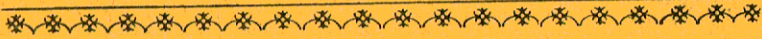


CHALLENGE TO THE COLTS, NO. 1.



**IS
JESUS
CHRIST
GOD
?**



By Rev. Cyril Hutchinson
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Berean Bible College

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

CHALLENGE TO THE CULTS, NO. 1.

"Is Jesus Christ Almighty God?"

By C. HUTCHINSON



WHAT DO THE MODERN CULTS TEACH?

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

WHY SHOULD I FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HIM?

This booklet answers all these questions and many more.

It is written to place into the hands of thousands of everyday folk the Bible answers to the ridiculous and blasphemous claims of the modern sects that spring up everywhere these days.

It is written to place the shams and falsities of modern false prophets in the uncompromising, blazing light of the inerrant Word of God.

It is prayerfully dedicated to every one who loves the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth.



Published by
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Calgary, Alberta, Canada

CHALLENGE TO THE CULTS

Is Jesus Christ Almighty God?

By C. HUTCHINSON

The Challenger is the Word of God, infallible, inerrant, God-breathed; His perfect, complete revelation to mankind. The general challenge it issues to every false cult and to every false teacher is found in the words of Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." That is plain, definite and unmistakable. The Bible challenges every falsity.

The Challenged are the modern cults of every conceivable variety, brazenly parading some new notion as ultimate truth, and condemning all others as wrong. Many exist today, and we may expect more as time goes by. The Scriptures have foretold their coming in the words of Matthew 24:24: "there shall arise false Christs and false prophets!" Such people as Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism; the much-married Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, founder of Christian Science; "Pastor" Russell, from whom came the Jehovah's Witnesses sect; "Judge" Rutherford who so diligently fostered this same cult; Ellen G. White, from whom came the modern Seventh Day Adventist movement; can well be classed amongst the false prophets of our days. They do not stand alone. Their number is Legion!

The Challenge is to place the unsupported notions taught by these and other sects squarely in the blazing light of the Word of God. Let that uncreated light fall upon all these teachings, let it flood them through and through, and their inherent falsity will become apparent to the most casual observer. This we propose, by God's help, to accomplish.

THE FIRST CHALLENGE is to face the question, "IS JESUS CHRIST ALMIGHTY GOD?"

Many of the cults say "No." Jehovah's Witnesses deny it outright, yet add the subtle admission that He was pre-existent, virgin born and possessing mighty powers. But this sect insists He was a created being, a kind of super-angel, and not God at all. This sect uses subtlety in saying He was "a god" but not "The GOD," thus blasphemously denying His supreme Deity.

Now does this matter? Let me set before you the five-fold issue involved.

FIVE-FOLD ISSUE INVOLVED

1. If Jesus Christ is not God, then the Bible is unreliable for it pictures the Lord Jesus in a score of ways as God Himself. We would have to discard the Bible!

2. If Jesus Christ is not God, then He is no better than any other religious leader. We might just as well follow them, with their human opinions and so-called revelations.

3. If Jesus Christ is not God, then He is not our Saviour, for then His blood is merely the blood of a man, and the law of justice demands that He would only be able to die for ONE man. Unless His blood is of infinite value, as the blood of God incarnate, it could not suffice to redeem ALL men.

4. If Jesus Christ is not God, then He himself is sinful, for He claimed to be God. If He is not God, then He usurped God's position again and again, and was thus guilty of blasphemy. He would be no better than Lucifer, who did this very thing, and became Satan because of it. And the Jews would be justified in their charge of blasphemy, and in their demand for His crucifixion.

5. If Jesus Christ is not God then I must cease to worship Him. Emerson Fosdick, a leading modernist of our day, would be wholly right when he wrote the book "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus." This matter is of the highest importance.

