

\$10,000 Reward !!!

By: Joel Hemphill

“Will a man rob God?” (Malachi 3:8)

For over fifty years I have been a minister of Jesus Christ and remain so. He is for sure the supernaturally conceived, virgin-born, sinless Son of God; savior, redeemer, Messiah and the soon coming ruler of this planet for 1000 years. However, in the past five years God the Father has opened my understanding to His word, and I now see that much of our Christian belief and practice is non-biblical and in fact borders on idolatry! For example:

- **Problem.** We have made Jesus “*God*” in spite of the fact that he never made this claim for himself. Jesus spoke 1865 verses in the N.T. and **not once** did he claim to be “*God*,” “*God the Son*,” or that he himself is “*deity*.” In fact Jesus denied being God.

*“Why callest thou me good? There is none good but **one**, that is **God**” (Matt. 19:17). “The Son can do nothing of himself...I can of mine own self do nothing” (John 5:19, 30).*

- **Problem.** Most of Christianity worships Jesus to the exclusion of God the Father! **Not once** in Scripture are Christians instructed or commanded to “*worship Jesus*.” Jesus himself taught us to worship only **God the Father!**

*“Thou shalt **worship the Lord thy God**, and **him only** shalt thou serve” [Jesus speaking] (Luke 4:8).*

*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshipers shall worship the Father**...for the **Father seeketh such to worship him**” [Jesus speaking] (John 4:23).*

- **Problem.** Most of Christianity offers their prayers to Jesus in spite of his clear instructions not to do so.

*“When ye pray say, **our Father** which art in heaven...” [Jesus speaking] (Luke 11:2). “...your heavenly **Father...ask him**” (v. 13).*

*“...your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall **ask the Father** in my name, **he** may give it you” (John 15:16).*

*“And in that day ye shall **ask me nothing**. Whatsoever ye shall **ask the Father** in my name, **he** will give it you. At that day ye shall **ask in my name**” (John 16:23, 26).*

- **Problem.** Much of Christianity believes and teaches that Jesus is the Creator of the universe, thus **robbing God** our Father of the **glory** of who **He** is and what **He** has done (*Ps. 33:6, 9; Isa. 43:7-15; 44:8, 24; 45:12-13; 21-22*). Charles Swindoll, whose ministry I respect, says in his book, *Jesus: When God Became A Man*; “*The little newborn lips that cooed and cried once formed the dynamic words of creation. Those tiny, clutching fists once flung stars into space and planets into orbit*” (p. 4). But is that what Jesus taught? He said:

*“But from the beginning of the creation **God made them male and female**” (Mark 10:6).*

*“...from the beginning of the creation which **God created**” (Mark 13:19).*

A Reward Is Offered!!!

I realize that these are tough economic times and any one of us could use a financial boost. I am not a wealthy man but I do have good credit at the bank, therefore I make the following reward offers.

- ▶ I offer a \$10,000.00 reward for any verse in the KJV Bible where Jesus Christ claimed to be “*God,*” “*God the Son,*” or “*deity.*” (He claimed to be the Messiah) (*John 4:25-26*).
- ▶ I offer a \$10,000.00 reward for any verse in the KJV Bible where Christians are instructed or commanded to “*worship*” Jesus Christ, or where the word “*worship*” is used regarding Jesus after he was in heaven with the Father. (While Jesus was on earth he was “*worshipped*” as

Messiah, but never as “*God.*” Jesus’ worship was *secondary worship*. See *Luke 14:10*).

- ▶ I offer a \$10,000.00 reward for any verse in the KJV Bible where Christians are instructed or commanded to “*pray to Jesus.*”
- ▶ I offer a \$10,000 reward for any verse in the KJV Bible where Jesus claims to be the “*Creator,*” or where he claimed to have been present at the original creation. (Jesus redeemed all of creation by his sinless sacrifice on the cross, but he is not the Creator).

