 10:13-14 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
 - D. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 - E. Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations,
 - F. Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but **he that believeth not shall be damned.**
 - G. John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
 - H. Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

VI. The seven “I am” statements of Jesus in John’s Gospel

1. “I am the bread of life” (Jn 6:35)
2. “I am the light of the world” (Jn 8:12)
3. “I am the door” (Jn 10:7)
4. “I am the good shepherd” (Jn 10:11)
5. “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn 14:6)
6. “I am the true vine” (Jn 15:1)
7. “I am the resurrection and the life” (Jn 11:25)

VII. The parable of the 10 virgins Mat 25