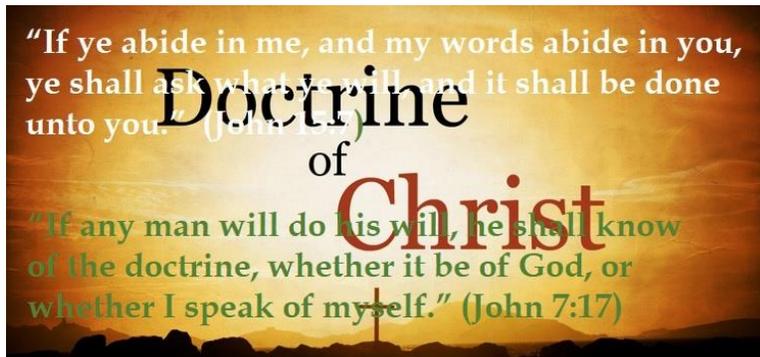


Chapter 30: Jesus, the Author of Sound Christian Doctrine.



John 15:7

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Modern theology including the once conservative SBC during the days of Carroll and Conner's, including Baylor

Truett Seminary, and SWBTS has fallen prey to the Theology of Northern Seminaries: (1) controversies between Calvin and Arminianism, between the prime authority of either Jesus or the Bible, between election and predestination, and so on and on and on with far more theology than Bible; and (2) with an increasingly popular academic and theology approach at books of the Bible, that isolate one of 66 books for study, ignoring the very necessary IN CONTEXT approach of the Bible. What does it remind you of; yes, the days of earth of Jesus when men and religions were "teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men." It is only that in the present confusions of the great apostasy called the falling away, old religions like gnosticism, Hinduism, and Buddhism are striving to compete with Jesus with a puny concept that Jesus is old, and they are smarter than Jesus. There are intellectual movements afoot today that desire to present Gnosticism, Buddhism, and Hinduism, even idolatry as older than the Christ story, so we must consider the beginning of Christianity and Christian doctrine from the perspective of the Bible, the final Word of God Himself, as that is always the perspective of the SunGrist commentaries.

30-1: Part of this lack of respect for the Ancient Jesus by intellectuals and their followers, is a failure to see what came to the Apostle John by revelation on the isle of Patmos, in order words the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, which gave him the eternal perspective on Christ, that like God the Father Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, so after John recorded the book of Revelation he was able to start his Gospel story of Jesus in the words –

1. First, however the reader must be reminded (1) of I Corinthians 1:21 with the words of "when the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those that believe"; and (2) I Corinthians 3 19 as it is quoted from the oldest book in the Bible, Job, and establishes a fundamental principle worldview of understanding that "He catches the wise in their own craftiness" (Job 5:13)

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” (I Corinthians 3:18-22)

Paul, Himself once an intellectual lawyer of high education studying under Gamaliel, one of the leading scholars of “this age”, reminds the first century congregations not to hold the wisdom of that age in higher regard than the wisdom of God, and in doing so in the very nature of revelation from God the Holy Spirit as words from God Himself established an eternal principle of Christians, intellectuals or otherwise, of not holding the wisdom of the world, of philosophy, of logic, and theology, or religious teachers in higher regard than the wisdom of the Eternal God the Father, and of His Son, the author of our faith, and the Holy Spirit that wrote every verse of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

NOTE: Would that God would give us sufficient wisdom of and from God to understand how in each generation including our own today in the age of the proliferation of much religious knowledge that we might know exactly how God catches the modern gnostics, Hindus, Buddhas, sceptics, and other religious intellectuals in their own craftiness. Yes, and never forget that these intellectuals like the Jesus Seminary and those at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale are striving to modify the religion and religions of the world, mainly to get a global religion. (God has already in His wisdom provided a global religious faith of Christian doctrine that started with the Lord Jesus Christ not in 1 A.D. but from the Creation of the earth or before.) Our goal now, to catch the intellectuals in their “own craftiness”. Perhaps the original quote from Job 5 can help us? Surely God has dealt with such arrogance against His wisdom from the beginning of time as such intellectual idolatry, which it is, has been in existence forever.

