

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson One

God as Revealed in the Bible is Triune

Scripture Reading: Isa. 45:5; 1 Cor. 8:4; Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 3:8-11; 1 John 4:8; Col. 3:4; Matt. 28:19

I. There is only one God in the universe—Isa. 45:5; 1 Cor. 8:4:

- A. God is the creator of the universe—Gen. 1:1.
- B. God is the ruler of the universe—Rev. 22:1; 19:6.

II. Our God has an eternal purpose—Gen 1:26-27; Eph. 3:8-11:

- A. God created man in His image so that God could be expressed through man.
- B. God gave man dominion so that man could represent God, to exercise His authority, especially over His enemy.
- C. God wants to take the way of life to accomplish His eternal purpose, which means He wants to dispense Himself into us as life and everything; this is God's eternal economy—Eph. 3:8-9.

III. God is love—1 John 4:8:

- A. God has this eternal purpose and economy because He loves us—John 3:16.
- B. Because God loves us, therefore, He wants to mingle Himself with us and be one with us—John 14:20.

IV. God is our life—Col. 3:4:

- A. In order to be one with us God must give us His eternal life and nature.
- B. When we believed into the Lord, we were born of God; hence, we have received His divine life and we can partake of His divine nature—John 3:16; John 1:12-13; 3:3-6; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- C. God not only wants us to have His life, but also to have it abundantly—John 10:10b; Eph. 4:13.

V. God is triune—Matt. 28:19:

- A. Triune means three-one (Latin).
- B. God is triune—God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit are one—Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17.
- C. In order for God to dispense Himself into us He must be triune—John 4:24; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22.

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to counter the attacks in the education system and society that deny the existence of God, so we want to strengthen their understanding that God is. We need to also stress that God being triune is a wonderful yet mysterious truth in the Bible that is directly linked to the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose. We cannot understand how God is triune, but we do know why God is triune. God is triune because He loves us and wants to dispense Himself into us, and in this way He accomplishes His eternal purpose. This lesson connects God's eternal purpose with the Triune God.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 1

QUESTIONS

1. Quote two verses, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, that tell us there is only one God.
2. What does the term "Triune" mean?
3. Can you find three verses in the New Testament that refer to all Three of the Trinity?

MEMORY VERSES

Isaiah 45:5

I am Jehovah and there is no one else; / Besides Me there is no God; / I girded you, although you do not know Me.

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Ephesians 3:9-11

- 9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- 10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- 11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson Two

God Being Triune Eternally and the Essential and Economical Trinity

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:2; Eph. 1:17; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Isa. 9:6; Heb. 1:12; 7:3; 9:14; Matt. 3:16-17; John 14:10-11, 16-17; Eph. 3:14-17; John 17:5; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Eph. 1:3-14

I. The Scriptures clearly reveal to us that all Three—the Father, Son, and Spirit—are God; this does not mean, however, that They are three Gods; the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God:

- A. First Peter 1:2 says, "God the Father" and Ephesians 1:17 says, "God...the Father of glory"; these verses tell us that the Father is God.
- B. Hebrews 1:8 says, "As to the Son...O God" and John 1:1 says, "The Word was God"; these verses tell us clearly that the Son is God.
- C. Acts 5:3-4 says, "Why has Satan filled your heart that you should lie to the Holy Spirit...? You did not lie to men, but to God"; these verses definitely tell us that the Spirit is also God.

II. All Three—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are eternal:

- A. Isaiah 9:6 uses the term the "eternal Father"; hence, the Father is eternal.
- B. The Son is also eternal; Hebrews 1:12 says of the Son, "You are the same, and Your years shall not fail."
- C. The Spirit also is eternal, for Hebrews 9:14 speaks of "the eternal Spirit."

III. In Matthew 3:16-17 we see that the Father, Son, and Spirit all exist at the same time; that is, They coexist (existing at the same time) and not being in modes (stages)—Matt. 3:16-17; Eph. 3:14-17; John 1:1; 17:5.

IV. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit not only coexist but also coinhere, which means that They live within one another eternally and are not three separate Gods:

- A. John 14 clearly says that the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son (vv. 10-11); They are inseparable.
- B. The Bible goes on to say that the Son, after death and resurrection, became the Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b); the Son, in whom is the Father, has become the Spirit.
- C. Thus, the Triune God can come into the sinner; the Son comes to us as the Spirit; and when the Son comes, the Father comes as well.
- D. From one side, They are three; but from the other side, They are one because They cannot be separated.

