

Thoughts on the Godhead

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, *we ought* not *to think* that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device”
Acts 17:29

Well now, that is a novel idea. If we spent more time thinking about the things of God from a Biblical standpoint we would live in a more genteel time. Paul is talking about the Godhead in this particular setting of scripture. In fact, the Apostle Paul is the only Biblical writer to use this term. There are three times that the word

Godhead is used in all of the Bible:
Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9

In all three passages the word Godhead means –
Divinity, Divine nature, The state of being God

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
Col 1:19

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
Col 2:9

Thus the age old question: “Is Jesus in the Godhead, or is the Godhead in Jesus?”

Paul says that the Godhead is in Jesus!!
The measureless, fullness of the Spirit of God was in Christ.

Let’s learn some things about God.

When the Bible says that God is not a man (Num 23:19), it is speaking of the flawlessness and perfection of the character of God.

Man is subject to error, God is not. – Deut 32:4
Man is capable of lying, God cannot lie. – Titus 1:3
Man cannot see tomorrow, God knows the end from the beginning. – Is 46:10

God’s wisdom is infinite, His ways are past finding out, God never gets weary, and He marks the fall of a sparrow.

Man is accountable to God
Man is dependant upon God
Man is incomplete without God

This is the distinction between God and man.
Job 42:1-6

Just a few verses to illustrate the Greatness of God:

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Is 40:28

3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Ps 145:3

5 Great is our Lord, and of great power:

his understanding is infinite.

Ps147:5

5 O Lord, how great are thy works!

and thy thoughts are very deep.

6 A brutish man knoweth not;
neither doth a fool understand this.

Ps 92:5

God is Omniscient

Ps 139:1-6 & 13-18, Acts 15:18, Heb 4:12-13

God is Omnipresent

Ps 139:7-12, Is 57:15, Pro 15:3

God is Omnipotent

Deut 4:35-39, Lk 1:37, Rev 1:8

The Only God that has ever existed or ever will be is the Eternal, Invisible Spirit who is the Creator!

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jn 4:24

It is important to understand this principle in the revelation of the Godhead. Jesus Christ is not God as a man, but God in Man. The Eternal, Invisible Creator was IN Christ manifesting Himself in the flesh. The God of the OT is the only God and Jesus Christ is the "express image of His person" – NOT another person! (Heb 1:1-4)

35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him.

39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: **there is none else.**

Deut 4:35-39

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

Is 43:10-11

6 Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid:
have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses.
Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Is 44:6-8

5 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.

Is 45:5-6

Strong yet Simple words from God about Himself.

God is Invisible

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1Tim 1:17

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

1Tim 6:14-16

20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Ex 33:20

And so it was in the OT. God's image was not to be seen by man nor angels until Bethlehem. The temporal and weak state of man was not able to look upon God. The unapproachable light mentioned in 1 Timothy 6 is the barrier that has kept God and man separate. So God sent His Son. Christ is the veil that housed the Unapproachable Light and through Christ we see the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God (the Only God) in the face of Jesus.

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Jn 1:18

Who is Jesus?

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,

Heb 1:1-4

This term “express image” literally means – exact representation, precise reproduction in every respect.

Notice that Christ is NOT his own person apart from God, but the express image of his Father’s person.

9 But we see Jesus,

Heb 2:9

While the Spirit of God is invisible, Christ as we shall see is the image of the invisible God!

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Lk 24:39

the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2Cor 4:4-6

13 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 is the image of the invisible God,

Col 1:13-15

Note, “the image”. Man was created “in the image of God” (Gen 1:27); Christ is “the image of God”. Jesus Christ is the anointed body of the only God.

The Son of God

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 2:22

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
Acts 10:38

Jesus was a real man with an earthly mother and the Eternal Spirit of the only God as his Father.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? 54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: 55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
Jn 8:53-58

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, *Lord, shew us the Father*, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?
Jn 14:6-9

Jesus Christ is the exact representation of the Spirit of God.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:
Heb10:5

Jesus is the body of God!

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
Eph 4:4-6

One Body – One Spirit

30 I and my Father are one.
Jn 10:30

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,
2Cor 5:19

God's Spirit was in the body of Christ – WHY – to reconcile souls!

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all,
1 Tim 2:3-6

there is none other God but one. 5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

One Body – One Spirit

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
1 Tim 3:16

God was in the man Christ, and yet God is an invisible Spirit. Christ was not God as a man, but that flesh is the body of the Eternal Spirit of the Creator.

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, The Prince of Peace.
Is 9:6

The child that was to be born is the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace!

