

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,

23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.

24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, How long will you keep us

in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I d

o in my Father's name bear witness about me,

26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch

them out of my hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able

30 to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Introduction:

A. The Great Question of All Time

1. With all that is going on in recent history, there has never been a better ti

me to take a closer look at Jesus than this particular time.

a) There is a lot of interest in an alternative view of Jesus, the church, and t

he Christian faith.

b) Today I want to address one of the primary questions people have always had a

bout Jesus: Who is He?

2. This is not a new question!

a) The Jewish leaders at the last Passover in Jerusalem they asked Jesus, How l

ong will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.

b) Jesus reminded them of what He had already taught them.

(1) He emphasized the witness of both His words ("I told you") and His works.

(2) I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name

bear witness about me,

(c) Then Jesus went much deeper in His explanation this time.

(1) He revealed to the Jewish leaders why they did not understand His words or g

rasp the significance of His works: they were not His sheep.

(2) From the human standpoint, we become His sheep by believing.

(3) But from God's standpoint, we believe because we are His sheep.

(4) There is a mystery here that we cannot fully understand or fully explain, bu

t we can accept it and rejoice with the Apostle Paul

(5) Romans 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchabl

e are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

35 Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory fore

ver. Amen.

3. God has His sheep and He knows who they are.

a) They will hear His voice and respond.

b) Do you respond today, to the voice of our Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, the S

on of God?

4. The New Testament, all of which was written prior to the end of the first cen

tury certifies that the conviction that Jesus was the Son of God that He is di

vine goes all the way back to the earliest days of Christianity.

5. Let's look more closely at four declarations concerning Jesus in the New Test

I. 4 New Testament Statements about Jesus

A. Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thin

g to be grasped, himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.  
8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. The letter to the Philippians is without question written by Paul.  
2. Paul wrote the letter during his Roman imprisonment about 63 AD within thirty years of Jesus' death.  
3. This passage begins and ends with the glory of Jesus.  
4. Paul tells us that Jesus had the very nature of God, but then He emptied himself of the privileges of His nature.  
a) God humbled Himself by becoming one of us.  
b) Then He humbled Himself even further by going to the cross.  
c) But then . . . God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
5. Most scholars believe this passage was a hymn Paul is quoting that goes back even earlier in the history of the church.  
6. So Jesus shares the nature of God.

## B. Colossians 1:15-20

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
16 For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.  
17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.  
18 And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.  
19 For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

1. This passage is one of the most comprehensive passages about Christ in the New Testament.  
a) Paul is believed to have written this letter during that same imprisonment in Rome, around 62 AD.  
2. In this passage, Paul talks about Jesus' relationship with creation.  
a) Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things.  
b) Paul affirms, for all things were created by Him and are held together by Him.  
3. Paul also talks about Jesus' relationship with God.  
a) God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus.  
b) Jesus is the image of the invisible God.  
4. Jesus is sovereign over all things and all the fullness of God dwelled in Him - Paul wrote this in a letter in 62 AD.

## C. Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews 1:3

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
1. Most scholars date this letter before 70 AD, probably between 65 and 70 AD.  
2. This passage, while affirming who Jesus is ("the exact representation of His being") and what Jesus did on the cross ("provided purification for sins"), focuses on His nature, and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and what Jesus did on the cross ("provided purification for sins"), focus