V. In His essence, God is one; that means in His life and His being He is one, always one, eternally one; the Three always coexist from eternity to eternity and They always coinhere in oneness; Their essence, life, and being are one.

VI. In order to carry out God's tremendous purpose, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit each have a distinct function; this is the Triune God in His economy—Eph. 1:3-14:

- A. God's economy is to work Himself as life and everything into His chosen and redeemed people so that they may be His many sons and members of the Body of Christ to express Him; this is the church.

- B. This simply means that what the Father planned and the Son accomplished is applied to us by the Spirit; the Father is the planner, the Son is the accomplisher, and the Spirit is the applier.

VII. Now we see why God must be triune—He is essentially one yet economically three in order that we can enjoy Him; God's economy is to dispense His entire being into us.

FOCUS:

The burden of this lesson is to equip the young people with the truth of the essential Trinity and the economical Trinity and to inoculate them against the heresies of modalism and tritheism. In His essence God is one. But the heart's desire of this one God is to dispense Himself into us in order to produce us as His corporate expression. He accomplishes this in and by His economy. In the church life we often use the expression that we enjoy the Lord. We need to help the young people with what it means to enjoy the Lord and teach them how to enjoy Him.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapters 2 & 5

QUESTIONS

1. Give three verses that show us the Father, Son, and Spirit are all eternal.
2. What is "Modalism"? Explain with a diagram.
3. What is "Tritheism"? Explain with a diagram.
4. What is "Coinherence"?
5. What is God's economy?
6. What are the distinct functions of the Father, Son, and Spirit?
7. What does it mean when we say the Father, Son, and Spirit are "essentially" one?

MEMORY VERSES

Hebrews 1:8

But of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.

Ephesians 3:16-17

- 16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- 17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

John 14:10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

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Lesson Three

The Son Being the Embodiment of the Triune God

Scripture Reading: John 1:1; 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Isa. 9:6; John 14:9-10; Matt. 1:18, 20;
John 6:46; 2 Cor. 3:17; Col. 1:19; 2:9

- I. The Son is even the Triune God; the Bible clearly reveals to us that even though He is the Son of God, He is God Himself—John 1:1; 20:28; Phil. 2:6:**
 - A. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God.
 - B. The Son was God in the beginning (eternity past); He was God when He lived as a man two thousand years ago; He is God today and will be God forever.
- II. Another part of this mystery is that the Son is the Father; we do not know how the Son can also be the Father, but this is what the Bible says—we just believe it—Isa. 9:6; John 14:9-10.**
- III. The Bible tells us that the Son is born of the Holy Spirit; His source was the Holy Spirit; the Spirit entered and the Son came out—Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35.**
- IV. The Lord is not only from God, but also with God; while He is from God, He is still with God—John 8:16, 29; 16:27:**
 - A. The word "from" in Greek is "para," which means "by the side of"; the sense here is "from-with."
 - B. When you receive the Son, you also receive the Father, because the Father is with Him—1 John 2:23.
- V. The Son is also the Spirit:**
 - A. According to the Bible, the Son was born of the Spirit, lived according to the Spirit, worked and fought by the Spirit—Luke 4:14; Matt. 12:28.
 - B. He even became the Spirit Himself through crucifixion and resurrection; it is exceedingly clear that the Son is not only the Father, but also the Spirit in resurrection—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17.
- VI. The Son is the entire Triune God; He is not merely the second of the Trinity or only one-third of the Trinity; Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God; all the fullness of the Triune God dwells in Christ bodily—Col. 2:9.**

FOCUS:

Jesus Christ is the embodiment and expression of the Triune God. Actually, Jesus Christ is God Himself. If anyone wants God, they must come to the Lord Jesus Christ, for God can only be found in Him. The burden in this lesson is to present to the young people what we mean when we use the expression "the all-inclusive Christ" and how to enjoy Him as the all-inclusive Christ.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 3

QUESTIONS

1. What verse refers to the Son as God?
2. In what verse is the Son called the Father?
3. What verse reveals the Son is the Spirit?