Jesus’ teaching regarding “God”

“*The first [greatest] of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our **God is one Lord**” (Mark 12:29). Note: “*God is one Lord,*” not two or three Lords. God is not a committee!*

“*How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the **one and only God...the Father**” (John 5:44-45 NASB).*

“***Father...this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ [Messiah] whom thou hast sent**” (John 17:1, 3).*

“*...for **one** is your **Father**, which is in heaven.one is your Master, even Christ” (Matt. 23:9-10).*

“*Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is **one God**; and there is **none other but he** [the scribe speaking]” (Mark 12:32). Note: Jesus heartily agreed with this statement (v. 34).*

“*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O **Father, Lord of heaven and earth**” (Luke 10:21). Trust Jesus, the Father is “*Lord of heaven and earth*” (see also Acts 17:24; Rev. 3:21).*

“No man hath seen the Father...” [Jesus speaking] (John 6:46; 5:37).

*“Blessed are the pure in heart: **for they shall see God**” (Matt. 5:8).*

*“...in heaven their angels do always behold the **face of my Father** which is in heaven” (Matt. 18:10). Note: Jesus said God our Father has a “face,” and we shall see it (Rev. 22:4).*

Every verse in the Bible agrees with Jesus’ teaching regarding “God.”

*“**I am the Lord** that maketh all things; **that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself**” [the Lord God speaking] (Isa. 44:24).*

*“**I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me...there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else**” [the Lord God speaking] (Isa. 45:5-6). Please ask yourself, What do “alone,” “none else,” and “by myself” mean?*

*“Thus saith the Lord, the **Holy One** of Israel, **and his Maker. I made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens**” [the Lord God speaking] (Isa. 45:11-12).*

*“Have we not all **one father**? Hath not **one God** created us?” (Malachi 2:10). “If then I be a **father**, where is **mine honor**...saith the Lord of hosts?” (Malachi 1:6).*

*“To us there is but **one God, the Father**” [Paul speaking] (I Cor. 8:6).*

*“**One God and Father** of all who is above all” (Eph. 4:6).*

*“Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, **but God is one**” (Gal. 3:20).*

*“For there is **one God**, and **one mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**” (I Tim. 2:5).*

*“Now unto the King **eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God**, be honor and **glory** for ever and ever. Amen” (I Tim. 1:17). Note: Jesus was not “invisible,” he was seen by thousands. Paul is for sure speaking of God the Father.*

*“That ye may with **one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 15:6).*

*“To **God only wise**, be glory through **Jesus Christ** for ever” (Rom. 16:27).*

*“...denying **the only Lord God**, and our Lord Jesus Christ [Jude speaking] (Jude v. 4).*

*“...behold **a throne** was set in heaven, and **one** sat on the throne...**Lord God Almighty**” (Rev. 4:2, 8).*

Our God is also the God of Jesus

Jesus has a God whom he worships (*Ps. 18:49; John 4:22-23*), whom he fears (*Isa. 11:1-5; Heb. 5:7*); and to whom he prays (*Matt. 26:53; Luke 6:12, 22:44; Heb. 7:25*). Notice these Scriptures regarding Jesus and his God.

*“He shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of **the Lord his God**” (Micah 5:4).*

*“**My God, my God**, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46).*

*“...I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father: **and to my God, and your God**” (John*

20:17). Jesus is saying in essence, “*your God is my God.*”

*“Blessed be the **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:3).*

*“That the **God** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of **him**” (Eph. 1:17).*

*“Blessed be the **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:3).*

*“He that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of **my God**...name of **my God**...city of **my God**...down out of heaven from **my God**” (Rev. 3:12).*

This is the ascended Jesus speaking, who had been in heaven with the Father for some sixty years when the book of Revelation was written, but he still refers to God as “my God.” It is for sure that Jesus cannot be the Supreme God, while he at the same time has a God to whom he submits.

Secondary worship

According to Scripture, Jesus only mentioned “*worship*” on four occasions during his earthly ministry. They are:

1. When he said to Satan: “*...It is written, Thou shalt worship the **Lord thy God**...*” (Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8).
2. When he quoted **God** saying through Isaiah: “*Howbeit in vain do they worship **me**...*” (Mark 7:7).
3. When he said to the woman at the well: “*the true worshipers shall worship the **Father**...*” (John 4:23).
4. When he said regarding a guest who is invited to a wedding, takes the lowest seat and is then given a higher seat: “*then shalt **thou have worship** in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee*” (Luke 14:10).