And with a careful look at Job chapter 5, it would appear that God catches the intellectuals in their own life and living so that they are not allowed to reap the benefits of the wisdom of God as are the believers, and then lists 7 ways in which God delivers believers in their troubles.

“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole. He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you.

In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword. You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, and you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes. You shall laugh at destruction and famine, and you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

You shall know that your tent is in peace; You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss. You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, And your offspring like the grass of the earth. You shall come to the grave at a full age, as a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

Behold, this we have searched out; It is true. Hear it and know for yourself." (Job 5:17-27)

NOTES: Even as God is active here on earth to show His wrath constantly in the life of the intellectual sceptics, so according to the Word of God in Job, God is active to correct the believer as He refuses to correct the life of the unbeliever. It is not in these seven ways that God is bringing the opposite of the seven ways on the unbeliever, but that are caught in them as the natural order of life and living, and that is the way God catches them in their own craftiness. Look closely at the lives of the arrogant and ignorant of God's wisdom intellectual, what you will find is their own craftiness of life has caught them, normally you can find not only an internal suffering from the internal wrath of God but also majors sadness like with one female intellectual idolater where she lost in a short time both her son and husband, or as in the case of an Australian female idolater than she self-inflicted her body in a terrible sky accident, or in the case of a modern Gnostic of the Passion variety that suffered great depression. In short, it is not worth it to be an intellectual idolater.

Take Buddha for an example as so many movie stars are turning to Buddhism and Hinduism to end their sufferings* from the internal wrath of God –

"Some Buddhist schools have many Gods, others have none. ... The Buddha said it was more important to take steps to end your suffering than to follow endless discussions on the 'true' nature of God (and other such unanswerable questions)." - buddhismbeliefs.org

Unfortunately, in either case no God and many Gods, it is idolatry, they cannot meditate it away only temporarily mediate the way with other thoughts, or like Marilyn Monroe or Robin Williams, the comedian who committed suicide. {

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marilyn_Monroe }. And it seems that whether you look at Romans 1 or the contemplative mysticism or false religions like Buddhism, man wants to be divine, to separate himself and his intellectual leaders from God by taking the place in their lives of God.

Thanks to the comparison of Bible with Buddhism we get a final insight into this false religion:

Furthermore, man cannot be divine and cannot become God. Ezekiel 28:2,6-10 - God brings a curse on any man who claims to be God. So, the Bible contradicts both Conservative and Liberal Buddhism. The Bible teaches that God exists and that the purpose of religion is to please God; but there is only one God, graven images are forbidden, and man is not divine.

{<https://www.gospelway.com/religiousgroups/buddhism.php> }

**** Hollywood Gossip spoke more wisdom than they knew as they wrote on the recent suicide of Robin Williams in the words, "Just because you are rich and famous, this does not mean you do not suffer.**

Tragically, the following stars all proved this point to be accurate when they took their own lives.

We mourn their passing and we hope they have found the peace in death that they could not find in life... { <https://www.thehollywoodgossip.com/slideshows/19-stars-who-committed-suicide/> } It goes on to tell of 29 other such suicides among movie stars and other celebrities, and then another online article tells of over 40 celebrities that did the same.

2. Sorry, it takes such a long passage as Ezekiel 28 to get a proper perspective on those that claim divinity within themselves.

Ezekiel 28:2-10 New International Version (NIV)

"Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.

But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god. Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you? By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud.

'Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

'Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god, I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and pierce your shining splendor. They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas.

Will you then say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a mortal, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you. You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners.

I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord."

NOTE: Only to comment that once again God uses life to catch them in their own craftiness, and now we get on about the Lord Jesus Christ of Christian Doctrine.

30-2: While it can be said that Christianity started in the First Century as Christian itself, only found 3 times in the Bible, as a word did enter the human world then, Christ and Christian Doctrine started at the beginning of Creation; in fact, before the Creation of the World as John 1 makes clear.

