



Thank you to Adrian & Melissa Cannady for hosting the July family youth devotional - We appreciate you!

- July 19-24 Peach Valley Camp.
- The next Thursday area-wide Summer Youth Series will be held July 9 @ 7 p.m. at Hampshire Road and is entitled, "Humble Yourself."



EDUCATION

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, July 12 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Women of the Church." What role has God given to women in the worship and the leadership of the church? Are women to be preachers or elders in the Lord's church? Should women feel cheated if they are restricted from leadership roles?"

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Mondays (every first and third week)
Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 PM
Tuesdays (September through May)
Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Clay Bond

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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"THE ETERNAL NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST" by Clay Bond

Many in the religious world believe that Jesus was a created being. That is to say they believe that Christ did not exist before His incarnation. However, one of the intrinsic qualities of Deity is eternity. The Psalmist declared, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). God alone is eternal. This means that if Christ is God we would expect Him to possess the eternal nature of God. Consider with me a few passages which declare and affirm the eternal nature of the pre-incarnate Christ.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"

John 1:1

Isaiah refers to Jesus as the One who would be called "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). In his prophecy of the coming Messiah, the prophet Micah says that the "One to be Ruler in Israel" would come out of Bethlehem and that His goings forth "have been from of

old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). These passages clearly claim that the coming One was an everlasting being, not one who was yet to be created.

The New Testament is just as clear concerning the eternal nature of the Christ. In John 1:1 the apostle says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The verb "was" is an imperfect tense verb which denotes the timeless existence of the sacred person known as the "Word." The Word did not begin to exist when He became flesh, He already existed (John 1:14). Jesus also made His own claims of pre-existence in His statement to the Jews, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I

am” (John 8:58). The audience on this occasion knew He was claiming to possess the eternal nature of Deity and it was for this reason that they sought to kill Him. John 17:5 provides another passage of interest concerning the pre-existence and eternity of Jesus Christ. It is here that Jesus prays, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” The eternal “Logos” shared glory with the Father before the world was created!

A passage regarding the eternity of Christ that is often overlooked is 1st Peter 1:9-11. By inspiration, Peter characterizes our salvation as the theme of the prophetic message of the Old Testament identifying the Spirit by which they prophesied as “the Spirit of Christ”. We must ask: If Jesus did not come into existence until His incarnation how did His Spirit reside in the Old Testament prophets?”

There are so many passages that speak explicitly concerning the eternal nature of Christ, but in my estimation, Philippians 2:6-7 is one of the strongest contexts that speaks of both the eternal nature of Christ and His incarnation. Speaking of Christ the passage reads, “Who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.” (ASV). Prior to Christ’s incarnation, Jesus Christ, in all His glory, was in the form of God and like God in every way. This thought is in beautiful harmony with John 1:1-14. Jesus Christ was equal with God yet He did not consider such equality a thing to be held on to. He voluntarily gave up this position, emptied Himself and took the role of a servant. Jesus did not come into existence as a created being through the virgin birth; it was through the virgin birth that Jesus “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant”. In becoming a human being, He did not surrender His Deity, but His equality. As the God-Man, He is one

hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. God Himself partook of flesh to fulfill His own eternal purpose to redeem us to Himself by providing the propitiation for our sin through the blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 3:25). What a beautiful demonstration of pure, unselfish love the incarnation of Deity provides for us!

The concept that Jesus is simply a created being with a special purpose has no Biblical support and has serious ramifications. To attempt to remove the Deity of Jesus Christ is to destroy the very foundation of New Testament Christianity. Our faith in Jesus as the Christ is not an intellectual theory; it is an abiding reality that is based upon the Deity of Christ. In speaking of Jesus, Paul said, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:9-10). While we realize that some religious groups have affirmed that Jesus is simply a created being with a special purpose, there is absolutely no Biblical support for the concept. However, we find many statements in both Old and New Testaments that declare the eternity, preexistence and divinity of Jesus the Christ. Our minds may not fully comprehend these things, but we can accept what God has revealed about Himself and His nature.

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
JUNE 28, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class..... 193
Sunday Morning Assembly..... 199
Sunday Evening Assembly..... 126
Offering: \$5,037

News

& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 12

The next Men’s Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 26

Plan to attend the Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal following evening services.

Thursday, July 30

The Young Ladies’ Potluck luncheon will be held at Noon.

Wednesday, July 29

Fifth Wednesday singing.

- Homewood Team #1 will meet today.
- Thank you to B.J. Davis for the use of his tractor.
- Be sure to pick up your Life Touch directory on the table in the hallway.
- Remember to place your bible questions in the Q&A box in the foyer.

You are invited to a

B A B Y Shower



Honoring Ashley Stryker

Saturday, July 11

10:30 a.m. Brunch

Cleveland Home-107 Tradewind Dr.
Pampers diapers preferred (no Huggies)

Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Tre Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key

Sandy Malone
Bob Neel
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Rex Sims
Etta Williams

& Friends Family:

Cynthia Barrett,
daughter of Dee Gilpatrick
Sandra Barton,
sister-in-law of Karon
Josephine Escojido,
mother of Lupe Escojido
Pam Hawkins,
daughter-in-law of June
Jim Hinchey,
brother-in-law of Lupe Escojido
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Perliene Johnson,
mother-in-law of Steve Randle
Dorothy Koenig,
mother of Mickey DeDear

Dorothy McCarn
aunt of Pam Clifton
Edna Randall,
aunt of Randy Tipton
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Ernest Rundzieher,
brother of Jackie Rutherford
David Smith,
brother of Bob Smith
Richard Smith,
uncle of Les Daltry
Ray Shannon,
son of Donna
Mark Withers,
nephew of Clark
Ray Williams,
son of Etta
Martha Young,
friend of Elana Carroll