

Theological Equipping Class – The Triune God of Salvation

Introduction

- “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)
- “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- This Spring Season – Salvation – Life in the Son
 - “Doctrines are statements designed to point us to God; they are not meant as objects of faith themselves.” – Donald Fairbairn
 - “Knowing about God is not the same as knowing him. I can accept the truth of propositions about God without knowing the God of whom they speak. That is the 'faith' of the demons. Biblical faith, by contrast, is not only a believing *that*; it is also a believing *in*...It is more than a response to truth; it is engaging with a Person...Christians are not captivated by a system of ideas, in love with a body of doctrine. Christian spirituality is relational. The convictions that are precious to us matter precisely because they are the means by which we know and love the person of the Lord Jesus.” - Allan Chapple

Two Unintentional Mistakes

- #1. Separating the study of God from the study of salvation
- #2. The Trinity as Divine Math
- The Scriptures solution: The Triune God of Salvation
 - “To believe and love the Trinity is to possess the key of theology.” – Charles Spurgeon

The Life of the Trinity

- What was God doing before the “beginning?”
 - “now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed...²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:5, 24)
- “Indeed, in the triune God is the love behind all love, the life behind all life, the music behind all music, the beauty behind all beauty and the joy behind all joy.” – Michael Reeves
- “The Triune nature of God is the mold for the gospel.” – Michael Reeves

Salvation: Life in the Trinity

- “no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” (Matthew 11:27)
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except me.” (John 14:6)
- John 17 as a window into salvation:
 - Jesus prays for you: “²⁰ I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word” (John 17:20)
 - Father-Son relationship before Creation: “I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed... ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”
 - Eternal life: Knowing the Father and Son - “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
 - The Father’s love: “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me... ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
 - “This tells us that God binds us to himself in a deep personal relationship. This relationship is like those that are internal to him. Just as the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father, so the Son is in us and we are in God. Nothing less than the love that the Father has for the Son is in us, and the glory the Father gave the Son has been given to us. It is as though the inner life of the Triune God is so rich that it spills over into his relationship with us. We are caught up in the most basic and fundamental of all realities: the relationships that make God who he is. To have a part in something so good, so rich, and so real is an immense privilege.” - Allen Chappel
 - “As the Father looks with pleasure and delight on this perfect Son of his, so he looks with pleasure and delight on all who are in him.” — Michael Reeves
 - “Christianity offers us not just some sort of relationship with God, but a share in the very same relationship that the Son has always had with the Father.” – Donald Fairbairn
- John 20:17 – Jesus and Mary after His Resurrection – “Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father’”
- “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, SO THAT we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” (Galatians 4:4-7)
- “indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:3-4)
- “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)

- “In this Christian life there are many problems and difficulties, but more and more it seems to me that most of our problems, indeed if not all of them, arise from the simple fact that we fail to realize, understand, and appreciate what is the real truth about us as Christian people. We read these things in the scripture without meditating on them so we don’t realize that these are not abstract truths but these are truths about us. If we did that, our entire lives would be revolutionized.” – Martin Lloyd Jones
- “If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” - J. I. Packer
- “What is your Christian life like? What is the shape of your gospel, your faith? In the end, it will all depend on what you think God is like. Who God is drives everything. So what is the human problem? Is it merely that we have strayed from a moral code? Or is it something worse: that we have strayed from him? What is salvation? Is it merely that we are brought back as law-abiding citizens? Or is it something better: that we are brought back as beloved children? What is the Christian life about? Mere behavior? Or something deeper: enjoying God?...Christianity is not primarily about lifestyle change; it is about knowing God. To know and grow to enjoy him is what we are saved for...Knowing the love of God is the very thing that makes us loving. Sensing the desirability of God alters our preferences and inclinations, the things that drive our behavior: We begin to want God more than anything else.” – Michael Reeves

Recommended Books:

- *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves
- *Rejoicing in Christ*, Michael Reeves
- *Life in the Trinity* by Donald Fairbairn
- *The Trinity* by Donald Fairbairn
- *The Deep Things of God* by Fred Sanders
- *Knowing God*, by J.I. Packer
- *Communion with God*, by John Owen
- *God is the Gospel* by John Piper