MEMORY VERSES

Colossians 2:9

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 1:15

Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

Hebrews 1:3

Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

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Lesson Four

The Spirit Being the Processed and Consummated Triune God

Scripture Reading: John 4:24; 14:26; 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:3; John 1:1, 14; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

- I. We need to see that the Spirit is also the Triune God; the Spirit is not the last third of God, nor is He just a power, or a dove; He is the Triune God Himself—John 4:24.**
- II. When the Father sends the Spirit, He comes with the Spirit:**
 - A. The Father is the source and the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son—John 14:10.
 - B. So when the Spirit comes, the Father and Son also come—14:26; 15:26.
- III. In John 14:26, the Holy Spirit comes in the Son's name to be the reality of His name; "in My name" means in the Son Himself; the Spirit is the person, the being, of the Son.**
- IV. The Spirit is just the ultimate consummation, the final expression, of the Triune God:**
 - A. When we received the Spirit, we received the Triune God.
 - B. All that the Father is, planned, and willed, plus all that the Son accomplished, obtained, and attained are now made real and available to us in this Spirit—John 1:1, 14; Isa. 9:6; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to impress and equip the young people with the process that the Triune God passed through in order to be consummated as the Spirit (this will equip them for their gospel preaching). We also need to impress the young people that since the Spirit is the processed and consummated Triune God, then everything they need of God is in the Spirit. Therefore, they must learn to exercise their spirit in a practical way by exercising the functions of their spirit—conscience, fellowship and intuition—in order to contact the Triune God as the Spirit.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 4

QUESTIONS

1. Who sent the Spirit? Give references.
2. Why is it that when we call "Lord Jesus," the Spirit comes?
3. Fellowship with your companions how the entire Triune God comes with the Spirit.
4. What does it mean when we say, "The Lord went through a process"? Give references.

MEMORY VERSES

John 14:26

But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.

John 15:26

But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus is accursed; and no one can say, Jesus is Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

1 Corinthians 15:45

So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

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Lesson Five

The Divine and Human Incorporation

Scripture Reading: John 14:10, 17, 20; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:27; Col. 3:15-16

- I. The word incorporation means to mingle completely, to blend thoroughly so that there are no longer two entities but the two entities become one—John 17:21, 23.**
- II. The divine incorporation—the incorporation of the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit—John 14:10:**
 - A. Concerning Their being—They coinhere each other—John 14:10.
 - B. Concerning Their work—They are completely one—John 14:10.
- III. The divine and human incorporation—in Christ's resurrection He brings us into His divine incorporation—John 14:20:**
 - A. Concerning our being—we abide in Him and He in us—John 15:4-5.
 - B. Concerning our work—we should be one with Him, let Him do His work through us—Gal. 2:20.
- IV. The practical way to experience the divine-human incorporation:**
 - A. Let Christ make His home in our heart—Eph. 3:16-17.
 - B. Obeying the teaching of the anointing—1 John 2:27.
 - C. Let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts—Col. 3:15-16.

FOCUS:

In this lesson we want to make the truth of the divine-human incorporation very practical to the young people. Daily, even hourly, we should let Christ make His home in our hearts by letting the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts and following the anointing, which is the moving of the Spirit in our spirit. It is also very good to help the young people enter into the new terms and understanding of the high peak truths.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 6

QUESTIONS

1. Quote a verse to prove that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all in us.
2. Were you put into the Triune God? When?
3. How can we coinhere with the Triune God?
4. Testify to your companions how the Triune God recently saved you from the temptation of the world.

MEMORY VERSES

John 14:17

Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 14:20

In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1 John 2:27

And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

Colossians 3:15-16

- 15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

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Lesson Six

The Person of Christ

Scripture Reading: Rom. 9:5; John 1:1, 14, 18; Matt. 16:16; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Titus 3:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; Col. 3:4; John 4:23-24; 14:10; 5:30; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 6:6; 1 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:12

I. The first major point about Christ is that He is God, the God of eternity; the Bible tells us that Christ existed before all things—Col. 1:17; Rom. 9:5; John 1:1:

- A. He is the Son of God—the declared God—Matt. 16:16; John 1:18.
- B. He is the Creator of the universe—John 1:3; Col. 1:16.
- C. He is the Ruler and Administrator of the universe—Rev. 1:5; Rom. 15:12.

II. The Bible also reveals to us that Christ is not only God but a man as well; He is also a genuine man; this is why Christians have called Him the "God-man"—John 1:14; Acts 2:22:

- A. He is a real man—Acts 2:22.
- B. He is a sinless and perfect man—Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21.

