

## *The Purple Pulpit*

Installment #8

July 8, 2018

### **Jesus, the Son of God**

When we make the confession of the abiding believer that “Jesus is the Son of God” (1 Jn. 4:15) we express our faith which overcomes the world (1 Jn. 5:5). When we make this saving confession with a fullness of understanding, we are conscious of saying five things about our Lord Jesus Christ : 1.) He is God. 2.) He is distinct and distinguishable from God the Father. 3.) He is the virgin-born Human. 4.) He is the Heir of all things (Heb. 1:4,5; Mt. 21:37,38). 5.) He is the Messiah (Ps. 2:2,6,7; Mt. 26:63; Acts 9:20). Of these five things, the first three are relevant to the matters which these Purple Pulpit papers treat.

First, the term “Son of God” as applied to the Lord Jesus, sets Him before us as God. In Mt. 14:33 those having seen Him walk on water recognized Him as the only One worthy of worship by applying this title to Him. In Jn. 9:35-38 the man healed of congenital blindness worshipped Him as soon as he realized that He was the Son of God. And in Heb. 1:4,5 the One called “the Son” is called “God” by God the Father. Because fathers and sons are always the same kind of being, of the same order of existence, the same species, this universally-understood reality gave rise to a Hebrew idiom wherein

one being called the son of another meant that they were that very thing. It is evident in narratives involving this claim in this figure of speech that it was exactly the understanding of the hearers and User when Christ Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. This realization reveals that Jesus Christ is homoousian with the Father.

Secondly, the Lord spoke of Himself and the Father as being two distinct Persons (Jn. 8:17,18), while also affirming Their essential Oneness (Jn. 10:30). If Christ is the Son of God, then the Father is other than the Son.

Third and finally, the term Son of God also speaks to Christ Jesus being born of the Holy Spirit, conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary without male human agency. This would mean that God had caused His humanity, making God His Father (Lk. 1:35). That both Mary and Jesus were of the seed of David (Lk. 1:26,27; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8) shows that the humanity of Christ Jesus the Lord was derived through Mary from the divine overshadowing operation of the Holy Spirit. By such, the Lord is also homoousian with us in His humanity.

“Son of God” is the one perfect designation to set forth what we believe about the identity of the Lord Christ. It speaks of His Deity, His Personhood in distinction to the Father, and His humanity in miraculous conception.