

# The Comforter

Isaiah 40:1 "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people...."

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## The Trinity

Elder Adam Green

One of the most basic Old Baptist doctrines is the doctrine of the Trinity. There are many people in the religious world who do not hold to the doctrine, either from sheer defiance of Scriptural principles, or from ignorance. The following points are simply a list of the reasons I do hold to the Doctrine of the Trinity as being true, and in accordance with Scripture.

1. At Christ's baptism, Christ was in the water. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit was in the form of a dove and landed on Christ's shoulder. If Christ is the Holy Spirit, then why would the Scripture not say that the Holy Spirit was in the form of a man, since Christ was indeed present?

The Father spoke from Heaven and said "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." Now, if there is no Trinity, then God sat on his own shoulder and called himself his own Son. God is being severely misrepresented if this is so, for the picture that is given shows a distinction of persons. Even our own knowledge of language would call the preceding absurd.

2. Jesus said in John 15:26, that He would send the Comforter to his disciples from the Father. If the Trinity is not so, then Christ would be sending himself, from himself. Christ makes a special point here to show that he and the Comforter (Holy Spirit) are two different persons. If

the Christ is the Holy Spirit, why would He not say "I will come as the Comforter."?

3. In several occasions, we find Christ praying to the Father. Was Christ simply putting on a show and praying to Himself? Why would he go alone into the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41&42) to pray to Himself, and say to Himself, "...not my will, but Thine be done."?

4. I John 5:7 says that there are indeed three that are in Heaven, but these three agree in one and are One. Some try to make the statement that the three persons of the Godhead are simply different manifestations of the same person, but that is supposed to apply to how God is manifested to us here on earth. Why would there be plural manifestations of God in Heaven?

5. The following is to me one of the most critical reasons for the truth of the Trinity. On many, many different occasions found in the Bible, Jesus makes reference to His Father as if His Father was a different person than Christ Himself. You find this all through the Gospels, from the mouth of Jesus Himself. If Christ is actually the Father, and there is no difference, no three distinct persons in the Godhead different in activity but not in Will, then what does that say about Christ? If Christ and the Father are the same person, then Christ was **intentionally deceiving** his disciples by His use of words, by making them think that He considered

the Father to be a person different from Himself. He would either be lying or mentally disturbed. If that is the case, His deity is defied, and we have no hope of salvation through Him. That is an important fact to consider.

I do realize that the Trinity is hard to comprehend. But, just like the eternal nature of God, we may not be able to understand it, but we are obligated to believe it. It is the same with Creation and a host of other attributes about God. The fact that we cannot fully comprehend a fact makes it no less true.

### **“She Hath Done What She Could”**

Elder Tom Griffin

Shortly before His death, as He sat eating supper, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed Jesus with precious ointment. Jesus’ disciples objected to this “waste” of 300 pence (incidentally, this was nearly a year’s wages), but Jesus defended her saying in Mark 14:8-9, among other things, that “She hath done what she could” and what “she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

As God’s people we are expected to do many things in obedience to His word. For example, in Ephesians 4:32 He tells us to “be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” He also commands us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “Pray without ceasing” and in Matthew 6:9-13 teaches us how to do so. In Hebrews 10:25, He requires that we not forsake “the assembling of ourselves together”, i.e., that we should attend church regularly and calls it our

“reasonable service” in Romans 12:1. In fact, these instructions, as well as many that I have not listed, are ALL “reasonable”. God even tells us in 1 John 5:3 that to show our love for Him we should “keep his commandments: and his commandments are NOT GREIVIOUS.” (emphasis added).

God never asks us to do things we can’t do. Things like paying our sin debt, the new birth and resurrecting these bodies are His job. Ours is to do what we can. What better memorial can we have than to be remembered as one who tried to do everything we could in His service and to hear the Savior say when He greets us in Heaven, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”.

### **SEEK YE MY FACE**

by Elder Steve Woods

Before I begin this article, a little sentimentalism seems in order. As this year draws to a close, I am reminded of the former editor of this paper, Elder Charles Surbaugh. I remember gentleness and kindness. I remember charity. I remember faith and hope. I remember Charley loved me. This paper is in good hands and the same things I said of Elder Surbaugh are true of today’s editor and I thank God he continues to raise up men to preach, but also that he stirs their hearts to labor in the publication of good papers like this, even if digital versions. Whether you are reading this on an electronic device or holding an old-fashioned paper in your hands, take a moment to thank God that he still

encourages our hearts via the writings of men who love him.