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

First of all, we ought to understand that the Godhead is a TRINITY. There are Three Persons in the Godhead, yet these Three are ONE God. Look at the Scriptures. In Genesis 1:1 we find the word "God," a translation of the Hebrew word "Elohim," which is a PLURAL noun; used with "Bara" (created) a SINGULAR verb! This tells us clearly that God is a Plurality, yet acting as ONE! Notice too that in Genesis 1:26 the PLURAL pronoun is used by God in reference to Himself. Again in Genesis 48:15-16 we read of Jacob naming the Three Persons of the Godhead, as he calls them "God" the "God which fed me" and "The Angel." Look on further to Isaiah 6:1-3, and read of the Seraphim uttering the THREE-FOLD ascription to God, "Holy, holy, holy." Why is this done three times, unless it be to the Triune God? Again in Isaiah 48:12-16, we are clearly shown the Three-Fold God, for here the Speaker, who calls Himself by the title of Deity, "I AM," the first and the last, the Eternal One; speaks of the Lord GOD and of His Spirit sending Him. Here are the Three of Deity! May I urge our Hebrew friends to ponder well these Old Testament statements regarding the Triune God who is still the "ONE GOD" of Israel! And may I suggest that you read on into the

New Testament, and see this same truth in I John 5:7.

Now the question that remains is this: Is Jesus Christ one of those three Persons of the Godhead? Is He indeed God the Son, second Person of the Trinity? The Bible answer is overwhelmingly "YES," in direct confutation of the "no" of the false cults. Look first at the names of Jesus Christ.

THE NAMES OF JESUS CHRIST

They are the names of Deity, names applied only and always to Deity. In Isaiah 9:6 we read the prophecy of the coming of Messiah as a child, a son, born into the nation of Israel. And His names are to be **WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.** He is God! In Isaiah 7:14 we read another wonderful prophecy, that this Son of the virgin shall be called "Immanuel." Then in Matthew 1:23 we read that the birth of the Lord Jesus fulfilled the prophecy, and the name **EMMANUEL** is interpreted as meaning **GOD WITH US!** What could be more plainly stated than this? How wicked to deny it! In Acts 10:36 Peter calls Jesus "LORD OF ALL," with none excepted. This means that He is the Supreme God. Paul also clearly declares that Jesus is God, for in Romans 9:5 he uses the distinctly descriptive words about Christ, "Who is over all, **GOD BLESSED FOREVER.**" If Anglo-Saxon words mean anything, this means that the Lord Jesus is **GOD!** In I Cor. 2:8 Jesus is called the "LORD OF GLORY." This means He is Lord of Heaven itself. In Hebrews 1:8 we have the plain statement "Thy throne O **GOD** is for ever and ever." These words were spoken to the "Son," the Lord Jesus Christ. Again in Revelation 1:17 we hear the Lord Jesus saying, "I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST," in clear declaration of His Deity. All these are the glorious names of Jesus Christ, and they are the **NAMES OF GOD!** Here is a challenge to the Cults! The shining light of God's Word shows their miserable blasphemy for what it is!

Now look further at the divine offices Christ filled.

THE DIVINE OFFICES

This is a most important matter. If a man fills the office of governor-general, he IS the governor-general. If a man fulfills the office of a deacon, he IS a deacon! The office identifies the person. Now the Lord Jesus did and is doing all that God alone did and does. He fills the **SEVEN OFFICES OF GOD.**

First: The Lord Jesus is the **CREATOR** of all things. This is so clearly told us in John 1:1,3 that it is beyond question.

Notice that John 1:14 identified the creative Word as Jesus Christ. Again in Colossians 1:13-16 we read that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things in heaven and in earth, including all angelic powers. Jesus was not an angel. He was the Creator God.

Second: He **SUSTAINS** and **PRESERVES** all things. Read this in Colossians 1:17. He is "before all things." He is the "beginning," or the author of the creation of God, as told in Revelation 3:14. He began it all, and now upholds, sustains, maintains all his creation by His own Divine power.

Third: He is the **FORGIVER** of Sins. Such scriptures as Mark 2:5-11 show this beyond any controversy. The Jews disputed His right to forgive sins, saying that this was the sole prerogative of God. **THEY WERE RIGHT!** Only God can forgive sins. In Psalm 103:1-3 we read that the **LORD**, the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the One who forgives sins. Jesus then is the **GOD** of the Old Testament!

Fourth: He is the One who **RAISES THE DEAD.** In John 6:39-44 we have His own promised word, that He will, by His own inherent power, raise up the dead. Thus we find Him again fulfilling an office of God.

Fifth: He will **TRANSFORM** all believers by His own power, when He comes to receive them into His glorious Kingdom. This is declared in Philippians 3:20-21.

Sixth: He is to be the **JUDGE** of all men, an office always attributed to God. Read this in II Timothy 4:1. We are held accountable to Him, as unto God, for He IS God. We must give our account to Him, and to none other.

