

Message Four

Christ as the Center of the Processed Triune God

JL Hymns: 608, 609

Scripture Reading: Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17; 13:14

- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

I. The clearest revelation of the Divine Trinity is in Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit":

A. *Into the name* denotes the person:

1. To be baptized is to be baptized into the name, the person, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, into the organic union with the processed Triune God.
2. The word *into* in 28:19 indicates union, as in Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27, and 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Gal 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Cor 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.

3. To baptize people into the name of the Triune God is to baptize them into the spiritual and mystical union with Him.
4. In Matthew 28:19 there is one name for the Divine Trinity:

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

a. The name is the sum total of the Divine Being, equivalent to His person.

b. To baptize believers into the name of the Triune God is to immerse them into all that the Triune God is.

B. God is three-in-one—2 Cor. 13:14:

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. In Matthew 28:19 the Lord spoke of three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2. When He spoke here of the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, *name* is singular in the original text.
3. This means that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are three, yet the name is one.
4. One name for three persons is really mysterious and reveals that God is three-in-one.
5. This name includes the three—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
6. Although God is uniquely one, yet there are three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

II. As believers in Christ, we have been baptized into the processed Triune God:

- A. The charge given in Matthew 28:19 was given by the Lord Jesus after He had entered into resurrection, which was the consummation of the process of the Triune God.
Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- B. The Triune God has passed through a process that began with incarnation, included human living and crucifixion, and consummated with resurrection.
- C. In resurrection Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, became the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17.
1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- D. This Spirit is the consummation of the Triune God for the believers to be baptized into the Divine Trinity.
- E. To be baptized into the person of the Triune God is to be baptized into the all-inclusive, consummated Spirit who is the ultimate consummation of the processed Triune God:
 - 1. This is to be baptized into the riches of the Father, into the riches of the Son, and into the riches of the Spirit.
 - 2. As the baptized ones, we are now in an organic union with the Triune God; therefore, whatever the Father has, whatever the Son has, and whatever the Spirit has have become ours.
- F. To be baptized into the name of the Triune God is to be put into a mystical union with Him and to appropriate whatever God is into our being.

III. Christ is the center of the processed Triune God—2 Cor. 13:14:

- 2 Cor 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A. *Processed* refers to the crucial steps through which the Triune God has passed:
 - 1. Before His incarnation God was unprocessed, having the divine nature but not the human nature, but through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the Triune God was processed and consummated.
 - 2. In Revelation the Triune God is the processed and consummated Triune God with divinity, humanity, human living, the all-inclusive death, the powerful resurrection, and the transcendent ascension—1:4-5.
Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
Rev 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
 - B. The processed and consummated Triune God is the Spirit—22:17a; John 7:39:

Rev 22:17a And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! ...

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

 - 1. The Spirit is the totality, the aggregate, of all the elements of the titles of the Spirit of God—Matt. 3:16; 10:20; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6.
Matt 3:16 And having been baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him.
Matt 10:20 For you are not the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is the One speaking in you.
Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.
Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce

- the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!
2. As the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God, the Spirit is the blessing of God's New Testament economy—3:14.

Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- C. The Triune God in Revelation is the building and builded God—21:18-19a, 21:
- Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
- Rev 21:19a The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: ...
- Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
1. The Bible consummates in the New Jerusalem, which is the very God who was in the beginning—Gen. 1:1; Rev. 21:10:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

 - a. The unique God is eventually enlarged and expanded into a city for His eternal expression.
 - b. In His economy God has become the New Jerusalem—v. 10.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
 - c. In the New Jerusalem the Triune God is wrought into His chosen and redeemed people—vv. 18-19a, 21a.

Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Rev 21:19a The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: ...

Rev 21:21a And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. ...
 2. The God who has become the New Jerusalem is the building and builded God—2 Sam. 7:12, 14a; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17:

2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

 - a. The processed and consummated Triune God as the source, the element, and the essence is building the church by building Himself into our being—v. 17.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
 - b. God is fulfilling His desire to build Himself in Christ into our being and to build us into His being; eventually, the outcome of this building will be the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2, 10.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

D. In the book of Revelation, we have the consummate revelation of the Divine Trinity for the divine dispensing—22:1-2; 7:17a; 21:6b; John 4:14b:

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev 7:17a For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; ...

Rev 21:6b ... I will give to him who thirsts from the spring of the water of life freely.

John 4:14b ... but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

1. The divine dispensing is God's imparting of Himself into His chosen and redeemed people as their life, life supply, and everything—2 Cor. 13:14.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2. In the divine dispensing, the Father is the fountain, the Son is the spring, and the Spirit is the flow.