In the verse above Jesus introduces into his teaching the idea of *secondary worship*. This is not *God worship* but “*glory*” (Greek - *doxa* - Strong's #1391) which in broad application means “*dignity, honor, praise, worship.*” Jesus said ordinary people can have this type of “*worship.*” When he again speaks of *secondary worship*, after he has been in heaven with the Father for some sixty years, he says to overcoming saints in Revelation 3:9, regarding their enemies:

*“...behold, I will make them to come and **worship before thy feet**, and to know that I have loved thee.”*

The word “*worship*” in the verse above is the Greek word “*proskuneo*” (Strong's #4352) and it means “*to prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): worship.*” This is the same word used thirteen times for the “*worship*” that was given to Jesus while he was on earth. Of course he was worshiped as Messiah, virgin-born Son of God, which is far higher *worship* than any other man could ever receive, but his worship is still not “*God worship,*” but “*secondary worship.*” Notice:

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship [Gk. proskuneo] him” (Matt. 2:2). Note: Not “*God,*” but the “*King of the Jews.*”

“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons, worshipping [proskuneo] him, and desiring a certain thing of him” (Matt. 20:20). Note: This mother did not think she was worshipping “*God,*” since Jesus did not even have the authority to say who would sit on his right and left hands in his own kingdom (“*is not mine to give*” v. 23).

Secondary worship in the Old Testament

*“And all the congregation blessed the **Lord God** of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshiped the Lord [God], **and the king** [Solomon]” (I Chron. 29:20).*

The reason it is so important to understand the concept of *secondary worship* in the Bible, is that,

in Christian pulpits it is often said that since Jesus received “*worship*” during his ministry, “*he must be God.*” This is absolutely false, as we have shown in the preceding that people of God sometime receive “*worship*” with His approval. But to worship any person as “*God,*” except the **Lord God** Himself, is to flirt with idolatry!

*“I am the **Lord thy God,** which have brought thee out of the Land of Egypt... .
Thou shalt have no other gods before me”* [the **Lord God** speaking] (*Ex. 20:2-3*).

*“Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the **Lord thy God,** and **him only** shalt thou serve”* [Jesus Christ speaking] (*Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8*). Note: After making such a statement, Jesus for sure never sought **God the Father’s worship** for himself!

An exclusive word

It is important to note that there is one Greek word in the New Testament manuscripts that is translated “*worship,*” which is never ever given to anyone but the one **Lord God**. It is the Greek word “*latreuo*” and it means “*to minister (to God), i.e. render religious homage - worship.*” This word is reserved for **God** alone.

*“...so **worship** [Greek - latreuo] **I the God** of my fathers”* [Paul speaking] (*Acts 24:14*).

*“For we are the circumcision, which **worship** [latreuo] **God** in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus...”* (*Phil. 3:3*). Notice: We “*rejoice in Christ Jesus*” but we “*worship God.*”

Eleven N.T. references to worshipping “God.” Question. Where are the verses that say, “*worship Jesus?*”

1. **Matt. 4:10;** “*Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship** the Lord thy **God,** and **him only** shalt thou serve.*”

2. **Luke 4:8**; “*Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship** the Lord thy **God**, and **him only** shalt thou serve.*”
3. **John 4:24**; “*God is a Spirit: and they that **worship him** must **worship him** in spirit and in truth.*”
4. **Acts 18:13**; “*Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to **worship God**... .*”
5. **Acts 24:14**; “*...so **worship** I the **God** of my fathers... .*”
6. **I Cor. 14:25**; “*...and so falling down on his face he will **worship God**, and report that **God** is in you of a truth.*”
7. **Phil. 3:3**; “*For we...**worship God** in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*” Again: We “rejoice in Christ Jesus” but no mention is made of worshipping him. We “**worship God.**”
8. **Rev. 11:1**; “*Rise, and measure the temple of **God**, and the altar, and them that **worship** therein.*”
9. **Rev. 14:7**; “*Saying with a loud voice, Fear **God** and give glory to him...and **worship him** that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*”
10. **Rev. 19:10**; “*And I fell at his feet to worship him [the angel]. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: **worship God.***” Notice: We “have the testimony of Jesus” but we are not told to worship him. We “**worship God.**”
11. **Rev. 22:9**; “*Then saith he unto me...**worship God.***”