1. First, we should catch illuminations of the revelations of God and Christ as given in Revelation 1.

Perhaps the world would respect Jesus more, especially the intellectual idolaters, if they could understand the Jesus of Revelation 1:

(1). God the Father and Jesus the Son in Revelation 1:4a-6.

“Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God the Father is obviously “Him who is and who was and who is to come” while Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead and as head over the church and the kingdom of Christ is “the ruler over the kings (all heads of nations and governments) of the earth”.

A Parenthetical: There is not time to deal with the Priesthood of Believers now as introduced here in the words of “has made us kings and priests to His God and Father: however, the next chapter will end the book on THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS.

(2). The Almighty Lord of Revelation 1:8.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

(3). Similar words as above are used of Jesus as He begins the authorship of the book of Revelation to the Apostle John.

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...”

(4). In Revelation 1:12-20 the Apostle John identifies this speaker of the First and Last, the Alpha and the Omega as the Risen and Ascended Christ without using a name as it was later in Revelation where he was told the new name for Christ as THE WORD. **“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”**

(5). In Revelation 19:13 we learn a new word for Christ, the Word of God along with subduing to Himself every power and authority on earth.

“And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire (this identifies the Ascended Christ with what John saw and heard of Him in Revelation 1), and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

By way of exegesis, we note several things hard to fully understand so we will not go beyond the clear statements of the word of God lest we behave as the intellectual idolaters that out of pride and worldly wisdom want to explain all the paradoxes or fully un-comprehensible nature of God: (1) The God ordained word of language and meaning is “The Word of God”, a name John will use in the writing of chapter 1 of the Gospel of John at which we will look shortly as it gets us closer to Jesus as the Author of Christian Doctrine; (2) the first names which John easily recognizes as do we who have read of them in the Bible, as Faithful and True; (3) on the head of the Ascended Jesus was many crowns, hard to visualize, but tells us on the crowns He will take from all governments of the world and government heads to turn his rulership in the total kingdom of God on the new earth; (3) the armies in fine linen represent not only the thousands and thousands of unfallen angels but also all those believers who have died up to that point; (4) we know the final battle on earth, World War III if you please will be fought at Megiddo as the nations of the earth come against Israel, and we are told in the Word that God Himself will intervene to destroy these armies, the problem is in the reconciliation of this with how Christ smites the nations with the Sword out of His mouth, but we let it lie there; and (5) finally, while Jesus treads the predicted winepress of God in the OT, that of “Almighty God”, obviously God the Father, Jesus has on His vesture King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2. Now, it starts getting Jesus with respect for the Everlasting Lord Jesus Christ as the Word with John 1.

(1). The Christ at the beginning of Creation, John 1:1-3.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”

The exegesis is obvious for those non-intellectual snobs and idolaters of the world:

(1) At Creation the Word, that is the Lord Jesus Christ, was present and in great power to create; (2) in a good introduction to the Trinity, Christ as the Word was with

Almighty God the Father, in fact “the Word was God” (John was striving to tell us that in the confusions of God and Jesus in Revelation 1.); (3) that was the way the beginning of the great creation started, God and Jesus as both the first postulate of all rational thinking where Creation of the Heavens and the Earth start with God the Father and Jesus the Word/Son working together; (4) now if you can digest that they both instigated Creation and Creatures, then perhaps you can move forward to the fact that all things created in heaven and earth were made by and through Jesus the Word.

NOTE 1: It is well stated by a Bible scholar in the wisdom of God: “God the Father is the originating Cause, God the Son is the Mediating Cause, and God the Holy Spirit is the effecting Cause.” You will recall in the Creation truths of Genesis 1 that “the Spirit of God the Holy Spirit breathed on the face of the deep to bring the world out an ooze into a formed beauty”, or God said Let there be, and the Spirit of God effected or implemented it.