III. Jesus Christ is the Savior—Titus 3:4-6:

- A. The meaning of the name Jesus is Jehovah the Savior—Matt. 1:21; 1 Tim. 4:10.
- B. He is the Lamb of God, bearing our sins in His body on the cross—John 1:29; 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18.
- C. He was raised from the dead for our justification—Rom. 4:25.
- D. Because He is a God-man, the redemption He has accomplished is an eternal redemption—Heb. 9:12; 10:12.
- E. He is the only Savior—Acts 4:12.

IV. Jesus Christ as “the last Adam” is the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17:

- A. In resurrection, He became the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
- B. He is our life—Col. 3:4; John 11:25.
- C. We must use the right organ—our human spirit—to contact, enjoy, and absorb Him—John 4:23-24.

FOCUS:

The burden of this lesson is that the young people might have an enhanced appreciation for the person of the Lord Jesus which would result in an increase in their personal experience of Him. He is our precious Savior. We want all our young people to always have a fresh appreciation of the Lord as their Savior. He can be our Savior because He is both the complete God and a perfect man. And He is the life-giving Spirit. Thus we can experience all of the riches of the Triune God, which includes His humanity and all the experiences in His human living. We can also use this lesson to begin applying much of what we share for a gospel burden for their friends.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 13

QUESTIONS

1. What is a heresy?
2. Why is it heretical to say that Christ was a man who later became God?
3. Which verses show that Christ is the Creator?
4. Which verses show that Christ is God?
5. Which verses show that Christ is a creature?

MEMORY VERSES

Romans 9:5

Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Acts 2:22

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man shown by God to you to be approved by works of power and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, even as you yourselves know.

2 Cor. 5:21

Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Titus 3:4-5

- 4 But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared,
- 5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

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Lesson Seven

The Work of Christ

Scripture Reading: Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 18; John 6:57; 14:10; 5:30; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 6:6; Acts 13:33; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12

I. In His incarnation—Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23:

- A. The incarnation of Christ simply means the mingling of God with humanity; when Christ was born as a man, a strange and wonderful event took place; a child was born, a child who was called the Mighty God—Isa. 9:6; John 1:1, 14.
- B. In the incarnation of Christ, God is expressed in a man—a man who is truly man, a man who lived a human life on this earth, yet who expressed God—a God-man—John 6:57; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28; 7:16-17; 14:10.

II. In His crucifixion:

- A. Thus, the death of Christ on the cross is on the one hand, the judgment of God, and on the other hand, redemption; God seized hold of the work of Satan and turned it to His own account—1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18.
- B. Another reason for Christ's death is deeper than the first; Christ had to die in order to bring the old creation, including mankind, to an end—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; 5:24.
- C. A third reason for Christ's death is that He might impart Himself to us as our life-supply; Christ had to pass through death in order to impart Himself to us as our life-supply—cf. John 6:53-56.

III. In His resurrection—Acts 13:33; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

- A. The Son of God was incarnated to be a man; but in resurrection, God begot Christ to be the firstborn Son of God among many brothers—Acts 13:33; Rom. 8:29.
- B. The resurrection of Christ was a great delivery; in the unique resurrection, Christ was born and we were regenerated, so we were His "twins" in the same delivery—1 Pet. 1:3.
- C. In this same resurrection, Christ became a life-giving Spirit; First Corinthians 15:45b clearly says this, "The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit."
- D. In His resurrection, as the life-giving Spirit, Christ is carrying out His organic salvation—Rom. 5:10.

IV. In His ascension:

- A. It was by the ascension of Christ that all the members were formed into a living Body; after Christ ascended to heaven, He baptized His whole Body by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4, 16-18, 33), and it was by this baptism in the Holy Spirit that all the members were formed into one Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:4.
- B. After His ascension, He gave many gifts: the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers; the purpose of these gifts was for the perfecting of the saints unto the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:8, 11-12.

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to apply each step of the Lord's work to the young people in a practical way. This is another lesson where we can show how the Lord came down through incarnation in order to reach man to save man, then died on the cross for man's sins and resurrected to enter into man to be man's life. All of this should help equip them for their gospel preaching.