What Paul believed regarding Christian worship and prayer

Paul’s view of proper Christian worship is clearly seen in the following verses written to two N.T. churches:

*“Speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs**. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord [God], always giving thanks **to God the Father for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20 NIV).*

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one

*another with all wisdom, and as you sing **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** with gratitude in your hearts **to God**. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks **to God the Father** through him” (Col. 3:16-17 NIV; NASB; NCV; Holman CSB; and The New English Bible).*

*“For this cause **I bow my knees unto the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:14).*

*“But **my God** shall supply all your need according to **his riches in glory by Christ Jesus**” (Phil. 4:19). Question: Who was Paul’s “God?” Not Christ Jesus, but “my God...**by Christ Jesus.**”*

Notice carefully this statement by Southern Baptist scholar Millard Erickson in his book *God In Three Persons*:

*“Let us now summarize the matter of prayer to and worship of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament we have definite commands to pray to the Father. We also have the example of our Lord himself, as well as the model prayer that he gave his disciples and us. **We do not have such commands with respect to prayer to Jesus. Jesus himself never commanded it, nor did Paul or any of the other New Testament writers**” (p. 321).*

What happened in the womb of Mary?

The crux of the whole matter regarding whether Jesus is “God,” “God the Son,” or rather in fact the **human Son of God** comes down to this question, What really happened in Mary’s womb? Was the birth of Jesus an “incarnation,” or a “miraculous conception?” Webster’s says “incarnation” means (1) “endowment with a human body,” (2) “any person or animal serving as the embodiment of a god or spirit.” Incarnation is not a biblical concept but rather a **pagan** one. Greek and Roman mythology are full of gods becoming men, and in Hindu teaching the second person of the “Hindu trinity,” Vishnu, has been *incarnated* as a human nine times. The respected *Harper-Collins Bible*

Dictionary says:

(Incarnation) “*refers to the Christian doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became man in Jesus. None of these writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke) deals with the question of Jesus’ pre-existence. Paul does not directly address the question of the incarnation... . It is only with the fathers of the church in the third and fourth centuries, that a full-fledged theory of the incarnation develops*” (p. 452-453).

Please open your mind to these questions. Did *Almighty God* shrink Himself down to a single cell and move into the womb of a virgin? Did Mary carry the *eternal God* around in her womb for nine months? Did God, an angel, or “*God the Son,*” a pre-existent, eternal being move into Mary’s womb and come out looking like a baby? Although an affirmative answer to either of these questions is doctrinal nonsense, this is what most of Christianity believes!

Dr. David Reagan, the respected minister and Bible teacher of *Lamb & Lion Ministries* posted an article in the Nov.-Dec. 2010 issue of his *Lamplighter* magazine titled, “*The Mystery of The Incarnation*” which states:

“He who is Almighty became a suckling baby. He who is all wise took on the dumbness of a newborn. He whom the heavens cannot contain was enclosed in a woman’s womb. He who is infinite became a microscopic cell. He who is the Creator became a creature. He who is light was entombed for nine months in warm darkness. Can there be a greater mystery? Praise be to God for the gift of His Son!”

There my friend, you have the erroneous doctrine of the *incarnation* in a nutshell, and Jesus and his Apostles knew nothing of it!

