

INI Hymns:

Sermon 26-28

Trinity

Matthew 28:18-20

5/31/26

So we begin our Summer Sermon Series - **Behold Your God.**

Since today is Trinity Sunday, we will begin by pondering the

Nature and Essence of our Triune God!

We turn to a very familiar text the speaks of our Triune God, that is **Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

You already know the basic facts about the Triune God: He is one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Did you notice Jesus says we are baptized into the NAME, singular. There is One name, One God. The Father, Son and Spirit all bear the same name—Yahweh.

We see an example of this in our Scripture reading. It began, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Very often when the Bible simply speaks of God, it is referring to God the Father. This is His message of comfort to His people. It goes on with a prophecy we all recognize about John the Baptist who was sent to prepare the way for ? Jesus, right? What does the Father call Him? He says to "prepare the way of the LORD," all capital letters. You remember what that means, this is Yahweh. John the Baptist was preparing the way for Yahweh. Then the Father adds, "make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Jesus is Yahweh God. Then the prophecy concludes with the words, "for the mouth of the LORD (YAHWEH) has spoken." So Yahweh God calls Jesus Yahweh God. They have One name because they are One God. There is only One true God.

It is difficult to find words to accurately describe God. We speak of three distinct persons. The common illustration indicates that. The Father is NOT the Son, the Son is NOT the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is NOT the Father. They are distinct from each other. We see that in the way they converse with each other. In the beginning they discussed together how to make Adam and Eve. "Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness." Genesis 1:26. In the Gospels we see the Father talking to His Son and the Son talking to His Father using the pronouns "I" and "You." The Father said, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:11, The Father clearly distinguishes Himself from the Son. The Son prays to His Father, "I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." John 17.

However, the three persons of the God head are not distinct persons the way you and I are. Each of us is a distinct person because we are completely separate. Each of you lives your own life. You think and act in your own way, according to your own will and I do the same. Yet in the Godhead the three persons are not separate from each other. The whole triangle represents God. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three God's but one God. Jesus says, "I and My Father are one." John 10:30. And He says "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me." Jn. 14:11 All three think and act together with one mind and one will. Jesus said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the

Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” John 14:9-11

This diagram falls short in that it might seem like each person is one third of God. God is not like a pie that is cut into three pieces. The Apostle Paul says of Jesus, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form.” Col. 2:9. The Father is 100% God, the Son is 100% God and the Holy Spirit is 100% God, perfectly united as one. God is three persons in one essence, one being, each one is eternal, almighty, holy, wise, loving. God is united in essence, power, purpose, and glory.

Today I would like to delve a little deeper and marvel at the inner workings and the true unity of the Trinity.

In the Apostles Creed the roles of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are neatly divided, the Father is credited with being the Creator, the Son is our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier. That is a Scriptural designation of their individual roles. Yet it is not quite that simple and cut and dried.

For example: The Father is the Creator. Paul speaks of “the Father, from whom are all things.” (1 Cor. 8:6) Yet in Colossians 1:16 he says about Jesus, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Also John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

1 Corinthians 8:6 puts both truths together. Paul says, “For us there is one God: the Father, from whom are all things, and for Him we exist; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we exist.” You see, everything is FROM God the Father. He is the source of all things. Yet everything came THROUGH the Son, Jesus Christ. Now look at the creation account in Genesis. God the Father is the source of all things. God created the Heavens and the earth by speaking the Word, and His Word was Christ, the Son of God. Everything was created through Him. The Holy Spirit was also involved. He was hovering over the face of the waters. Then on day six all three consulted together in the creation of Adam and Eve.

That is not only true of Creation. Consider the work of our Sanctification. The Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier, yet it is a collaborative effort of all three. In John 14 Jesus says a couple of times that “the Father will send [the Helper] in My name.” Then in the next chapter Jesus says, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father.” (15:26) So the Father sends the Spirit in Jesus’ name. Jesus sends the Spirit from the Father. The Holy Spirit is the one who works in our heart and connects with our spirit to bring us to faith. He keeps us in the faith. He strengthens our faith so that we are able to live godly lives. Yet He does all that by pointing us to Jesus and exalting Jesus in our hearts. Therefore many aspects of our Sanctification are also attributed to Jesus and the Father. The three are distinct, but none of them acts independently.

Jesus commands us to baptize into the name of the triune God. That baptism connects us to all three persons of God. Peter said to the crowds on Pentecost, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” We received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized, and through the same baptism we were connected to Jesus Christ and His death for the remission of our sins. As Paul says, “We were buried with [Christ] through baptism into His death.” Romans 6:4 Therefore in baptism we become children of the heavenly Father. As we read in Gal. 3:26-27 “You are all sons of God through faith

in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and put on Christ, we put on His righteousness and therefore become sons of the Father.

Likewise, Jesus alone is our Redeemer. Only He became man and kept all of God’s commandments perfectly for us. Only He died on the cross for us. Yet He was not left alone. In Isaiah 42:1 the Father says, “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” There was no way Jesus could fail because He was upheld by the Father and empowered by the Spirit. Even His resurrection is spoken of as a joint effort. Most passages speak of Jesus being raised by God. Like Galatians 1:1 “God the Father who raised Him from the dead.” Yet Jesus said, “I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” John 10:17-18

There are many more examples of the three distinct persons of God working together as one. The point of all this is not to confuse you, but to encourage you and build you up in your faith and confidence.

First of all it should fill you with awe and reverence for God. We can’t fully comprehend God. Psalm 145:3 says, “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is UNSEARCHABLE.” We shouldn’t expect to be able to fully understand God! Even though we can’t have a complete knowledge of God, the amazing and wonderful thing is we can have a true knowledge of God, because God has revealed himself to us in His Word.

He revealed Himself to us for one purpose, so that we can know Him and have a relationship with Him. The Apostle John states in the opening verses of his first epistle that he and the other Apostles are declaring to us everything they have seen and heard from Jesus Christ so that “you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.” 1 John 1:3-4. We need to know God so that we can have that fellowship with Him, and the better we know Him, the deeper that relationship will be and our joy will become even greater. So the more we know God, the greater our joy will be.

The greatest joy and comfort of knowing God as Three in One is that this great, incomprehensible God of the whole universe is totally committed to you and your salvation and your life with Him. All three persons of God work together in perfect harmony all for you, that you may know Him, and love Him and live with Him forever in paradise. That’s why God says He is **YOUR** God! So **Behold YOUR God.** He is yours and you are His. Rejoice! You are truly in Good Hands.

Amen.