Seventh: He is the **GIVER** of **ETERNAL LIFE.** Many times this fact is set forth in the New Testament. John 10:28 is a certain example of this fact.

These are the seven offices of **DEITY**, and Jesus Christ fills them all, to perfection and completion. There is nothing left. There is no place for any other God. The only logical, scriptural answer is that **HE IS GOD!** We challenge the cults with these facts!

Now we proceed to still another infallible proof of the Deity of Christ, namely, the attributes of Jesus Christ.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS CHRIST

An important means of identification of any creature or person lies in the attributes they exhibit. An animal has different attributes from a human being. For instance, no animal worships God, for it has no God-consciousness. All humans have that attribute. Men have different attributes from angels. Now what are the attributes of Jesus Christ? Was He merely a man? Was He an angel? Or was He more than an angel?

God has four distinct attributes that make Him different from all creatures, either human or angelic, and which mark Him as God only. Our important question then is: Does Jesus Christ exhibit these attributes of God?

First: God is OMNIPOTENT. He has all-power. No human being is omnipotent, although some wish they were! No angel is omnipotent. Is Jesus Christ? We have already shown His power as Creator. He had power over all physical things. He was able to command the very elements of the storm on Galilee, and speak peace to the wind and waves. He demonstrated again and again His supreme power over every evil spirit, the demons of hell. He declared He had power over the angels, for in Gethsemane, He declared that twelve legions of angels awaited His summons, should He command them to come to His aid. Perhaps His greatest manifestation of omnipotence was in His power over death, which is the power wielded by the devil upon suffering humanity. In Luke 7:14-15 we read the matchless story of the raising of the son of the widow in the city of Nain. He called this young man back to life with a word, the word of omnipotence! He still has that supreme power, for in John 5:28 we read that He will yet call ALL the dead from the graves. Finally we have the glorious word of the Master Himself, in Matthew 28:18, where he declared "ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He is the Omnipotent One!

Second: God is OMNISCIENT, He is all-knowing. Certainly men are not. And it is clear that angels are not. In I Peter 1:12 we read of certain things the angels "desire to look into." They do not know everything. Now did Jesus Christ know all things? Has He this attribute of God also? The answer of the Scriptures is clear. In Luke 22:10-12 we read that He knew, without seeing, that a certain man would be walking through the streets of Jerusalem carrying a pitcher of water at a certain moment. He even FOREKNEW this! In John 1:47-49 we find the story of Nathaniel, praying beneath a fig tree, in strict privacy. Yet the

Lord Jesus actually SAW him, and knew all about him, although at some distance from him. Nathaniel's astonishment shows us that it was impossible for Jesus to have seen him by the natural eye, as a man. Here indeed is Omniscience! In John 4:16-19 we find the record of Jesus dealing with the woman of Samaria, and revealing His intimate knowledge of all the affairs of this woman. Although a complete stranger to her, He knew all about her matrimonial affairs and her present immoral life. How? Only by His omniscience. In John 6:64 we find that Jesus knew the very hearts of men, knew who believed on Him, and who did not. He saw through all pretense. Finally, we read in Colossians 2:3 that ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in HIM! He is Omniscient, and thus He is GOD ALMIGHTY!

Third: God is OMNIPRESENT, He is everywhere at the same time, and in the same degree. He is all-present. No man or angel, or any created being can be in even two places at the same time. That is a well-known law of physics, and is true of every created being. Now what about Jesus Christ? Did he possess this attribute of Omnipresence? Again the scriptures are abundantly clear. In Matthew 18:20 we have His promise that He is in the midst of the two's and three's who gather in His name. Today, right now, there are thousands of such groups meeting simultaneously all around the world, and Jesus is actually present in every one of them AT THE SAME TIME! Again in Matthew 28:20 we read His promise that He would go with everyone who went in His name to preach the Gospel. Today there are multiplied thousands of such individuals. Our missionaries are scattered to the ends of the earth, and the Lord Jesus is WITH each one of them AT THE SAME TIME. Now read on. In John 3:13 we find this amazing statement, that, although Jesus stood on earth talking to Nicodemus, He said that He was also in heaven at that very moment! That's a hard nut for the false cults to crack! Most of them do not seem to know that is in the Bible. Finally, in Ephesians 1:23 we read that Christ is the "fulness of him that filleth all in all." That can only be said of God Himself. Thus Jesus is certainly Omnipresent, the all-present God.

