

**Trinity Sunday  
May 22, 2016**

*"Our Salvation Depends on Our Triune God"*

**JOHN 16:12-15**

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*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

The current director of the National Institute of Health, Dr. Francis Collins, came to the conclusion there must be a God based on what he observed in his research on genetics. He wrote a book "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence of Belief" to describe his journey from atheism to the belief there must be a God. Dr. Collins is not the first person to come to believe in the existence of God because of what is seen in nature, whether it be the stars in the universe, or the complexity of the gene coding in cells, or the development of a child within the womb of its mother. Romans 1:20 says, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

The other day my wife Susan brought home three little chicks that had hatched in her classroom. We took care of them for a couple of days until they were given to a family that had other chickens. How amazing that such creatures as little chicks can develop from what is inside of an egg such as this. A hen lays an egg that has been fertilized, sits on the egg, and the warmth of her body causes the little chicken to develop inside. One day it begins pecking at that shell and emerges as a fully developed baby chicken.

People can come to believe in the existence of God and his divine power from what is observed in nature, but they cannot come to know who God really is and what he has done to rescue them except through what is told us on the pages of the Bible. From the Bible we come to know that our God is a Triune God, three persons and one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and yet one God. From the Bible we come to know that our salvation, our hope of being rescued from sin rests totally with this true God and not with ourselves.

**Our God is three persons and one God**

One of the great proofs that our God is three persons and one God comes from the words that Jesus spoke to his beloved disciples the night before he died. These words are recorded for us in John chapters 13-17. Listen again to the words we just read to you. Jesus said, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will only speak what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come."

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. He speaks what has been given to

him from the Father and the Son and makes it known to us. The disciples needed the Holy Spirit to help them. They could hardly bear listening to what Jesus said about leaving them and going to the Father, and Judas betraying Jesus and Peter being told that before the morning rooster crowed twice he would deny Jesus three times. They could not bear the heavy burden of Jesus' words so he promised the Holy Spirit would help them and guide them into all truth. The Holy Spirit would not speak on his own but take what was given by the Father and by Jesus and then give it to the disciples.

Did Jesus ever speak about the Holy Spirit as God? Sure he did. He called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth who guides us into all truth. In John 15 he calls the Holy Spirit our Counselor who will teach us all things and bring everything into our memory. What Jesus says about the Holy Spirit could only be said of someone who is God. In the Nicene Creed we confess the Holy Spirit to be "The Lord and Giver of Life who proceeds from the Father and the Son." You see the Holy Spirit hovering over the waters in creation. You see the Holy Spirit bringing life to dry bones in Ezekiel 37.

Did Jesus ever speak about this heavenly Father in such a way that he presented himself as God's Son and equal with his Father. Sure he did, many times! Listen to his words in John 15, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." There was a love between Jesus and his Father that went way back into eternity. He speaks about going to the Father and being one with the Father. He asks his Father to give him the glory he had with him before the world began.

This past week in our Santa Maria Terrace Bible study we heard how Jesus healed a man who hadn't walked for 38 years. Then Jesus told the Jews who were questioning him, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too, am working." When Jesus spoke like this they wanted to kill him because as it says in John 5, "For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him, not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."

When you listen to Jesus speak about the Holy Spirit and about his heavenly Father and about himself especially in these chapters of John you see the close connection between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These words have a way of convincing you that there are three persons and yet one God. Even though you cannot understand how three can be one, you accept this in faith because this how God has revealed himself and this is the way Jesus is speaking about your God in these chapters and throughout the Bible

Who raised Jesus from the dead? Read the Scriptures carefully and you will hear that Jesus raised himself from the dead, and then it says the Father raised Jesus from the dead and even says the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Laverne Shaw struggled with believing that three persons were one God. She had come out of the occult and started coming to the congregation I served in Santa Barbara. She was studying God's Word with us and we came to the lesson on Jesus' resurrection from the dead. At the start of the class after our study of the resurrection she said she had found a mistake in the Bible. She said, "Last week we read a verse that said Jesus raised himself from the dead. I found a verse that says the Father raised him from the dead. There must be a mistake in the Bible." What a joy it was to help her see that the Bible says the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. That seemed to help her believe that three persons are one God.

It is comforting to know that our salvation, our forgiveness of sin, our hope of being spared from the judgment to come, and our hope of eternal life rests not in ourselves but in what our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit has done for us.

### **Our salvation depends on three persons and one God**

Notice now how Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit takes what belongs to him, namely our salvation, and makes it known to us. "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." What belongs to Jesus belongs to the Heavenly Father. What belongs to the Heavenly Father also belongs to Jesus. That certainly is true of everything that was created. The Lord can say in the psalms, "A cattle on a thousand hills are mine." Jesus owns those cattle and so does the Father and so does the Holy Spirit.

What Jesus did for us on the cross and in his resurrection belongs to him and also to his Father. Then it is made known to us and brought to us by the Holy Spirit. Let me direct your attention to Hebrews chapter three. There it says, "Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." Certainly this speaks to us about God's creation. He is the builder of everything. But in the context it speaks about the salvation or forgiveness of sin our God has provided for us through Jesus. The verse before this says that "Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than house itself."

When Jesus came into this world, all the blue prints and plans for rescuing you and me were carefully set down. That is why Jesus spoke in the psalms 1000 years before he was born, "Here I am, I have come- it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God." I am holding in my hand a copy of the design for this church building. The design was drawn and then the church was built according to design. Jesus followed the design for saving us that was carefully set down by him and the Father and the Holy Spirit in the scrolls, in the Old Testament. One day when the disciples were worried that Jesus did not have enough food to eat, he told his disciples, "My food is do the will of him that sent me." When Jesus finished the plan of paying for all our sin he called out from the cross, "It is finished!" The work was done perfectly.

Everything Jesus did to save us belongs to him and it belongs to the Father and now it is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." The Holy Spirit makes known what Jesus has done for us, and delivers it to us and lead us to believe in it so we can be saved.

Oh, how much we need the Holy Spirit to convince us that our salvation is something that belongs to our God and is given to us as a free gift. You see I am born with a terrible sinful nature that likes to think I am really quite a nice fellow and I am doing all the right things to earn God's love and favor. In a few verses before this Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit to "convict the world of guilt, in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment." The Holy Spirit convicts me as he did with the Apostle Paul who said he didn't even realized what sin was until he was shown that even the desire to do something wrong is sin in the eyes of God. The Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus by showing us our only hope of being

saved is putting our trust in this perfect life and perfect death of Christ.

In the Revelation John sees a great multitude of people with white robes and palm branches in their hands. They stand around the throne of God and they cry out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Salvation belongs to God. It was carefully planned by Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now the Spirit makes it know to you and leads you to believe and trust in what your Triune God has given to you. How blest you are to know the true God and the salvation so carefully provided for you. Amen.