

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading John 10:24-38

- *Isaiah 25:8-9*
- *The Hymn of Heaven*
- *363, It is well with my soul*
- *362, He hideth my soul*
- *390, In Christ alone*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

Jesus and the clarity and authority of God's Word

How Jesus understood Scripture, and we should too

John 10:24-38

Sending prayer

-Next Sunday, Oct 8th, GBF Church at Hartstone (no church service here).

-Oct 13, Mendo-Lake Women's Clinic Fall Banquet, at RVCC

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Jesus and the clarity and authority of God's Word

How Jesus understood Scripture, and we should too

John 10:24-38

- October 1st, 2023 -

Jesus and the clarity and authority of God's Word

How Jesus understood Scripture, and we should too

John 10:24-38

*B.B. Warfield set the two natures of Christ in a picture for us in this way when he wrote, "Because he is man he is capable of growth in wisdom, and because he is God he is from the beginning Wisdom Itself." The Scriptures insist on two things at once: that Jesus "is the same, yesterday, today, and forever", and that He "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). We rightly profess that Jesus never changes because He is God, but we struggle to understand what it means that Jesus grew in wisdom as a true man. When we pause to really consider this, we are surprised! In short, as a man, Jesus needed to learn the Scriptures, and grow over the years in maturity in their meaning and application. This does not mean that He ever had any **sinful** defect or deficiency. It simply means that as truly human He had to grow up in His moral, intellectual, and spiritual capacities as a true man while at the same time not ceasing to be God. Jesus willingly laid aside access to what was His by virtue of His divine nature in order to take on our flesh and nature, to truly be our representative—the Last Adam and Son of David. As fallen sons and daughters of Adam, we need a Redeemer who is truly man, truly one of us.*

First, let's examine the how Jesus came, in his full maturity, to view the Scriptures regarding himself in relation to the Father and the God-head.

Look at v24 and 25: Pharisees ("the Jews" in John's gospel) come and demand that Jesus tell them if He is the promised Messiah, the Christ.

Jesus' answer is that their thinking about the Messiah being only the Son of David, only a man, is flawed. He expands their field of view of the OT Scriptures to include the miracles of the Messianic age, the coming Kingdom, related to the promised Messiah. And he directly connects himself to the Father in such a way that shocked them. In essence he's telling them, "You have it right that I'm the anointed Son of David, but you've left off my divine nature."

In v26-30 Jesus makes it clear that their half-baked ideas about Messiah from their half-baked reading of the OT Scriptures leave off that the Messiah will be God in the flesh, possessing and dispensing something that only God possesses and dispenses... Eternal Life. And He goes on to claim that He and the Father are one... not merely in the sense of a unified purpose. But one in will and nature (speaking of the divine rather than the human nature here).

There is something vital Jesus points out for us to be careful in our own reading about Jesus in the whole Bible. To allow or focus too much attention on one of Christ's natures and not the other. We need to let the Scriptures speak and not read into them.

I want to point out one more thing from this passage about Jesus' view of the Bible, and it's at the end of v35.

How did Jesus view the historicity, the factual claims of the OT?

- Jesus acknowledged that Adam and Eve existed and were the first married couple (Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:3-9)
- Abel was the first prophet and was martyred (Luke 11:50-51), apparently the 1st murder victim.
- He believed the accounts of Noah and the Flood (Matthew 24:37-39),
- Lot and his wife (Luke 17:28-32),
- Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15),
- Moses and the serpent in the wilderness (John 3:14),
- the manna from heaven (John 6:32-33, 6:49),
- The giving of the Law to Moses 1,500 years before and and it's unitary standing as authoritative. (Matthew 5:17-19)
- The miracles of Elijah (Luke 4:25-27),
- Jonah and the great fish (Matthew 12:40-41)—the list goes on.

Understandable/perspicuous as Written

We never find Jesus appealing to a higher authority to bring out some "hidden meaning" of Scripture. Jesus indicates that the Scriptures are essentially perspicuous (clear for the careful student to understand). Eleven times the Gospel writers record Him saying, "Have you not read . . . ?" and thirty times He defended His teaching by saying, "It is written." He rebuked His listeners for not understanding and believing what the text plainly says.

Let's come back to John 10:27-30 and the issue of eternal life!