Fourth: God is ETERNAL. Only God is. Man is not. Angels certainly are not, for in Colossians 1:16 we read that they were created. And what of Jesus Christ? Is He Eternal? In Isaiah 9:6 He is called "The mighty God, the EVERLASTING FATHER." That clearly and certainly indicates His eternal nature. Again in Micah 5:2, that wonderful prophecy of His birthplace, He is called the One "whose goings forth have been . . . from ever-

lasting." Then in John 1:1 we find Jesus Christ described as the One who was "in the beginning," And in John 8:58 He confounded the Pharisees by using the Jehovahistic "I AM," and asserting that He was in existence long before Abraham's day. Finally in Colossians 1:17 we read clearly that "he is before all things." Jesus Christ was NOT an incarnated, once-created angel, but He is the ETERNAL GOD. Little wonder that in I Timothy 1:17 He is called the "King Eternal"! And yet these false cults would rob our Saviour of His dignity and Deity! Shame on them!

Well, there is more evidence yet for us to examine. Look further at the evidence of New Testament quotation.

THE EVIDENCE NEW TESTAMENT QUOTATION

This evidence is unanswerable and incontrovertible. Let me explain what is involved. Suppose I were to say: "The mayor of this city holds the highest civic position." Then suppose I were to point to a man, and say: "He holds the highest civic position in this city;" You would at once know he was the mayor of this city. So it is concerning Christ. Statements in the Old Testament which quite evidently refer to God, the Great Jehovah, are quoted in the New Testament, and APPLIED TO CHRIST! Who then is Jesus Christ? The logic in this syllogistic form is inexorable and irresistible. He is God! Now see this. Read first of all Psalm 102:24-27. This is speaking of Jehovah God, the Creator of all things. NOW, in Hebrews 1:10-12 this is quoted, and declared to refer directly to the Lord Jesus Christ! Who then is He? Again in Isaiah 40:3 we read of one who was to come, called a "Voice," and he was to go before the LORD, the Jehovah God, as his forerunner. Now in Matthew 3:3 we are clearly told that this prophecy was fulfilled in John the Baptist, and he ran before this Jehovah God incarnate, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me give still one more example out of many. In Jeremiah 17:10 we again find the LORD, the great Jehovah, spoken of, in his searching of the hearts of men, and trying their reins. Now in Revelation 2:23 we see the glorified Lord Jesus doing this very thing. He is the very same one, the God of the Old Testament. Surely this is clear to any reasoning, reasonable mind. Nobody who really desires the truth can miss this fact. We challenge the cults with this!

Now I have still one more matter to present. That is the fact of the worship of Jesus Christ.

THE WORSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

Dr. Fosdick, and outstanding modernist of our day, wrote a book entitled "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus." If Jesus is not

God, if the sects and cults are right in denying His Deity, then we must agree with Fosdick. If Jesus is not God, then we are in peril if we worship Him. Worship is ONLY TO BE GIVEN TO GOD or we are in deadly peril! Examine the words of Jesus himself in this regard. In Luke 4:8 we read that He rebuked the devil with these words: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." He knew that only God was to receive the worship of men. Jesus quoted this directly from the Mosaic Law, found in Exodus 34:14. All men, in any age, are to worship God alone, and are in peril if they do otherwise. In Acts 12:21-23 we read that God smote Herod, so that he died an awful death, filled with a loathsome disease, because he accepted the worship of men, as though he were God. Should we then worship Jesus? Only if He is God!

Now follow this matter another step. Good men have always refused to receive worship from other men. Man is NOT TO BE WORSHIPPED! In Acts 10:25-26 we read that Peter refused to allow Cornelius to worship him, because he was merely a man! In Acts 14:14-15 we find a similar instance, this time in the life and ministry of Paul and Barnabas. They did all in their power to prevent men from performing an act of worship to them, crying out that they too were only men, and not to be worshipped. They did their utmost to persuade them to worship God alone!

