

JESUS IS GOD

SETTING OUR SAILS, SOUNDING THE DEEP



THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM
The Second Part: Of Man's Deliverance —
LORD'S DAY 5

What sort of a mediator and deliverer then must we seek for?

For one who is very man, and perfectly righteous; and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is also very God.

1) Setting our sails, sounding the deep ...

That Jesus is God is the essential truth upon which we must set our sails.

1. It seems we could even say that this truth—that Jesus is God—is both the beginning and the ending of the discussion regarding eternal life and the Apostle John's stated purpose.
 - (John 20:31 ESV) But these are written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
2. We sound the depths of that truth and come to a true knowledge of Jesus through studying and believing the plain statements of the written word of God which precisely define who and what he is.

To sound (fathom) – to measure the depth of (a body of water) with a sounding line. The earliest methods of sounding—measuring depth—involved the lowering of a weighted line over the side of the vessel until it hit the seabed or in the case of very shallow water, the use of a graduated pole.
3. When we sound the deep knowledge of the Jesus of the Bible, we find an ocean that is bottomless ... unfathomable because Jesus is God.

Unfathomable – incapable of being fully explored or understood; not able to be fathomed, or completely understood; incapable of being fully ascertained, explored, exhausted; infinite, endless, immeasurable, vast, limitless, boundless.
4. And that is exactly where John begins—That Jesus is God.
 - (John 1:1 ESV) In the beginning **was the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**.

- A. In the beginning was the Word.
- B. The Word was with God.
- C. The Word was God.

2) Jesus is the Word of John 1:1 ...

1. Jesus is the Word—the logos.
2. The logos that John refers to is not a concept unique to Christianity but finds its roots in the natural person's understanding of the supernatural—think Mother Nature or Star Wars and “the force be with you.”
 - (Romans 1:20 ESV) **For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.** So they are without excuse.
3. The logos could be what the natural person senses on a starry night looking into the heavens while having no firm concept of the glory of God.
 - (Psalm 19:1 ESV) **The heavens declare** the glory of God, and **the sky above proclaims** his handiwork.
4. The idea of logos may somewhat be understood as an idea borrowed from Greek philosophy but that was borrowed from God via the natural person.
 - A. The natural person does not accept God as his Creator but tries to identify and explain the wonders of creation in human ways and thoughts.
 - (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV) **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned.

- (Isaiah 55:8–9 ESV) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

B. The natural person trades the truth of God as Creator for the lie of “no God” but the wonder of creation still captures him so he worships the creation—Mother Nature, the impersonal, unknowable reason behind everything in the universe.

- (Romans 1:25 ESV) Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

C. Human philosophy in attempting to answer the “why” of the universe reflects the natural person’s attempts to identify what he knows is beyond his grasp while still refusing to honor God as God.

- (Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
- (Romans 1:21 ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

5. The conscience—moral thoughts and reasoning—may also be attributed to the logos as the innate ability of humans to choose right from wrong, good from bad, apart from accountability to a holy God.

6. But according to Paul’s gospel on the day of judgment the secret thoughts and the reasonings of humans will be judged by Christ Jesus.

- (Romans 2:14–16 ESV) For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

7. In John 1:1 under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God John reveals the identity of the logos of the universe—his name is Jesus.

- (John 1:14 ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

8. So what an amazing blessing it was when God took the guesswork out of life by coming to this earth bringing grace and truth and making himself known to us and solving the mystery as to who or what is behind the running of our universe.

- (John 1:17–18 ESV) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

3) The Word speaks the words of his Father who sent him ...

This Word from Father to Son to us is the only foundation upon which we must build our spiritual houses if they are to stand in the judgment.

- (John 12:48–50 ESV) The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.

1. So now we know, mystery of the universe solved—God does not speak to us through some impersonal force of nature but through his Son.

- (Hebrews 1:1–3 ESV) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 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.

2. This Word was the cornerstone that was rejected by the builders.

- (Acts 4:11–12 ESV) This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has

become the cornerstone. 12 **And there is salvation in no one else,** for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

3. This Word (Jesus) is the foundation stone of our faith, the rock of our salvation.
 - (2 Samuel 22:47 ESV) The Lord lives, and **blessed be my rock,** and **exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.**
 - (Psalm 62:2 ESV) **He alone is my rock and my salvation,** my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
 - (Psalm 62:7 ESV) **On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock,** my refuge is God.

4) Those who reject the Word of the Father through the Son will fall at the judgment ...

Those who reject the Word take refuge in lies and will be swept away at the judgment.

- (Isaiah 28:16–17 NLT) Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “Look! **I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on.** Whoever believes need never be shaken. 17 I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. **Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.**
1. All authorized builders build on the Cornerstone.
 2. Here is a list of builders who are not authorized by God to construct safe places to live—Roman Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, liberal denominations and those in the Christian Restoration Movement.
 3. These unauthorized builders reject Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, as very God and as the cornerstone for the foundation of their structures.
 4. Even though they reject Jesus as the cornerstone they still desire to have his name out front on their building.

5. They expose their fatal, fundamental lie that they do not believe that Jesus is very God by requiring some form of human work(s) to supplement his work on the cross.
6. These unauthorized builders all preach a gospel that includes ...
 - Faith in Jesus
 - The need to repent
 - The need to be baptized
7. Without exception these builders insist that they are building on the truth of the Bible.
8. They will be among the many (millions) who will not stand on the day of judgment.
 - (Nahum 1:6–8 ESV) **Who can stand before his indignation?** Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. 7 **The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.** 8 **But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.**
9. And we must not overlook the many who hear the truth of the gospel but will stumble and be shamed at the judgment because they refused to believe.
 - (1 Peter 2:7–8 ESV) **So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,** “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” **They stumble because they disobey the word,** as they were destined to do.
 - (Hebrews 4:2 ESV) For good news came to us just as to them, **but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith** with those who listened.