**Psalm 27:8 (KJV16)** “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.” (1)

What does it mean to “seek his face”? The Scripture says “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face....”, when did the LORD say that? He has always said it. He has revealed his will to us, we often hear folks say I will seek the LORD's will on this or that but the Scripture never instructs us verbatim to do that, the Scripture rather teaches us his will. Instead, the Scripture often says “Seek his face” and “Seek the Lord”. Have you seen his face?

Certainly, a wooden literalism approach is not appropriate here. We will see his face on that eternal day but for now we must understand what he means for us to do when we seek his face. Let Scripture answer Scripture: **Psalm 105:4 (KJV16)** Seek the Lord, and his strength: seeke his face evermore.

Scripture answers this as saying seeking the Lord and his strength is synonymous with seeking his face. In times of trouble we are to seek the Lord's deliverance, we are to “stand still and see the salvation of the LORD”. Recently, we had some trouble and my darling bride said “you need to pray and let the LORD fix this” and oh how right she was! If I had tried to do anything (other than pray, which is what I did), then

it would have only made matters worse, but pray I did and the LORD did deliver!

Oh how often we want to fix things. Men may be worse than women at trying to “fix this myself” and how often have we taken it apart only to discover we cannot put it back together! Lord help me! Did you know that was Bible? Did you know Isaiah spoke prophetically of Christ in human flesh when he wrote: *For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.* (KJV Isaiah 50:7)

Lord, help me! That is my prayer. That is how I seek his face, I acknowledge that the one in whom I need to put my faith and my trust is the one who made the earth with his breath, by merely speaking and it was done. The one with all power to stretch the heavens above and make the stars also. How magnificent is even light itself! Notice what Peter said in his instructions to all of us (in a general epistle, meaning to all saints in general as opposed to particular letters to certain churches): *Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.* (1 Peter 4:19 (KJV16)) Let us first understand Peter's reason for the use of 'faithful Creator' then follow his commandment and commit the keeping of our soul(s) to him... why faithful Creator? Why not Saviour? Why not Redeemer? The first designation of our God by himself in the book about him that he gave to us is “In the beginning, God....” and God here is from the Hebrew 'elohim' which literally means “The Mighty Ones”

but a singular verb is used in connection with this plural noun (elohim).

This is our first hint of a 'three in one God' (Father, Son and Holy Ghost) but also it is the name used in association with the might Creator of Heaven and Earth. Our God is powerful, he is of all power, he is of all wisdom (just power alone would not suffice to create such a magnificent universe) He is the owner of all knowledge, wisdom, power and love and He alone is able to manage not only the universe but each and every one of his own choosing. His love for you is not alone, it is coupled with the power and the wisdom to ensure your safe keeping, your well being, your direction, your joy and all things necessary for life in this time world. Commit the keeping of your soul to him and you can rest in his love. Seek his face and seek his strength for in his strength is your security, your knowledge of his power and love and wisdom to care for you. As Peter said "casting all our cares upon him for he careth for you". Seek his face today. Seek his face always.

Consider what I have written and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

### **The Free Gift**

Romans 5:18, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

I was recently asked by a precious Bible student, "If eternal salvation is a free gift, what is your response to those who say you must accept any gift?" The statement "you must accept any gift," undoubtedly was spoken by someone who believes that eternal salvation is offered by God and received by those who will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. The answer to the question is found in an understanding of the condition of the recipient of eternal salvation before they are saved (or before they are recipients of the free gift). By reading the entire fifth chapter of Romans we learn that the recipient of eternal grace (one who is saved by grace), in their natural condition is not able nor willing to receive the free gift. Please consider:

(1) In nature our inability to do any good thing! Romans 5:6 reads, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Paul did not say we were low on strength, weak in strength or even individuals who were short of enough strength, but "WITHOUT STRENGTH", which means we didn't have any. Ephesians 2:1 and Colossians 2:13 teaches we were dead in sins. Have you ever offered a gift to a dead person who had no strength to lift their arms to receive and said, "if you will reach your arms up here and get it, you can have this free gift?" Of course not, but if we say that eternal salvation must be actively accepted by the recipient, we

are basically saying a dead man can reach up and get it. The Bible says “no man can” do what some teach he can (John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 3:3).

(2) In nature we are unwilling to receive any good thing! Romans 5:10 reads, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,...” A depraved sinner is not only without ability to do good and come to God, he/she is unwilling. If the free gift was simply offered to depraved man, he/she will not receive it. Isaiah 26:10, “Let favor be shewed to the wicked, yet WILL HE NOT learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and WILL NOT behold the majesty of the LORD.” Job 21:14, “Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we DESIRE NOT the knowledge of thy ways.” John 5:40, “And ye WILL NOT come to me, that ye might have life.” The emphasis in these three examples are mine, and there to show the attitude of a depraved sinner who is dead in sins, unable and unwilling to receive the gift of themselves. The Bible declares it plainly that before one is eternally saved by God’s grace, they do not do any good thing (Psalms 14:1-3; Psalms 53:1-3; Romans 3:9-12).

