

God, The Son, and The Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:26-27

INTRODUCTION:

We are continuing with "The Basics of Christianity" series. This morning we are going to consider the Tri-unity of God in scripture.

ILLUSTRATION:

Howard Carter was the archeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's (TOO TAN COMMONS) tomb, which was designated KV62 in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.

On November 26th, 1922, the team had reached the doorway of the tomb. Carter made a "tiny breach in the top left hand corner" of the doorway with a chisel his grandmother had given him for his 17th birthday. He was able to peer in by the light of a candle and see that many of the gold and ebony treasures were still in place. As he was peeking in through the breach, he was asked "Can you see anything?", Carter replied with the famous words: "Yes, wonderful things!"

Humans are inquisitive. We often wonder, how did we get here? Scientists have spent lifetimes looking at the world around them and the heavens above them and tried to unravel the clues to our existence.

When we peek into God's Word we learn WONDERFUL THINGS that we could never know from our own human knowledge. We soon realize that the Bible contains "gold and ebony treasures", not in material form, but in "**revelations**" as to our existence and of our Creator and why we are here. **Yes, wonderful things!**

This morning, I would like to peek into God's "Time Capsule" and see His "**gold and ebony treasures**"!

All Stand and Read Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the ^lsky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Prayer

BODY:

I. The Tri-Unity of God.

Many scriptures make it clear that there is only ONE God!

Isaiah 44:6 (NASB)

⁶ "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

Isaiah 45:5 (NASB)

⁵ "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.

The fact that God consists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is first revealed from our opening scripture from Genesis 1.

God said, 'Let **US** make man in **OUR** image, according to **OUR** likeness.'

Note....: There is only **ONE** image, and there is only **ONE** likeness - **Singular**, But the **Plural** is also used - "Let **US** make man in **OUR** image, according to **OUR** likeness". Then you see **Singular** God in verse 27 created man after His image.

Jesus made several references of Him being God.

John 10:30 (NASB)

³⁰ I and the Father are **alone**."

It by understanding the tri-unity of God that we can understand John in the opening of his Gospel.

John 1:1-3 (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² **He** was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

We also see the connection of the Holy Spirit and God in the story of Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:1-4 (NASB)

⁵ But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's **full** knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? ⁴ While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not **under** your control? Why is it that you have **conceived** this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**"

Peter is clear that lying to the Holy Spirit ... is lying to God.

The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. However, all through the Bible, God is presented as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is not three gods, but three persons in the one and only God.

Here are some key verses expressing the concept of the Trinity.

Paul concluded his second letter to the Corinthians with the following verse:

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

The nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit can be seen clearly at the **baptism of Jesus**.

Mark 1:9-11 (NASB)

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens ^[a]opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

God is three persons (The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit). Each person is divine, yet there is only **one** God.

The concept of the Trinityis a difficult..... yet an essential conceptof the faith.

Augustine, one of the greatest and earliest theologians of the Christian faith, said this: **"Anyone who denies the Trinity is in danger of losing their salvation,and anyone who tries to understand itis in danger..... of losing their mind. The truth is there is great mystery concerning the tri-unity of God."**

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)

¹² For now we see in a mirror ^[a]dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Although we cannot comprehend exactly how God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit can be one, we can be certain that God is One because it is clearly stated in His Word.

II. The Character of God.

God always was. He has no beginning, and He will have no end. He does not exist in time. He exists independent of time and space. Those things are created for us. After all that has been prophesied is fulfilled and God creates a new heavens and new earth, there will no longer be any need for time, because we who have responded to His call will all be glorified, and will have entered into eternity with Him, and we too will transcend time and space. **Another concept I can't quite get my brain around.**

God is a spirit.

John 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴ God is ^[a]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jesus confirms to us that spirits do not have physical attributes.

Luke 24:39 (NASB)

³⁹ See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

He is invisible, at least to the eye of flesh.

John 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

There are three terms that are used to describe God.

