

Sermon Title: **God and the Trinity**

Written: September 23, 2017

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Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 28:19**

Thesis: **Jesus spoke of the Trinity in one of His last statements clearly referring to the God head in three persons;**

Purpose: **Today, we will deepen our understanding of a Triune God.**

Key Word: **"God and the Trinity"**

I) Introduction: Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 28:19** (Black page 34; Red page 41)

A) The Setting:

- 1) **God; can we understand our God?**
  - (a) Volumes have been written about God
  - (b) And still we cannot understand everything there is to know about God.
- 2) **God is one and yet triune. . .**
  - (a) God is eternal with no beginning or end . . .
  - (b) God is all knowing, all powerful, and able to be everywhere at all times.
- 3) **God is responsible for our creation, our existence and will determine where we will spend eternity.**
  - (a) We blame God for bad weather calling them "Acts of God."
  - (b) We don't understand why God allowed sin to enter the world or why it continues.
- 4) **So, what can I hope to add in the next few minutes that will aid with our understanding of God?**
  - (a) Well, just maybe I have taken on more than I can deliver.
  - (b) But I can only share with you some of what I have found about God from what is in His Own Holy Word.
- 5) **What I am going to share goes to the very core of what I believe and is the foundation for everything I do as a minister of the gospel.**
  - (a) Therefore, what we are about to cover is one of the most important subjects we could explore.
  - (b) So as difficult as a task as this might be; with the help of God, I will attempt to share what I believe God wants us to know concerning our God.
- 6) **Jesus spoke of the Trinity in one of His last statements clearly referring to the God head in three persons;**
  - (a) So Today, we will tackle the awesome responsibility of deepen our understanding of God.
  - (b) Also, how the worship of a triune God is an immense blessing.
- 7) **Following Jesus' resurrection and 40 days of appearing to and teaching His disciples, He gathered His disciples on the Mount of Olives.** (Acts 1)
  - (a) Jesus gave final instructions which clearly referred to God as a Triune God.
  - (b) while I could use many examples, I am only going use this one verse as a starting point.
- 8) **So, let us read for ourselves in our scripture reading for today in Matthew 28:19.**

A) *Sermon Prayer*

B) (The Hook)

- 1) Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley who was the founder of the Methodist Church once said, **"Find me a worm that can understand the complexities of being human and I'll show you a person that can understand the Trinity."**<sup>1</sup>
- 2) **Baptist preacher, Ken McKinley once said in a message on the Trinity,**<sup>2</sup>  
*"The word "Trinity" isn't found in the Bible, and because of that, sometimes there are people who say it's not a Biblical doctrine. I've had people say to me things like,*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christianquotes.info/images/john-wesley-quote-5-ways-trinity-reveals-gods-love/#axzz4tWxljT5T>

<sup>2</sup> The Trinity by Ken McKinley, 2010 sermoncentral.com

*"If it's not in the Bible then I'm not going to accept it as a Biblical teaching." And then I usually will say to them, "The word Bible isn't in the Bible either, that doesn't mean you don't accept it." The word "rapture" isn't in there either... what about that? The word "Trinity" isn't there, but the concept and the teaching of it – is most certainly found and taught in Scripture. Now the problem is that the doctrine of the Trinity is beyond our full understanding. Our finite minds can't fully comprehend it, but we believe in this doctrine because it is taught in Scripture."*

- 3) **McKinley goes on,**  
*"The first time we see the Trinity in Scripture is in the creation account in Genesis when God created man, Scripture tells us that God said, **"Let US make man in OUR image and after OUR likeness."** He speaks of Himself in the plural. The Hebrew word used for "God" is **Elohim**, which is a plural word, or a plural form of God. And so right off the bat we see that God is a Trinity."*
- 4) **The doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of the Christian faith.**
  - (a) That to deny the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit is God, is to deny Christianity itself.
  - (b) **While we can't fully understand the Trinity, it is important that we at least understand what the Bible teaches about it.**
    - (i) The concept of the Trinity teaches us that there is one eternal God, who exists as three distinct Entities – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
    - (ii) God is three persons and yet with each one being fully the one God.
- 5) **All of creation is founded on a triune concept.**
  - (a) All matter exists in three distinct states, solid, liquid, and gas.
  - (b) We have the body, mind and soul.
  - (c) An egg has a shell, middle and yoke.
  - (d) The strongest geometric form is the triangle.
  - (e) We see it all around us; so, why is it so hard for us to accept a Triune God?
- 6) **N. Graham Standish writes in His book "Becoming a Blessed Church"<sup>3</sup>, (I have paraphrased a little for the sake of space)**  
*"Let's face it; if we are honest, the Trinity is a paradox and makes no rational sense from the world's point of view. We say we are monotheistic, believing in one God; so, how can we say God is three? It is impossible to explain the Trinity in a way that makes complete sense. So, why do we believe in a Triune God? We believe in the Trinity because we've experienced it, not merely because someone taught it was true."*  
*"The trinity is a paradox we come to experience as true when we form a relationship with God as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. When our congregations become engaged in these same paradoxical experiences, they come alive and experience the Blessing of God."*