READING MATERIALS:

The Four Major Steps of Christ, pp. 6-11, 13-20

The Practical Way to Live a Life According to the High Peak of the Divine Revelation in the Holy Scriptures, pp. 32-35

The Four Major Steps of Christ, pp. 33-39

QUESTIONS

1. What verses prove that Jesus was both God and man?
2. What is the meaning of the mingling of God and man?
3. Explain the significances of the crucifixion of Christ.
4. What are the three reasons for the death of Christ?
5. What are the intrinsic significances of the resurrection of Christ?
6. What are the accomplishments of the ascension of Christ?

MEMORY VERSES

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel” (which is translated, God with us).

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Ephesians 1: 22-23

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

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Lesson Eight

Christ's Incarnation and Human Living

Scripture Reading: John 1:1, 14; Rom. 8:3; John 6:57; 5:19, 30; 8:28-29; 14:10;
Eph. 6:1-3; Mark 10:45; 2 Tim. 2:22

- I. Incarnation is the first major step that Christ took to accomplish God's purpose; incarnation means that God became a man; He took on flesh and blood—John 1:14; Heb. 2:14:**
 - A. The descriptions of Christ's conception and birth in Matthew and Luke clearly indicate that He is God Himself—Matt. 1:20-23; Luke 1:31-35.
 - B. When Jesus was conceived, God sent the angel Gabriel who said, "The holy thing which is born will be called, Son of God" (Luke 1:32, 35); throughout the Gospels, Jesus is called the Son of God (Matt. 3:17; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54).
- II. The Lord's incarnation also occurred through Mary, a human virgin; this gave Jesus the human essence—Luke 2:21-24:**
 - A. Although He was the Son of God, many times Jesus called Himself "the Son of Man"—Matt. 8:20; 9:6; 26:64; John 1:51; 3:13; 6:27.
 - B. Although the Lord became flesh, He was without sin; although the Lord had the likeness of Adam, He did not inherit the sinful nature of Adam—Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15.
- III. When Christ was born as a man, God was brought into man and thereby formed a mingling of divinity with humanity; therefore, He is a Person with two essences—divinity and humanity—mingled together.**
- IV. The facts prove that Christ was a genuine man, in every way He was an ordinary man—Matt. 9:10-11; Luke 7:36; John 12:2; 4:6-7; 11:33, 35.**
- V. On the one hand the Lord was ordinary, but on the other hand He was unique; His human living was absolutely proper, fine and perfect:**
 - A. Obedient—Luke tells us that when Jesus was twelve years old, He cared for the things of His Father and at the same time was subject to His parents—Luke 2:49-51.
 - B. Serving—The humanity of Jesus is one that serves, not one to be served; we need such a humanity to serve others diligently—Mark 10:45.
 - C. No appearance of evil—In His ministry, the Lord contacted many kinds of people; He cared for their salvation yet always contacted them in a way which gave no appearance of evil—cf. John 3:1-2; 4:6-7, 27.
 - D. Having the finest personality—The Lord's personality was the finest; He was meek, gentle, approachable, lowly in heart and balanced in every way—cf. Matt. 11:29; 19:14; Luke 7:38-39; John 13:23; Matt. 21:12-13; Luke 10:21.
- VI. The Lord Jesus was not just a good man; He was a man filled with God; His divinity was expressed through His humanity; this is why we are so struck by the fineness, loveliness, and balance of His humanity.**
- VII. The Lord Jesus lived His human life fully by the Father; although He was God in the flesh, He never took the position of God but lived as a man for God and with God—John 6:57; 5:30; 7:16; 8:50, 29b; 10:30.**
- VIII. God wants a group of people who are filled with Him and express Him—just like the Lord Jesus; for this we must have the proper humanity, which is the basic structure and strength of the church.**

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson and in the forthcoming lessons is threefold: 1) To impress the young people with how crucial it is for us to have a proper humanity for the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose. 2) To expose Satan's attack on the humanity of young people in today's generation and to speak a strong word of inoculation and warning. 3) To give the young people a practical way to appropriate and experience the fine and balanced humanity of Jesus—eating Jesus is the way!

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapters 14-15

QUESTIONS

1. What verses prove that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit?
2. What does the title "Son of God" reveal?
3. What does the title "Son of Man" reveal?
4. Why is it so important for Christ to have flesh and blood yet to be without sin?
5. Which verses prove that Jesus was a genuine man?
6. Which verses prove that Jesus was a perfect man?
7. Which verses show that Jesus lived by the Father's life and worked by the Spirit's power?
8. Explain how the highest, finest, and perfect humanity of Jesus is our present need for the church life.

