PART 3 / Biblical Doctrines in the Light of the Gospel

Lesson 13 - The Godhead



Before returning to heaven Jesus commissioned His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples (followers of Christ) of all nations, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” He then added, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Now that we have covered the essential teachings of the Bible concerning the good news of the gospel, and you have by faith and baptism accepted Christ as your personal Savior, we will turn our attention to the key teachings or doctrines of Scripture.

We will begin with the Godhead, commonly referred to as The

Trinity. This doctrine is based on the Biblical truth that

there is only one God but consisting of a unity of three co-eternal, divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This truth, however, is beyond our human comprehension; for God is immortal, all-powerful, all knowing, above all, and omnipresent. Therefore, what may be known of Him through His self-revelation, we believers accept by faith.

According to Scripture, all three members of the Godhead are intimately involved in the redemption of mankind. The Father oversees the plan of salvation, the Son is the Savior of mankind, and the Holy Spirit communicates that salvation to the human race. In this study, we will discover what the Bible teaches about the persons of the Godhead and their united effort in saving fallen humanity.

1. What two pronouns indicate that the Godhead is more than one person? Genesis 1:26

The pronouns “us” and “our” clearly indicate that the Godhead consists of more than one person (see also Genesis 3:22, 11:7). In the Old Testament, the name for God is “Elohim.” In the Hebrew language, the singular for God is “El,” while the plural is “Elohim.” Thus, the very name for God points to the fact that the Godhead consists of more than one person. This is conveyed in Deuteronomy 6:4: “The Lord our God (Elohim) is one Lord.” The New Testament confirms this truth and reveals that the Godhead consists of three divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. In what three names did Jesus say believers are to be baptized? Matthew 28:19

The reason that a believer is baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit is because all three members of the Godhead are actively involved in our salvation. It is important from the very start of our Christian experience that we realize this glorious truth (read Romans 8:31-39).

3. What led the Father to give His only beloved Son to the world? John 3:16

As the chairperson of the plan of salvation, God the Father so loved the world that He sent His Son not to condemn the world, even though that is what we deserve, but to save the fallen race (see John 3:17).

4. For what two reasons did the Father send His Son into this world? Galatians 4:4, 5

By His perfect life and sacrificial death Christ made it possible to change our status from under law to under grace (see Romans 6:14). Further, by sharing His eternal life with the human race He came to redeem, we may also become the adopted sons and daughters of God. This is the good news of the gospel.

Under the law the whole world stands condemned (see Romans 3:19).

5. In order for Christ to redeem mankind, what did He have to be made? John 1:14

"The Word made flesh" means that Christ, the divine Son of God, was united to the human race and became a man. In the Incarnation, the Father, through the Holy Spirit, united the divine life of His Son to the corporate life of the human race that needed redeeming. This made Christ the second Adam (mankind) and qualified Him to be the Savior of the world, mankind's substitute.

6. What two things did Christ accomplish for His Father? John 17:4

The work the Father had given His Son to accomplish was the redemption of mankind. On the cross this work was finished (see John 19:30).

7. Because of this finished work, of what is Christ the end? Romans 10:4

The Greek word "end" can either mean "terminated" or "completed." By His perfect life and sacrificial death, Christ terminated legalism (keeping the law as a means of salvation) and became man's complete righteousness.

8. What do sinners pass from when they accept God's gift, Jesus Christ? John 5:24

9. What promise did Christ make to His disciples before leaving them? John 14:16

The word translated "comforter" or "counselor" is paracletos

(someone who is there to guide, comfort, encourage, and meet all your needs).

10. Who is this Comforter or Counselor Jesus promised? John 14:26

11. What do believers receive after the Holy Spirit has come upon them? Acts 1:8

Jesus promised His weak disciples the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out His great commission of witnessing the gospel to the world. That same power is available to us to witness Christ to our modern world. See Lesson 18 for more on spiritual gifts.

12. Of what three things does the Holy Spirit reprove or convict the world? John 16:8

Jesus takes up each of these three convictions of the Holy Spirit and defines them. Note what He says in the next three verses.

13. How did Jesus define sin in the above text? John 16:9

Why did Jesus define sin as unbelief (deliberately rejecting the convictions of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the only means of salvation)? Because it is the only sin that will keep out anyone from heaven. Every sin against the law can be forgiven because of the cross (see Galatians 3:13). But the sin of unbelief (rejecting Christ) is the unpardonable sin (see Matthew 12:31).

14. How did Jesus explain the righteousness that saves sinners? John 16:10

Since the Father sent His Son to save the world, Jesus could not return to the Father until His earthly mission was finished. The “going to the Father” means Christ obtained righteousness for mankind that fully qualifies sinners for heaven. This is the good news of the gospel.

15. Why must the world be convicted of judgment? John 16:11

When Adam sinned, the whole human race was taken captive by Satan. On the cross Jesus redeemed us from Satan’s hands (see John 12:31). Those who refuse God's gift of redemption in Christ must be warned that by this act they are deliberately choosing their destruction with Satan (see Matthew 25:41).

16. What great gospel truth does Paul reveal about God the Father? Romans 8:31

The wonderful truth about God is that He is on the side of the believers. While it is true that Satan accuses us sinners day and night (see Revelation 12:10), the good news of the gospel is that he is a defeated foe and God’s unconditional, redeeming love will never forsake us (read Romans 8:35-39).

17. What ultimate proof does Paul give that God is on the believers' side? Romans 8:32

18. What reason does Paul give that God will never accuse His people? Romans 8:33

19. Why will Jesus not condemn believers in the judgment? Romans 8:34

All three members of the Godhead are on the believer's side. The Holy Spirit convinces us that we are God's children and joint-heirs with Christ (see Romans 8:16, 17). The Father justifies us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And Jesus Himself is our Savior and Intercessor. What more can we ask for?

20. What does the knowledge of God's love for us cast out? 1 John 4:16-18

As Christians, we no longer have to fear the judgment of God. The Godhead is on our side all the way and will never let us down. With such peace, we can live above the problems and heartaches of this life.

21. What are the three-fold blessings Paul mentions in this benediction? 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is what saves us; the love of God the Father is the reason for our salvation; and the communion of the Holy Spirit is what makes salvation a reality in our lives. What a wonderful God we have!

My Response to Lesson 13

• Do you accept the Biblical truth that there is one God constituting a unity of three co-eternal, divine persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), all of whom are actively involved in your salvation?

Response: _____

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