

Jesus warned, "Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name...For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect" - Matthew 24:4,5 & 24

Paul also warned that some would preach a **different** Jesus - 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 & 13-15

The name "Christadelphians" is derived from the Greek, 'Christos Adelfhos' meaning, "Brethren in Christ." In applying it to themselves, they claim to be brothers of Christ and therefore it is important to know who the Christ of the Christadelphians is.

Christadelphians, on one hand, assert that they teach "[the]...faith promulgated by the apostles in the first century," but on the other that, "Truth revealed in the Bible...[is]... distinguishable from the theology of Christendom" (Declaration of Truth Revealed in Bible, 1940,p.1.)

The Bible instructs us to, "test everything; hold fast what is good" - 1 Thessalonians 5:21). Therefore, we need to examine the Jesus Christ of the Christadelphian Community in the light of the Scriptures.

Did Jesus Pre-Exist?

Christadelphians say:

Jesus unanointed, or Jesus anointed, had no existence in the era of the Adamic creation - Eureka, John Thomas, vol.1, p.406

What John is saying, (in John 1:1) therefore, is that in the very beginning there existed the Wisdom or purpose of God - The Pre-existence of Christ, Logos, p.13

The Father regarded him with love... to the Father's mind, he was present - Christendom Astray, Robert Roberts, p.163

Jesus did not have, "any existence prior to his supernatural birth" - The Christadelphian, No. XL, 1874, p.56

Evangelical Christians believe the Bible teaches:

Jesus was with God literally. If He was merely a thought in God's mind, how could he be described as being "rich, yet for your sake he became poor" - 2 Corinthians 8:9? Likewise, how can a thought empty himself - Philippians 2:5-7? See also, Micah 5:2; John 14:9 & 17:5; Hebrews 13:5.

When did Jesus Become The Christ?

Christadelphians say:

The Spirit descended upon him in bodily shape at his baptism... This was the anointing which constituted him Christ... before his anointing he was simply the 'body prepared' for the divine manifestation that was to take place through him - Christendom Astray, p.160

Evangelical Christians believe the Bible teaches:

For to you is **born this day** in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. - Luke 2:11. See also Luke 2:25-26.

Was Sin Found in Jesus?

Christadelphians say:

Sin could not have been condemned in the body of Jesus, if it had not existed there. His body was as unclean as the bodies as those for whom he died. - Elpis Israel, John Thomas, p.128

A 'lamb of God'... guileless from his paternity, and yet inheriting the human sin-nature of his mother. - Christendom Astray, p.169

Evangelical Christians believe the Bible teaches:

Jesus is the *unblemished* Lamb of God - John 1:29 & Exodus 12:5, the acceptable sacrifice. If sin were found within Jesus' flesh, He would not have

qualified as the perfect sacrifice. See Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19 & 2:22; 1 John 3:5.

It would be true that "sin could not have been condemned in the body of Jesus," if Jesus had not been made sin for us, that "in Him we might become the righteousness of God" - 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Did Jesus Pay a Price?

Christadelphians Say:

The idea that Christ has borne our punishment and paid our debts, and that his righteousness is placed to our credit and that all we have to do is believe it, is demoralizing. It nullifies that other most important element of the truth, that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God, and that he only is righteous who doeth righteousness. It draws a veil over the truth that we have to "work out our salvation" by a "patient continuance in well-doing", and that he only that endureth to the end shall be saved. - The Blood of Christ, Robert Roberts, p.30

[God]... is not obliged to forgive us. Christ... has... paid no debt. - The Slain Lamb, Robert Roberts, p.23

He did not die as a substitute for sinners - God's Way, J.Carter, p.136

Evangelical Christians believe the Bible teaches:

Jesus was, "wounded for our transgressions... bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" - Isaiah 53:5.

Jesus died for us and totally paid the debt of all our sin. "He himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we might die to sin, and live to righteousness" - 1 Peter 2:24. He, "appeared in order to take away our sins" - 1 John 3:5

Is Jesus God?

Christadelphians say:

He was the Son of God, the manifestation of God by

Spirit power, but not God himself. - Christendom Astray, pp.159/160.

"... To say that Jesus was a perfect moral image of God... is very different from saying... that he was himself the 'very Godhead'" - Jesus Christ - God or Man, Dawn Fellowship, p.14

Christadelphians refer to Jesus as being "Emmanuel-God with us," but actually believe Jesus is an exact representation of God, not God. They agree that there is no attribute found in God that is not represented in Christ but still insist He is not God.

Evangelical Christians believe the Bible teaches:

- Jesus Christ is Omnipresent - Matthew 18:20 & 28:20; 2 Corinthians 13:5.
- Omniscient - Matthew 9:4; Luke 5:22; John 2:25.
- Omnipotent- Matthew 8:26-27, 9:23-26 & 28:18; Ephesians 1:21.
- Unchangeable - Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 13:8;.

All of these are attributes only found in GOD.

Paul proclaimed, "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"- Colossians 2:9. We also read that the Son is to be honoured in the same way as the Father - John 5:23 and that Jesus accepted worship - Matthew 14:33 & 28:17 although we are to worship only God - Luke 4:8. Anyone else accepting worship would be guilty of blasphemy and subject to death - Acts 12:20-23. This confirms, therefore, that Jesus is God in the form of a man - Philippians 2:6-7.

Conclusion

We have discovered that the *Christ* of the Christadelphians is not, "the same yesterday and today and forever" - Hebrews 13:8. He was, according to their teaching, born a man; anointed by the Holy Spirit to become Christ and raised from

unconscious death to a position of divinity. Surely, therefore, *He is not the true Christ* of the Bible, but a false pseudo-Christ.

Christadelphians teach that to be saved you need to have an absolute knowledge of the Bible, be baptised and keep a list of commandments.

However, the Bible says, salvation is by the grace of God, not conditional on certain works- Ephesians 2:8-9. We cannot be saved by searching the Scriptures, but by coming to the real Jesus, who is able to forgive us our sin - John 5:39-40 & Mark 2:5-10. Through Jesus we can know that we are saved and have already passed from spiritual death to spiritual life - John 5:13 & 24.

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Who is the "CHRIST" of the Christadelphians?

For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached... such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11 : 4,13