MEMORY VERSES

Romans 8:3

For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

John 6:57

As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 5:19

Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

2 Timothy 2:22

But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson Nine

Christ's Crucifixion

Scripture Reading: John 10:15; Heb. 12:2; John 1:29; Heb. 10:10-12; 9:28; 1 John 1:9;
John 3:15; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15

- I. **“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”—John 1:29:**
 - A. When man fell from God, God righteously had to require man to pay for those sins by the shedding of blood; Christ came as the real Lamb of God—John 1:29.
 - B. In the Old Testament, God required those sacrificial lambs to be without spot or blemish; Christ was indeed without spot or blemish—Exo. 12:5; cf. Heb. 9:28; 10:10, 12; Matt. 26:28.
 - C. God is absolutely righteous; because Christ already died for us, He must instantly forgive us when we confess our sins—1 John 1:9.
- II. **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up”—John 3:14; Num. 21:4-9:**
 - A. When the Lord Jesus was crucified on the cross, He was lifted up as the brass serpent; He died so that the serpent might be destroyed—Heb. 2:14.
 - B. The brass serpent had only the likeness of a serpent; it did not have the poisonous nature; in the same way, Christ was made in the likeness of the flesh of sin yet He had no sin—Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15.
- III. **“The Adam became a life-giving Spirit”—1 Cor. 15:45b:**
 - A. The first Adam failed God to the uttermost and thus brought all of mankind into a fallen condition; instead of expressing God, man expresses Satan—cf. Rom. 8:20-22.
 - B. God had to terminate the first man Adam and all of Adam's race; when Christ died as the last Adam He also terminated the entire old creation—1 Cor. 15:45b.
- IV. **The peacemaker—“For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity... that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace”—Eph. 2:14-15:**
 - A. One result of man's fall is division; God wanted man to express Him in oneness, but man became separated into many races, nationalities, and classes.
 - B. Now in Christ there is no Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, black or white; the cross terminated all such differences—Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11.
- V. **“Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”—John 12:24:**
 - A. The life of a grain of wheat is concealed within the outer shell; when the grain falls into the ground, the shell breaks and the life inside is released.
 - B. In the same way, Christ's divine life was concealed within the "shell" of His body; His death on the cross broke that shell so His divine life could be released—v. 24.
- VI. **The Lord's crucifixion was neither a small nor simple event; it was an all-inclusive death; through it God cleaned up every negative thing and released His divine life!**

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to continue to labor on the matter of the humanity of Jesus in the young people's living. For this, we need to show them how the Lord's death on the cross terminated every negative thing in the universe and then apply these various aspects of Christ's crucifixion to the young people in a practical way. We need to help them see how to apply this in their daily lives and make the death of Christ not a doctrine nor merely a story, but something that applies to them in their living.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapters 16-17

QUESTIONS

1. What was the goal of Christ's incarnation and human living?
2. Why must Christ die as the Lamb of God as well as the brass serpent?
3. How can we apply what Christ has accomplished to our lives?
4. Explain the meaning and significance of Christ being the last Adam.
5. What does Ephesians 2:14-16 reveal to us regarding Christ's being the peacemaker?
6. Why did Christ use the death of a grain of wheat to illustrate His death?

MEMORY VERSES

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

Ephesians 2:14-15

- 14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
- 15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

John 12:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson Ten

Christ's Resurrection

Scripture Reading: John 11:25; Acts 2:32, 24; Rev. 1:17-18; Heb. 2:14; John 12:31; Rom. 1:3-4; Acts 13:33; John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 20:22