NOTE 2: While it is somewhat difficult to read chapter 1 of Conner’s Christian Doctrine about God rationalize in terms of Cause and Effect, and if you have read also from E. Y. Mullins you know that argument was originally his, but that is theology and we will get back to the word in the Word and about the Word. It is so much easier to simply state, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...” or even to say as Dr. Lee and many others did that “God is the fundamental postulate of all rational thinking”. That last statement makes the intellectual idolaters irrational, which is a reluctance for Christians during the falling away.

(2). Thank you for your patience of laboring through, for about now we are beginning to Preach from the Word of God as Jesus is disclosed as the Light of the World in John 1:4,5. (By the way, this is a brief of a world view you need to have for original Christian Doctrine.)

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

We never are going to get out of these two verses all implied here, even as Physicist have struggled for centuries to fully comprehend the nature and properties of physical light, or as biologists and other intellectuals have struggle with the very nature of life itself. Much of this truth is hidden in the bosom of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, what little wisdom they let us know in the Bible until in heaven and on the new earth “we shall know as also we are known.” Yet in Christian doctrine of the Bible we do know that (1) Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, (2) that Jesus the life became in approximately 1 A. D. the light of men, that (3) even as today that light of Jesus shined into the intellectual darkness of men and Satan – religion, philosophy and theology; further that always the darkness of unbelief and skepticism has tried to suppress and strangle that truth to the frustrations of their humanities; (4)

However THE DARKNESS DID AND CAN NOT TODAY COMPREHEND IT, goodness they in the wisdom of this world cannot manage with all their efforts get hands around it, they will die in their frustrations like the best and brightest of the world like movie stars and other celebrities of the world.

3. Sorry cannot end this short look at Christian Doctrine on Christ the Word without a brief look at the very heart of Christian Doctrine in the first century as seen by the first disciples of Christ and thousands of others, John 1:14.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Told you this would preach; for you must see this as both the Gospel and the very foundation of Christian Doctrine, that in the first century John and the other Apostles and by the way those others of the “faith once for all delivered to the saints”, called saints as believers in Christ. This did happen in the first century, yet we neglect total truth if we do not also admit that it was settled in the heart and mind of God from the very beginning and that it was predicted in many ways through many prophets and years all the way to the First Century of what history calls Christianity. When did the religion of Christian Doctrine start? It started from before the beginning in the mind and heart of God surpassing in historical time as everything else idolatry, intellectual idolatry, and other religions.

30-3: Let us move on to some chapter conclusion on Christ as the author of Christian doctrine by an exegetical look at the word author for Jesus as given in the Bible, Hebrews 12:1,2.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1,2 NJKV)

Author and finisher of OUR FAITH speaks of Christian Doctrine of our Christian faith, the teaching and the process of faith; it reminds one of the Alphas and Omega along with the first and last and the Word of the book of Revelation; as it does of John 1 about the Word Christ of Creation and the Word made flesh.

Yet we need all the Bible and the Bible IN CONTEXT and from the beginning to end to see Christian Doctrine with a beginning even from before the Creation of the earth, well before the creations of intellectual idolaters. Natural since the written record of the

Word of God in the Bible begins at Creation, we will have to settle there without the dangerous twins of philosophy and theology.

1. It is satisfying in the Genesis account, that we find at least two noteworthy beginnings of Christian doctrine, the first when God told Adam and Eve at their first sinning against God that without mentioning the name, God said "Satan will bruise Jesus heel and Jesus will bruise the head of Satan; and in another foundational statement of Christian doctrine about the Trinity, the Godhead together, the tree, have discussions about Creating man in "our image".

(1). Genesis 1:26 the fundamental of the Trinity in Christian doctrine.

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Even if you want to try, you cannot miss first the "Us" and then the "OUR in our image", and then how God the Trinity created man, male and female, in "OUR likeness". Sure, you do not want to try, but the intellectual idolaters do all in their capability to ignore and disprove it, sort of like the light shining in darkness and the darkness cannot comprehend it, that is cannot overcome it or even understand it. And while it is jumping far ahead in the development of Jesus on Christian doctrine, the peculiar vast group of original intellectual idolaters, the greater part of the Hebrew nation of unbelief in Jesus, as represented in the first-generation intellectual idolaters of religious leaders called Pharisees and Sadducees. Just one verse here now, Jesus had to tell them that they were not of God the Father but of the devil their father, John 8:42-44.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

And when we come finally in this chapter to these first intellectual idolaters (idolaters end up worshipping and serving Satan), then we must see what God did to the religion of Judaizers, that is when He made them blind that they were unable then and now to see Jesus as Christian Doctrine.