**TS: So, having said all that lets take a brief look at my beliefs concerning . . .**

## II) Body: (Key Points)

### A) Key Point #1: **God the Father**

- 1) I do believe in the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Though they are three separate entities, they are one God.
- 3) **I believe that God the Father is the God we learned about in the Old Testament who is revealed through His relationship with His people, the Nation of Israel.**
- 4) God is the creator and Father, who through His Holy Spirit entered in union with Mary's egg to bring forth Jesus his Son who is the God-Man, our Lord and Savior.
- 5) As God and the Son is one with God the Father, it was His desire that we be one with Jesus. (John 17)

<sup>3</sup> Becoming a Blessed Church N. Graham Standish, The Alban Institute, 2005, p.52

TS: **Next we have . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **God the Son**

- 1) **I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior.**
  - (a) That God the Son, sacrificed His rightful place with the Father to take the form of a man.
  - (b) He came to earth to live as one of us, teach us the truth and way to be with God for all Eternity. (John 14:6)
- 2) **Jesus freely choose to offer His life by suffering and dying on a cross to atone for all our sins, past, present and future.**
  - (a) Jesus demonstrated His power over death when He rose from the grave and ascended into Heaven to be reunited with God the Father.
  - (b) One day, as our Lord and King, He will exercise His earned right to sit in judgment and rule over all.
- 3) **In His final instructions Jesus gave what we call the great commission.**
  - (a) This is the mission Jesus passed on to His followers who are to continue the work of spreading the good news that Jesus has defeated death and made a way for everyone to be restored to their relationship with God.
  - (b) Jesus gives His authority to His Disciples with all the rights and privileges that are needed to carry out His mission.

TS: **This brings us to . . .**

C) Key Point #3: **God the Holy Spirit**

- 1) **I believe God the Holy Spirit was sent at the day of Pentecost as our Comforter to guide and teach believers after Jesus ascended into Heaven.**
- 2) The Holy Spirit comes when we invite Jesus into our hearts to be our Lord to live within the temple of our body helping us to be transform into citizens of God's eternal kingdom.
- 3) **The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23 to all those who accept Jesus as their Savior, Lord, and King.**
- 4) Further, the Holy Spirit also provides individual gifts of the Spirit to each believer to be used for contributing and building God's church. (Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12)
- 5) **That it is the Holy Spirit which completes the reconciliation of God with His creation.**

TS: **So, Pretty heavy stuff; but also important to experiencing the full measure of God's blessing in our restored relationship . . .**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) **We cannot reason out our understanding of God by the physical world.**

- 1) **God lives in a place that is not governed by the laws of nature as we understand them.**
  - (a) There is no beginning or end,
  - (b) There is no time as we know it,
  - (c) There is no sin, no aging, no pain.
  - (d) It is a place that exists in the world of the spiritual laws.
- 2) **In Paul's greetings to the in **Philippians 1:2**, he writes, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."**
  - (a) And in **Acts 5:3**, Peter says, "**When you lied to the Holy Spirit, you lied to God.**"
  - (b) These and many other verses point to our Triune God.
  - (c) Jesus told us to "**baptize believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**"
  - (d) And if Jesus said it, that settles it for me.

**B) Let me again refer to N. Graham Standish's Book on "Becoming a Blessed Church"<sup>4</sup>**

*"I believe that our churches need to be mindful of being trinitarian if they are to become truly blessed churches. We need to be people who are (1) grounded in the purpose that God the Creator created us for; (2) alive to the presence of God in Christ in our midst; and (3) open to the miraculous power of God the Holy Spirit flowing through everything we do. We need to create communities that are grounded in God's purpose, alive to God's presence and open to God's power.*

*"To become truly blessed our churches need to become trinitarian both in faith and practice, not just in doctrine and belief. We need to form churches that prepare people to encounter and experience God as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit throughout their lives."*

**C) What Graham is saying is that it isn't enough to just know about God in three persons; but that we need a relationship that experiences God in each of His entities:**

- 1) God the Father is our Creator,
- 2) God the Son is our Redeemer, Lord and King
- 3) And God the Holy Spirit comes when invited to help us prepare to be citizens of Heaven.
- 4) **If you don't have that kind of relationship with the living God; then I would encourage you to pray that God will better reveal himself to you.**
- 5) If you want me to pray with you; see me before you leave today.

**IV) Invitation:** Let us Pray!

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<sup>4</sup> Becoming a Blessed Church N. Graham Standish, The Alban Institute, 2005, p.52