



June 11, 2006

*Gnosticism & Christ*

In previous articles a brief summary of some of the Gnostic ideas has been presented. In these ideas is a corruption of the nature of God as revealed in the scriptures. This corruption extends to the interpretation of Christ and his appearance in the world as the savior. Gnostic Christians held to the belief that Christ had not truly come in the flesh as the son of God. Instead, they held that Christ was an emanation of the true God, also referred to as the God of truth, who was separate from the God of the Old Testament. The “evil God of creation”, also referred to as the demiurge, was unaware of his own origins and thus created a physical universe that was inherently flawed, or evil. Christ then was an expression of the “unknowable God” who revealed himself through the appearance of Christ. This denies the nature and work of the Lord as he was brought into the world. The Bible reveals that Christ is the summation of the plan of God to save the world and this plan had been in the mind of God since before the world was established (**Titus 1.2, Eph 1.4**). God had prepared the way for the coming of Christ and had stated through the prophet Isaiah that he would be born of a virgin (**Isa 7.14**) in the town of Bethlehem (**Micah 5.2-5**). The reason for this was to crush the power of Satan (Gen 3.15) and to break the bonds of death and it’s fear (**Heb 2.14**). As with other forms of false doctrine, there is an element of truth that exists in this belief. Christ was a manifestation of the power and character of God. The writer of Hebrews states that Christ was the “brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person” (**Heb 1.3**). Moses had told the Israelites that God would raise up another prophet like him who they were to hear (**Deut 18.15-19**) thus foretelling of the nature of Christ as a prophet and the giver of a new law. This law would be for all nations (**Isa 2.1-2, Micah 4.1-2**). Christ revealed that he was from the father (**John 5.17-18, 30**). These passages reveal that Christ had been with the Father, was sent by Him, and had done the work that God had appointed for him to do. In this Christ serves as an example to all those who will believe on the Father through Him. The passages given here are only a few of many, both in prophecy and revealed in the life of Christ and the later revelation of the New Testament scriptures. The Gnostic idea that Christ was foreign to the image of God as revealed in the Old Testament shows a lack of understanding of the scriptures and thus of the roles of both God and Christ. Gnosticism, in it’s denial of Christ, matched this with the denial of sin as a problem in the family of mankind. This is contradicted by the scriptures, and by Gnosticism itself, which offers up the idea of a God who created “evil” and who was unaware of his own nature. This is somewhat comforting perhaps to a world that does not like to think that there is such a thing as sin and it’s resultant guilt. This leads to a rejection of salvation offered through Christ who stated that he had come to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19.10**) and warned of the dangers of failing to repent (**Luke 13.1-5**). If Christ had come only to reveal the “transcendent God”, and there is no sin, then the Bible is a carefully fabricated lie, which many attest to and label a myth. This would also reveal that Christ, as recorded in the scriptures, was unaware of His own nature while “manifested” on the earth. With these contradictions it is no wonder that Gnostics, while being revived in the modern world, died out and splintered into many sects that held complicated, contradictory and inconsistent beliefs. Gnosticism, while claiming enlightenment through inner knowledge and transcendence, is itself only an expression of pagan elements that lent themselves to the incorporation of Christian thinking into their already flawed view of the universe and the role of mankind. Christians believe that the scriptures are indeed the inspired word of God (2 Tim 3.16) and that Christ, the savior, was the means by which God will save those who will accept and obey Him. That is much easier to comprehend than the Gnostic idea of the world and God but shows that spiritual ignorance has not gone out of style in human thinking.

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