(2). Fundamental of the Trinity in Christian Doctrine established in Genesis, Genesis 3:15.

LORD God the Father is speaking directly to Satan after the original sin of Eve and Adam: (this is what the head of the Godhead spoke to Satan the Serpent as Satan had in his deceptions of Adam and Eve taken the form of a serpent, God first cursed the serpent to crawl on its belly and to be much less than other creatures of God)

**And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."**

This is a beginning of Christian Doctrine, although it takes the rest of the Bible to understand how the "He" is the Lord Jesus Christ and the "His" is Satan. Even harder to understand is the enmity that God put between Satan and the woman and between all those born later of her seed. It would seem however that God is establishing the principle right here of Christian doctrine that the children of the world and the children of light have a great gap set between them sort of like the Apostle John wrote in I John of "all that is in the world is not of the Father, but of the world" and "if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Likewise, the later doctrinal teachings of Jesus in His first century three years of ministry that "the friends of this world are the enemies of God".

2. Some of the things in the Gospels Jesus taught about Christian doctrine by specifically mentioned the word "doctrine".

(1). Doctrine in John 7:15-18.

"And the Jews (primarily the Jewish religious and intellectual leaders of the nation of Israel at that time) marvelled, saying, how knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him."

Surely with the reading and reminder of these Scriptures you have more respect for Jesus and Christian doctrine. Jesus said He did not originate the doctrine, but it came from God the Father, that within itself telling you that it came from the Father to the son is the eternity of ages ago. And furthermore, Jesus herein established the very fundamental principle of hermeneutics, also a principle of how intellectuals cannot truly understand Christian doctrine, for all that would understand Christian Doctrine must first as a preliminary principle of Bible, must be willing to do the will of God and Christ. In other words, the student of teacher of theology and the Bible has to discern between whether teachings (another word for doctrine) come from God or do not come

from God. The intellectual idolaters that even deny the existence of God are at a loss here and stay in darkness, not able to do the will of a God whose existence they deny. And further will you note how those who seek the glory of God can understand Christian doctrine, yet those many who seek their own glory, now and then, are not true and do not have the righteousness of God in them. You cannot help but seem some similarity to in Romans 1, how the intellectual idolaters their changed the glory of God into that of humans or creatures.

(2). Jesus, taken captive and brought to the father of the High Priest, is quizzed by Annas the former High Priest about His disciples and His Doctrine, John 18:19-21.

“The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.”

Indeed, as in the word of Jesus Himself, the whole world should know of the Christian doctrinal teachings of Jesus Himself as all the world has heard about them. And it is suggested for you today reading this that even as the intellectual world and others enquire about both the Christian doctrine of Jesus and about Jesus’ disciples, the disciples of today should be ready with Christian doctrine for similar enquires of both sceptics and would be believers.

We could needlessly labor the points on Christian doctrine and Jesus with many Scriptures from the Apostle Paul, Peter, John, and so on and on with the Apostles that wrote Bible books, however from this and your own Bible reading you see the point of the connection between respect for Jesus and Christian Doctrine. And hopefully in the nature of John 15:7 quoted at the beginning of this chapter how needless are fruitless arguments among SB and other intellectuals about whether Jesus or the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice. Even as simple stated, Jesus says that if you abide in Him as an authority, you can ask whatever you want, and at the same time Jesus says that if you “abide in His words”, those words being the teachings of Jesus and Christian doctrine in the Bible, you can get whatever you ask in prayer. So, both Jesus and the Bible, so close are they together as the same, that both the Bible as a source of authority and Jesus as a source of authority are the same. Do not waste breath or time, on such foolish questions!