



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 2.7.3.3 – The Doctrine of God

Jesus Is God – He Is Given Divine Names and Divine Honor

The Holy Scriptures call God many times. The Bible calls Jesus not only the Son of God, but also simply God. The apostle John begins his Gospel by talking about the **“Word.”** This **“Word”** is clearly Jesus, for later John says: **“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”** (John 1:14). This is what John says about Jesus, the Word: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”** (John 1:1). To be God and to be with God at the same time establishes that there are at least two distinct entities that are God: The Word that was made flesh, and the one He was with.

At first, Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. But when Jesus appeared to His disciples a week after His resurrection, He said to Thomas: **“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side”** (John 20:27). Thomas then believed and called Jesus: **“My Lord and my God!”** (John 20:28).

The apostle Paul said that Jesus is God in his words to the Ephesian elders when he met them at Miletus: **“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood”** (Acts 20:28). The **“He”** refers to God and yet at the same time refers to Jesus who purchased His Church with His own blood. Paul said the same thing in his letter to the Romans when he wrote this about the Israelites: **“Of whom (that is, the Israelites) are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God”** (Romans 9:5). According to the flesh Jesus came from the Israelites, because He had a Jewish mother, but, at the same time, He was and is **“the eternally blessed God.”**

Jesus Himself taught that He, as the Son of God, was worthy of the same honor as the Father: **“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him”** (John 5:22-23). For this very reason, Jesus accepted the worship given to Him by His followers. After Jesus quieted the wind and waves on the Sea of Galilee by merely speaking a word: **“Those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the Son of God’”** (Matthew 14:33).

Jesus is continually worshiped as God in heaven. In Revelation, the apostle John was allowed to hear this song of worship from the angels, the elders, and the creatures: **“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing! ... Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”** (Revelation 5:12-13).

Questions

1. How does John 1:1 prove that Jesus is God?
2. When was Thomas willing to call Jesus his God?
3. How is it possible for God to shed His own blood?
4. What job did the Father give to Jesus so that all would honor Jesus as God?
5. How does Revelation 5 prove that Jesus is God?