11 The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David;
he will not turn from it;
Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.
Ps 132:11

God said that through David's lineage He would sit on David's throne. This verse is to be coupled with Ps 110:1 which Jesus quotes:

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. 43 He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44 The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Jesus is David's God and David's son! Mary was of the lineage of David and God's Spirit overshadowed Mary to give birth to the body that would be His exact representation. (Matt 1:21-23)

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Rev 22:16

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 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, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Rom 1:1-4

The Son of God is David's Lord, the Spirit is David's God.

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;... 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:14-18

God took on Him the seed of Abraham.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

When did God have blood? – In Christ!

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:

1Jn 3:16

When did God have an earthly life as a man? – In Christ!

The Revelation of the Mystery

One of the greatest errors of present day religionists is that the knowledge of God is a mystery. Preachers of false doctrine say that there is no revelation of Christ, or that it cannot be known or that the work of God in Christ is a relationship between two persons of God. God is ONE! God is not two! There is NO mystery in the NT when it comes to the Godhead!

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:
Deut 6:4

30 I and my Father are one.
Jn 10:30

ONE WHAT? ONE PERSON!!

The revelation of oneness is the greatest of all revelations because through this understanding we unlock all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge –

2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
Col 2:2-3

See also – 2 Cor 4:6, Jn 14:6-9

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
Matt 16:15-17

The Spirit revealed to Peter the answer to the question – Who is Christ? And so it is today! The understanding of the Godhead is a mystery to those who have not received the revelation from the Spirit of God.

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: 27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.
Rom 16:25-27

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Eph 3:1-9

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Col 1:25-27

The mystery is revealed! If you don't see it why don't you ask God to help you see it in the Word? If you feel that you are lacking the wisdom of God's word in this area, ask and ye shall receive!

Christ is the fulfillment of the Law

19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord 's servant? 20 Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not 21 The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

Is 42:19-21

We must learn to separate the righteousness of the law from the ceremonialism of the law. Christ fulfilled both in His earthly life.

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matt 5:17

The sacrificial death of Christ satisfied the demands of the law and protects those who are partakers of Calvary from the wrath of God against sin.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his

blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Rom 5:6-10

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Rom 10:4

This verse reminds me of one of the most mis-quoted verses in all of the Bible:

6 But we are all as an unclean thing,
and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;

Is 64:6

Note – righteousnesses (plural) Righteousness is NOT filthy!

This is a reference to the sacrificial attempts of man to satisfy the demands of the law as being filthy or worthless. The excellency of the sacrifice of Christ to once and for all satisfy the wrath of God against sin is spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Is 53:10-11

In verses 1-9 of Isaiah 53 we see a picture of a man that would be what God wanted out of man. Christ would “do no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth”. The exemplary behavior and life of the man Christ Jesus was what made him the perfect sacrifice for all of us who inherit the nature of father Adam.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1Pet 2:21-25

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, **that he might bring us to God,** being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1Pet 3:18

Compare to 2 Cor 5:19 – “he might bring us to God”

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
2Cor 5:21

The sacrifice of the body of Christ was to not only serve to satisfy the demands of the law, but also to give us access to the power of the Spirit that we may remain free from the bondage of sin.

We can only maintain the righteousness of God “in him” – ie Christ.

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
Rom 8:1-4

The sinless life of Christ condemned sin in the flesh – why? – “that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us”.
There is no condemnation if we remain in Christ. The excellency of resting in Christ, walking with Christ, striving to be Spiritually minded, resisting and overcoming the devil and our flesh is what NT salvation is all about.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Rom 8:13-14

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
1 Jn 3:4-8

See also: Col 1:21-23, Heb 10:9-14

Can it be said any more simple than this? Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection is the only way to find what God wants us to have, and be what God wants us to be.

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Lk 24:44-49

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Acts 3:17-18

The power of prophecy. When God speaks of a future event there should be no doubt of the certainty of it coming to pass.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the law and prophets:

- 1) Covenantally
- 2) Prophetically

Thus – “the Word was made flesh”

This was a central theme of the book of Acts:

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:29-32

Notice that the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God:

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Rom 8:11

See also Acts 2:1-4 & 14-17

In vs 4 they received the Holy Ghost – in vs 17 the prophet Joel said that the God of the OT had put His Spirit in them.

36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:36-43

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. 23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: 26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. 27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. 28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. 30 But God raised him from the dead: 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. 32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

Acts 13:22-39

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: 2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Acts 17:1-3

8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: 23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:4-8&22-23

22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against. 23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. 24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.
Acts 28:17-24

This is what the Apostles preached concerning the New Testament. This is what they did in application of the New Testament. The Apostles preached Repentance and Water Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the infilling of the Holy Ghost to be OUR fulfillment of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.