Now after a careful consideration of this information it should be easily grasped that in order for one to be saved God must needs bring the salvation (free gift) to them. Not just simply offer but bring it to the recipient and directly impart it unto

them (Titus 2:11). This is what is referred to as Salvation by Grace and Grace alone. God brings the free gift; God gives the free gift; and by His power the recipients have the free gift. Any other way would teach all the deceased infants, the mentally incapable, and the physically challenged in hell. How would they respond to receive? Impossible. I refuse to believe it, because the Bible teaches Grace and Grace alone is how all have eternal life. The Bible teaches us that all are saved eternally the same way, John 3:8, “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, or whither it goeth: so is EVERY ONE that is born of the Spirit” (emphasis mine). The blankets on the clothes line didn’t say, come on wind blow on me. The blankets on the clothes line didn’t say, it’s ok wind, I will receive you now. No, the wind just came, and the blankets showed the evidence. So it is with God’s eternal grace, He works and we see the evidence of His work by the good works of those He has saved by His Grace. Amen!

### **Resolution of Respect**

We, the membership of Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church, Bond County, Illinois, bow in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father in calling Carl M. Jacobs from our midst. We feel great sorrow and loss in his passing, but we realize God’s mercy is far above our ability to comprehend and our loss is his gain.

Carl M. Jacobs was born July 15, 1924, in Albion, Illinois, the son of John and Mary (Gill) Jacobs. He joined Mt. Nebo in July Of 2014 and was baptized by Elder Willie Huffine. Carl passed away November 8, 2019. His funeral service was conducted November 29, 2019 at Mt. Nebo. The service was conducted by his grandson

Chaplain Anthony Silano. Carl was married to Doris Mollet on August 25, 1948. They enjoyed 71 years together.

He is survived by his wife Doris as well as four daughters; Ginger Hanley (Marty), Brenda Silano, Sara Contivita (John) and Rebecca Jacobs (Ed Richter). He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 4 great granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Norma.

Carl was a graduate of the University of Illinois Agricultural Engineering Department. He was an Army Air Force World War II veteran. He served as a navigator of a B-29 in the Pacific Islands of Tinian and Okinawa.

He had a successful career as an insurance broker. He was known for his generosity, kind smile and positive outlook.

### **Deacon Ordination @ Mt. Nebo**

On October 19, 2019, at Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church, Bond County, Illinois, an ordination of deacons was conducted.

Three members were ordained as deacons. Those members were: Brethren David Haas, Nathan Haas and Bill Zobrist.

The service was conducted by Elders Willie Huffine, Daniel Hopper, Roger Smith, Robert Webb and Rob Webb. Also participating were deacons Marshall Mollet and Melford "Bud" Ridings.

The newly ordained deacons have a rich heritage in the Primitive Baptist Church. Brethren David and Nathan Haas are the great, great grandsons of the late Elder John Willeford and the great grandsons of the late Elder T. Leo Dodd and the late Deacon Mike W. Mollet. They are the grandsons of Deacon Marshall Mollet.

Bill is the grandson-in-law of the late Deacon Urban Ridings and the nephew-in-law of Deacon Melford "Bud" Ridings.

### **Lessons from My Dad**

I recently talked to a precious sister in our area, Sister Alice Bates, the wife of Elder Harvey Bates. During our conversation she mentioned my dad, Elder Wayne Myers. She mentioned about the manner of graciousness and hospitality that he extended to her on her first visit to my home church, Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, in Brookhaven, MS. She explained how she was made to feel like a member of Antioch although she was a visitor and how "at home" she was made to feel.

I was so reminded of that this morning when I read the news about a church who was telling their older members to quit coming to the church because they were hindering the growth of the church. This article went on to say that this particular church would be closing its doors for a while so it could relaunch itself at a later date. This effort was to be made to modernize the worship services and attract younger couples.

Friends, the world and the church do not mesh. Friendship with the world is enmity against God. Worship service should include singing, prayer and preaching. If it takes fanfare to get you to come to church, then you are coming for the wrong reason. John 4:24 states, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth."

When I hear of all of these "gimmicks" that are being used to get people to church, I always remember the words of Elder Ricky D. Harcrow, "If you can get them with a hotdog, someone else can get them with a hamburger." Brothers and Sisters let's open our heart to those who want to worship. Welcome those who have a desire to learn of Old Baptist Doctrine. And love those who are already there!

