

RIGHT THINKING LEADS TO RIGHT PRACTISE

It is wishful thinking at best to think that it is easier to be a believer in Israel than anywhere else. After all, they have (1) the Hebrew Scriptures and (2) most speak Hebrew. (3) Generally, they are more familiar with the Jewish context of the New Testament and (4) they know the geography of the Land. It's the perfect setting and so there should be no problems with theology and practice – wrong! Today, some of the fundamental issues that affected the Church of the New Testament are still a problem. Is Jesus Divine? Is Jesus fully human? Should Jewish and Gentile believers keep the Law?

One particular challenge to orthodox teaching is the question, “Is Jesus truly Human?” Yes is the answer but some question, how ‘yes’ do you mean? The Apostle Paul wrote, “Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:6-7). At the Incarnation, Jesus took on a human nature. The pre-incarnate Jesus had one divine nature; the incarnate Jesus had two complete natures - divine and human. We may not fully comprehend this but scripture makes very clear that only because He was human, could Jesus experience and therefore sympathize with all the temptations and pains that we face -- hunger, thirst, grief, and ultimately, death, yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15).

While on earth Jesus did not cease from being fully God, but rather, He submitted to the will and power of the Father. On earth He never

exercised His deity independent of the Father's will. Thus Jesus the Messiah, the man who was God could say, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)

God redeemed us by becoming a man, living a sinless life, and then dying on the cross in our place. Jesus the Messiah's two natures, divine and human are forever inseparable. His bodily resurrection demonstrated this. Read John 20:27-29.

The believers in Israel often face those who deny the true deity of Christ. But equally damaging is that some deny His true humanity. Scripture clearly teaches -- that Jesus the Messiah, who was fully man and fully God, shared in our humanity so that He might redeem us. He became man to die in our place as Hebrews 2:14-15 says so emphatically. “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is the devil -- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Hallelujah - What a Saviour!

Autumn Prayer Tour

By the time you read this, 25 PFI prayer partners will be returning from the Autumn Tour. The purpose of these tours is to get a better sense of the current spiritual and practical needs of the Messianic body so that we might pray aright. PFI does not endorse everything that takes place in individual congregations in Israel but it is important we understand what each represents. There is a wide divergence of opinion and practice on many things. However, there are issues which are occasionally highlighted that are meant to stir us to pray more fervently. The issue above is one such matter. Right Thinking leads to Right Practice.

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