- I. The raising of the man Jesus Christ shows God's approval of His Person and work; God vindicated Christ's crucifixion by raising Him up from the dead—John 11:25; Acts 2:32; 3:15; Heb. 5:7.**
- II. Since He is such an ever-living One, death is not able to keep Him; He delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to hold Him—Acts 2:24:**
 - A. In His resurrection, the Lord Jesus also took away the authority of death and Hades; death is subject to Him and Hades is under His control—Rev. 1:17-18.
 - B. Christ's resurrection is also a testimony of His victory over Satan and the world; the Lord took care not only of Satan, but also of Satan's system, the world—Heb. 2:14; John 12:31.
- III. When Christ was on earth, He was God concealed within a physical body; but through Christ's death and resurrection, the God who was concealed within Him was released and made known; this display is what we call Christ's glorification—John 17:1.**
- IV. In resurrection, Christ was designated the Son of God in His humanity; Christ was designated out of this resurrection as the Son of God with this human nature—Rom. 1:3-4:**
 - A. As a divine Person, Christ was the Son of God before His incarnation; but that part of Him which was Jesus with the flesh, born of Mary, was not the Son of God.
 - B. By His resurrection, Christ has sanctified and uplifted His human nature, His humanity; He was designated out of this resurrection as the Son of God with this human nature—Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; Rom. 1:4-5.
- V. In His resurrection, Christ became a life-giving Spirit; this means that in His resurrection, He was transfigured into the Spirit—John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17.**
- VI. It was through His resurrection that the Lord was able to impart Himself as the life-giving Spirit into all His disciples; He released His divine life and propagated Himself into many people to make them the church—John 20:22; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:11.**

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to apply the various aspects of Christ's resurrection to the young people in a practical way in their daily lives. We need to impress them that the all-inclusive Spirit who lives in them has overcome death and has the keys of death and Hades. This is another opportunity to stress with them the way to experience the Lord's resurrection is by the exercise of our spirit in the three functions of fellowship, intuition, and conscience. This will help them to be the best "receivers" of the Spirit!

READING MATERIALS:

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of God raising Christ from the dead.
2. Explain why Christ was raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25).
3. Discuss the significance of Christ's victory over Satan, death, and the world.
4. What verses substantiate Christ's resurrection?
5. Explain how Christ's divine life was glorified.
6. Christ was the Son of God before His resurrection. Why does Romans 1:3-4 say that He was designated the Son of God out of the resurrection?
7. Which two verses clearly tell us that Christ is now the Spirit?
8. Why was Christ called the "only begotten Son" in John 1:18, but called the "Firstborn" in Romans 8:29?

MEMORY VERSES

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live.

Acts 2:24

Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Revelation 1:17b-18

Do not fear; I am the First and the Last and the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Hebrews 2:14

Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

John 20:22

And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson Eleven

Christ's Ascension

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:8; Acts 2:36; Eph. 1:22; 4:8; Acts 5:31; Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:9; Rev.1:5; Heb. 4:14-15; 7:25; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; Col. 3:4; Luke 24:49; Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19

- I. In His ascension, Christ was made the Lord; the little man from Nazareth has been made Head over all things—Acts 2:36; Eph. 1:21; 4:8.**
- II. In His ascension, Jesus was also made the Christ; "Christ" means that He is God's Anointed One to accomplish God's plan—Acts 2:36.**
- III. The Lord's ascension was His inauguration; He was the Christ and the Lord, but this was not official until His ascension—Acts 5:31; Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:9.**
- IV. In His ascension, Christ has a heavenly ministry; He is Ruler of the kings of the earth, Head over all things to the church, and our great High Priest:**
 - A. As Ruler of kings, Christ is administrating (controlling and arranging) all the governments and events on this earth; the purpose of this administration is for the spreading of the gospel—Rev. 1:5.
 - B. Christ also exercises His headship; as Head over all things to the church, He works to gain His chosen vessels—Eph. 1:21-22.
 - C. The ascended Christ is also ministering to our inward need; Hebrews tells us that Christ is our great High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses—Heb. 4:14-15; 7:25.
- V. Through Christ's resurrection and ascension, we have received both the inward content of life and the outward equipment of power; the first is essential and the second is economical—John 20:22; Acts 2:1-4:**
 - A. The essential (inward) aspect—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:6:
 1. As the Spirit, the Lord regenerated us; our spirit is now born of the Spirit and Christ now dwells in our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22.
 2. It is by the Spirit that we enjoy Christ as our inward life; He is the Spirit that gives life—Col. 3:4; John 6:63.
 3. When we enjoy Christ in this way, He becomes our inward content; as such, He is the content of the church; as the Body of Christ, we need to be filled with Christ as our life.
 - B. The economical (outward) aspect—Luke 24:49:
 1. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Body on the day of Pentecost; this baptism of the Holy Spirit was not for life essentially but for power and authority economically—Acts 1:4-5, 8; Luke 24:49.
 2. The authority and power of the Spirit were to equip the disciples for the Lord's work—Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15.
- VI. Now we can enjoy and experience the life-giving Spirit as our life and life supply and we can be clothed with Him economically to dispense Him to others; our essential enjoyment of the Lord is so that we may work economically to spread Him into others—Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19.**