And there is more. Charles Swindoll says:

“That infant flesh so fair housed the Almighty God. Do you see the child and the

*glory, the infant-God? What you are seeing is the Incarnation - **God dressed in diapers**” (Jesus: When God Became A Man; p. 4-5).*

Max Lucado writes in error:

*“Angels watched as **Mary changed God’s diaper**. The universe watched with wonder as **the Almighty learned to walk**” (Max Lucado; God Came Near; p. 26).*

Respected Christian author Philip Yancey says:

*“Unimaginably the Maker of all things **shrank down, down, down**, so small as to become an ovum, a single fertilized egg that would divide and re-divide until a fetus took shape, enlarging cell by cell inside a nervous teenager. The God who roared...**this God** emerged in Palestine as a baby **who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder**” (The Jesus I Never Knew; p. 36).*

Writer C.S. Lewis said of the Incarnation:

*“The Eternal Being, became a fetus inside a woman’s body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to **become a slug or a crab**” (Mere Christianity; p. 155).*

I love these men but the degree of Christian blindness betrayed by these ridiculous statements is shocking! So what does the Bible really teach regarding the birth of Jesus? Scripture tells us that 900 years before the birth of God’s human son, God was anticipating his **future** arrival:

*“**I will be his father; and he shall be my son**” (II Sam. 7:14; Heb. 1:5).*

The prophet Isaiah, 700 years before Jesus’ birth, pictures a miraculous **conception** and not an incarnation:

*“Behold, a virgin shall **conceive**, and bear a son...” (Isa. 7:14).*

The angel Gabriel said to Mary:

*“And behold, thou shalt **conceive in thy womb**, and bring forth a son...thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath **also conceived** a son [John the Baptist]” (Luke 1:31, 36).*

Note: Jesus was “*made of a woman*” (Gal. 4:4), **not** “*made before the woman.*” I know who the mother of the biblical Jesus is, but who is the mother of this “*eternal Son*” Jesus that Christianity teaches in error? “*For it is evident that our Lord sprang [arose] **out of Juda**” (Heb. 7:14).*

So the biblically sound answer to what happened in Mary’s womb is, the Holy Spirit of God, through a **creative act**, provided the DNA that produced a **real human baby** who would become “*the man Christ Jesus*” (I Tim. 2:5), the “*second man...the last Adam*” (I Cor. 15:45-47).

*“But now ye seek to kill me, a **man** [Greek - anthropos - Strong’s #444 - “a human being”] that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God” [Jesus Christ speaking] (John 8:40). Here is one of Jesus’ many claims to *manhood*, now where is his claim to *Godhood*?*

*“...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is **conceived** in her is of the Holy Ghost” [Gabriel to Joseph] (Matt. 1:20).*

Question: With the Holy Bible stating repeatedly that Jesus’ birth was by a miraculous **conception**, what spirit is behind this age-old attempt to make it an *Incarnation*?

The danger of Christian idolatry

Professor James D.G. Dunn, one of the most noted **trinitarian** scholars in the world, has written a book titled, *Did The First Christians Worship Jesus?* In the final chapter he states some shocking conclusions:

*“One is that there are some problems, even **dangers**, in Christian worship if it is defined too simply as worship of Jesus. For...it soon becomes evident that Christian worship can deteriorate into what may be called **Jesus-olatry**. That is, not simply into worship of Jesus, but into a worship that falls short of **the worship***

due to the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I used the term ‘Jesus-olatriy’ as in an important sense parallel or even close to ‘idolatriy.’ As Israel’s prophets pointed out on several occasions, the calamity of idolatriy is that the idol is in effect taken to be the god to be worshipped. So the idol substitutes for the god, takes the place of God. The worship due to God is absorbed by the idol. The danger of Jesus-olatriy is similar: that Jesus has been substituted for God, has taken the place of the one creator God; Jesus is absorbing the worship due to God alone. So the danger with a worship that has become too predominantly the worship of Jesus is that the worship due to God is stopping at Jesus, and that the revelation of God through Jesus and the worship of God through Jesus is being stifled and short-circuited. It was because of such concerns that one of the leading figures and theologians of the early charismatic movement in the UK wrote a book entitled, The Forgotten Father. His warning still needs to be heeded.”

To this I say a hearty “Amen!”

The apostle John saw a mighty angel fly in the midst of heaven at the **time of the end**, having the **eternal gospel** to preach unto the **entire world** (Rev. 14:6-7). The angel was...

*“Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him...and worship him** that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”*

This is **fear, glory, and worship to God our Creator** in the name of our savior Jesus Messiah. That is the message of this article which cannot be biblically refuted!

In Christian Love,
Joel Hemphill