But there is still more to notice. Not only men, but angels also have refused to accept worship. They too are created things, and not to be worshipped. In Colossians 2:18 we read that the worshipping of angels is a beguiling of the devil. In the face of that, what about the worshipping of Jesus? If He is an angel, He ought NOT to be worshipped. Again we read about angels refusing worship in Revelation 19:10 and again in Revelation 22:9, where it is recorded that on these two occasions John was so overwhelmed that he fell down to worship an angel. Each time the angel forbade him to do it, and commanded him to "worship God." Angels refuse to accept human worship. No man, angel or saint is to be worshipped, but God alone.

Now, IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, the Bible tells us that PRAYER IS TO BE MADE TO JESUS CHRIST! Yes it does! And this is part of WORSHIP! See this in I Corinthians 1:2, where we read that saints everywhere are to call on the name of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul certainly prayed to the Lord Jesus, thus worshipping Him. We read one instance of this in II Corinthians 12:8-9. And then back in Acts 7:59 we read the prayer

of dying Stephen, addressed to the Lord Jesus. Was he right in so doing? Not if Jesus is merely a man! Not unless Jesus is GOD!

But the climax of this matter is yet to be told. Here it is: People have worshipped Christ without any rebuke from Him. They have been encouraged to do so, and been rewarded and blessed in the doing of it! **AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BOLDLY, OPENLY, CLEARLY ACCEPTED THEIR WORSHIP!** Let the terrific impact of that fact strike deep into your heart and soul, dear reader! If he did that and is **NOT GOD**, then **HE OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED**, and the Jews were right in their charge of awful blasphemy! Jesus is **EITHER GOD OR A BLASPHEMER!**

Now examine the facts. In Matthew 2:11 we read that the wise men from the east came and worshipped the Christ child. Were they right? Were they led of God? Or were they self-deceived? There is no word of condemnation given to them in all the Scriptures. Perhaps someone may say, however, that Jesus was too young, and could not prevent these men from worshipping Him. Well, read on! In Matthew 14:33 we read that the disciples, after seeing Christ walking on the water, worshipped Him. And Jesus gave them **NO REBUKE**, neither did He refuse their worship in the slightest. Why did not God smite Him, as He did Herod? Surely He would have done so, had Jesus not been God the Son. Again in Matthew 28:9 we read that the women met Him after His resurrection and **WORSHIPPED HIM**. Here too we see that He received their worship without any rebuke, but rather comforted them, and actually commissioned them to a special service of witness. Again in Luke 24:52 we read of the disciples worshipping Him at the time of His ascension to heaven. This is another majestic acknowledgement of His right to worship, as God. Let me also add the story of Thomas, as recorded in John 20:28. Thomas fell at Jesus' feet, in adoring worship, and cried out: "My Lord and my GOD." Was Thomas rebuked for this? Nay, rather he was called "blessed." Still farther on in the New Testament we read of angels worshipping the Lord Jesus. This is clearly declared in Hebrews 1:6. All the angels worship Jesus. He is not Himself an angel. **HE IS GOD!** Finally we see that great scene that is yet to come, recorded ahead of time in Revelation 5:1-14. It will bless the reader to peruse this whole chapter carefully, for it clearly pictures that coming time when the Lord Jesus will be glorified and honoured in heaven and when **ALL CREATURES** will worship Him, as the great God of eternity, Lord of all!

Then I shall worship Him today, and join the cry of Thomas: "My Lord and my God"! Does not your heart, dear reader, cry out with me, acknowledging the Deity of our great Saviour? Let the false prophets say what they will. Let them speak their wicked blasphemies, for which some day they must answer before the very face of God the Son, Whose eyes are as a flame of fire!

My closing word is simply this. This Jesus of Nazareth was and is God incarnate, Who left the glories of His heavenly home, and trod the weary road to Calvary's cross. His death there paid the price of our redemption. What a price He paid! God died for men! God died for me! God died for you! His glowing, wonderful love for us moved Him to do for us that which we could not do for ourselves. Have you thanked Him for that? Have you received Him, in simple, trusting faith, as your Saviour? Let me invite you to Him **NOW**. As you read these words, come to Him. Confess your need, as a lost sinner, and ask Him to cleanse you from all sin. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." Here is the promise of salvation: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. May God help you to take that step of faith right now! Write to me if you need further help. But by some means or other, settle the issue at once. You will do that, won't you? God bless you!

MY DECISION

Knowing that I am a sinner condemned before God; and believing that Jesus Christ shed His blood and died for me, I NOW accept Him as my Saviour, and with His help I intend to live for Him and confess Him before men.

Date

Signed

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