He is **Omnipresent**, meaning He is everywhere at once and there is nowhere that He is not.

He is **Omniscient**, meaning He knows all things and there is nothing He does not know.

He is **Omnipotent**, meaning He is all powerful. He is able to do whatever He wills.

He is unchangeable. That makes sense, since change takes time and God transcends time. He simply is, and exists in all of eternity at once; yet He can intervene in time to perform His perfect will and relate personally with His creation.

God is holy, God is righteous, God is good, God is truth, in the most complete and perfect sense of all those terms.

That is not by any means an exhaustive study of the general knowledge of God and His essence and attributes, but if you can get just an inkling from these things, of the immensity and eternal nature of God, it should cause us to worship Him and want to please Him.

More importantly, we should love God because He first loved us.

III. The God of Love.

We know that He loves, and time does not permit, nor am I inclined to try and list all the passages of scripture that talk about His love. John says “**God is Love**” and that pretty much covers it.

But let me give you just a couple of reminders.

John 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^[a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

God loved us so much that He was willing to send His Son to earth to die on the cross for our sins. He is also patient toward us and wants us to come to Him.

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

He created man to love Him and worship Him, because He knows that the only eternal good, the only everlasting benefit for men is in the God-given, God-enabled worship and adoration of their Creator.

When Jesus was on the cross, He prayed **“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”** He wasn’t just talking about the Roman soldiers with the hammers or the Jewish religious leaders who plotted and instigated His crucifixion.

He was asking His Father to offer forgiveness to Adam’s race; the entire race of mankind who, having broken relationship with their Creator and taken up arms against Him, had thereby become blind and deaf and stupid concerning anything apart from this world and their own selfish ambitions and lusts, in anything pertaining to God or heaven, no longer had any clue what they were really all about.

And as He was praying that prayer, He was pouring out the blood that would satisfy justice and purchase the pardon He sought for us ~ and the Father extended His forgiveness in answer to that prayer.

He tore the veil in the temple from top to bottom; the veil that covered the Holy of Holies and the mercy seat; He now made Himself available to everyone!

The unimaginable, uncreated Master, Creator and God of eternity wants a love relationship with His creation, and has stopped at nothing to gain it back; **even the sacrifice of His only begotten Son.**

In the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, God the Father forever erased the need to wonder what He is like, where He is, what He expects, what He offers, whether He cares, whether He cares for me.

He transcended time and space and took on a form we could understand and relate to and said, **“Hi, I’m God, and if you’ll come with Me, I have such wondrous things to show you, you can’t even imagine them until I make you like Me. Oh, and by the way, I love you and I will blot out all your transgressions and wipe away all your tears.”**

CONCLUSION:

ILLUSTRATION:

How long does a marriage last, if the husband wants his wife to cook for him, and clean up after him, and rub his back when it aches, and entertain his friends when they come, and watch his TV shows, but never shows one whit of interest in what she likes or doesn’t like; what her personal goals and dreams are; even, what she thinks of him?

How long does a friendship last, when one party never communicates or seeks out his friend unless he needs money or another favor, and hides if he sees that friend coming up the walk, and screens his calls with caller ID so he doesn’t have to hear his voice?

Look at Jesus and see the Father. He is real, and He is a person with feelings, and He wants you to know His ways. He wants you to know Him.

He wants you to love Him more than a friend, more than a lover, more than anything or anyone. He wants you to love Him so much that He can at any moment say, "Do this for Me", and you will rush to do His will because it is your delight to serve the One you Love.

How do we do that?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Put God first in everything you do and say, He deserves no less!

Don't be afraid of Him. Love Him. Know His ways, and **be amazed**.

Who is God? The important question is, 'Who is God to you?'

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come forward this morning and place your faith in Christ and be obedient to Him through immersion in baptism. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

I encourage you to allow Christ to make you righteous before God by stepping forward this morning during our invitation hymn.

God Be with You till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,

With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet...Till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;

Till we meet...Till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.