FOCUS:

The burden in this lesson is to apply the various aspects of Christ's ascension to the young people in a practical way in their daily lives. On one hand, in His ascension, as our High Priest, He is interceding for us and caring for us. On the other hand, in His ascension, He is carrying out His economy for the accomplishment of His eternal purpose. We need to join Him and be one with Him for the accomplishment of His purpose by experiencing Him as economical Spirit, primarily by preaching the gospel and by speaking for the Lord in the church meetings.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapters 21-22

QUESTIONS

1. How wonderful it is that Jesus was made Lord, Head over all things. Why?
2. How is the Lord's ascension His inauguration?
3. What are the three greatest offices to which Christ was inaugurated at His ascension? How does He minister in these offices?
4. As the Lord of all, can Christ do everything by Himself? Does He need help? Who are His helpers? How can they help?
5. What does "essential" mean? What does "economical" mean?
6. How did Christ, as the Spirit, produce the church with both the essential and economical aspects?
7. When did the disciples first experience both aspects of the Spirit?
8. How can we experience both aspects of the Spirit?

MEMORY VERSES

Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

Acts 5:31

This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Philippians 2:9

Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood.

Hebrews 7:25

Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

Lesson Twelve

Christ's Second Coming

Scripture Reading: Matt. 24:36; Rev. 3:3; 16:15; Matt. 24:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12; Matt. 25:10, 21, 23; Rev. 1:7; 2:26; 14:14; 16:13-16; 19:11-21; 20:1-4

- I. We must be very clear about the aspect of the Lord's (parousia) secret coming—Matt. 24:3:**
 - A. The day and the hour of the Lord's (parousia) return no one knows, "but the Father only"—Matt. 24:36.
 - B. At the proper time, Christ will begin to descend from the throne; this descent is hidden and secret—Rev. 3:3; 16:15.
- II. Before the end of the great tribulation, Christ will have descended to a place in the air to set up His judgment seat; we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive either reward or punishment—Matt. 24:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12:**
 - A. We will be judged in two areas: maturity in life and faithfulness in service; to be mature in life means that the Christ who came into us has fully grown up till every part of our soul is filled with Him—Matt. 25:1-30.
 - B. To be faithful in service means to be faithful in outward works; these include preaching the gospel for others to be saved, serving in the church, and functioning in the church meetings.
 - C. To meet the Lord, we must be proper and balanced in these two areas—life essentially and service economically—vv. 10, 21, 23.
- III. After the wedding feast, Christ will openly descend to the earth, no longer as a thief but rather with power and great glory; He will be seen by all the tribes of the holy land—Rev. 1:7; 14:14; Matt. 24:27, 30:**
 - A. When Christ comes openly, He will come with the overcoming saints to fight against Antichrist and his armies which will be gathered against Israel at a place in the Middle East called Armageddon—Rev. 16:13-16; 19:11-21.
 - B. There the Lord will exterminate the evil worldly forces and will save Israel; Satan will be bound and the thousand-year kingdom will begin—19:20-21; 20:1-4.
- IV. The principle of the Lord's second coming is that we must be mature so that we may escape the coming great tribulation and receive a reward rather than a punishment at the judgment seat of Christ; this requires us to daily turn our hearts to the Lord to love Him, to be filled with Him, and to serve Him—cf. Matt. 25:1-30.**

FOCUS:

The burden in this final lesson is to impart into the young people a desire for the Lord's coming and to give them a practical way to prepare for the Lord's coming—the preparation in life and the preparation in work. These two aspects of life and work are related to the experience of the essential and economical aspects of the Spirit covered in Lesson 11.

READING MATERIALS:

Lesson Book, Level 2: The Triune God- The Triune God and the Person and Work of Christ, chapter 23

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the secret coming and the open coming of Christ. Give references.
2. Who are the firstfruits?
3. What should we do to prepare ourselves for the judgment seat of Christ?

MEMORY VERSES

Matthew 24:36

But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but the Father only.

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 16:15

(Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments that he may not walk naked and they see his shame.)

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12

Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.