

Passed From Death

John 5:19-24



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FOCAL John 5:19-24 KJV "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. {20} **For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.** {21} For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. {22} **For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:** {23} That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him. {24} **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."**

At the heart of the Christian faith there is a truth that you will live your whole life and never fully understand - but it is a truth, an enigma, that you must accept by faith. That truth is the Doctrine of the Trinity. Now, I can't fully explain the Doctrine of the Trinity. I can give you a brief explanation of the doctrine as we frail humans know it. The Bible teaches that there is *only One God*, but this *One God* is in *Three Distinct and Separate Persons*. Within the Godhead there is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When I typed the words "Trinity Explained" in an Internet search engine, I was quickly informed that there are about 622,000 pages on that monstrous system that attempt to explain the Trinity of God. I want to tell you, Beloved, that

The Trinity is a concept that was introduced in the in the Old Testament especially in the Torah - but that concept is so lofty that it was not fully unveiled until God the Son, the Second Person of the Godhead, came to this earth.

In the New Testament we see the clearest presentations of the Trinity. For example, at the baptism of Christ:

Mark 1:9-11 NIV At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. {10} As **Jesus was coming up** out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the **Spirit descending** on him like a dove. {11} And a **voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."**

Luke 3:21-22 NIV When all the people were being baptized, **Jesus was baptized** too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened {22} and the **Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.** And a **voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love;** with you I am well pleased."

you can clearly see God the Son being baptized, God the Holy Spirit descending to Jesus, and God the Father commending Jesus to the multitudes.

In the early Church a number of theories developed concerning the Trinity of God. As a matter of fact one group, the Modalists, still exist today. They taught that God is One Person Who *presented or modeled Himself* in three *different forms* to us. Yet the Scripture does not allow us to entertain this idea. In the earliest portion of the Bible we read:

Genesis 1:25-27 KJV "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. {26} And **God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. {27} So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

You don't have to be a Hebrew scholar to see that **God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness** shows that there is a plurality of Person in the Godhead.

In order for there to be an us or an our in the Godhead, there must be *at least two Persons* else the statement makes no sense at all. So even in the earliest Scriptural writings we see the Trinity of God is introduced without any real explanation.

That offends us, and offends our mentality. Yet Beloved, it should not offend us. You see, in our society, so technologically driven, so Internet smart, we have an innate pride in our own abilities. It *bugs* us that we can't understand all things, so we constantly strive for knowledge. But there are certain things we cannot understand, particularly things pertaining to God. God is just God, and there are certain things we must accept on faith. We cannot analyze God and come up with a simple definition for such a Complex Being. God is and has always been. God is in Three Distinct Persons - Father, Son, Spirit - but He is One. Do we understand this? No! Is it Biblical and thus true? Yes!

Let's look at what we can understand.

1. Jesus Speaks & Works In Union With The Godhead

FOCAL John 5:19 KJV "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do:** for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."

There are some who point to this statement and try to say that Jesus was a *lesser god* than God the Father. Those who make such a statement also point to other texts in the Scripture, texts like:

John 14:28 KJV Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me,

ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

The argument is, "See, Jesus said that the Father was *greater* than He was - so therefore Jesus must not be *as much God* as is the Father. But to say this is to misunderstand what our Lord was saying.

You see, the Godhead made a decision from eternity past to save mankind. Within the Godhead the Son of God agreed to come to earth, to take on humanity, and to die for our sins. There is no dominance within the Godhead, no bucking for power, no "Me Ahead of You" mentality such as is common in our world today.

There is a unity in the Godhead. The Son agreed to come and walk among us. *Everything* that Jesus did, He did in perfect agreement with the Father.

One day the disciple Philip asked Jesus:

John 14:8-11 KJVA "... shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. {9} Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;** and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father? {10} **Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?** the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. {11} **Believe me that I [am] in the Father, and**

the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

Jesus is so much in God the Father and God the Father is so much in Jesus that - even as He walked this earth - both Father and Son were inseparable. You saw the Son when you saw Jesus, but you *also saw the Father*. There is never any disagreement within the Godhead. So what Jesus did He did at every point with the permission of and agreement of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus told the man who was healed to *pick up your bed and walk* He was not violating the Sabbath as the Jews proclaimed. God, the Maker of the Law, was in perfect union in Christ. God the Father was in Christ, and God the Holy Spirit ascended to Christ. So

When Jesus said **the Son can do nothing of Himself** He was not saying that He was powerless. What He was saying was that, *within the context of the Triune God*, He did nothing that was not in agreement with both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus re-emphasized this truth in the context of our passage, for He told the Jews:

John 5:34-38 KJV But I receive not testimony from man: but **these things I say, that ye might be saved.** (35) He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. (36) But I have greater witness than that of John: for

the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. (37) And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. (38) And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Jesus **did not receive His testimony**¹ or His *evidence* or *witness* from man. The message that Christ brought to earth with Him was not something that He devised. His message was a message that came from God, from the Godhead - and was given **that ye might be saved**. The witness or evidence or Gospel that Jesus preached was no man's gospel. Furthermore, the **works** which He did were not arbitrary decisions that He made on His part. Jesus said in **verse 36** that these were **works which the Father had given Him to finish**. The message was from the Godhead, the works were from the Godhead. Jesus was no *independent entity*, but did everything He did in agreement with both Father and Spirit.

The following chart illustrates the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity:

	God the Father	God the Son	God the Spirit
Is Called God	Philippians 1:2	John 1:1-14, Colossians 2:9	Acts 5:3-4

¹ G3141 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *μαρτυρία*, *marturia*, pronounced *mar-too-ree'-ah*, From G3144; *evidence* given (judicially or generally): - record, report, testimony, witness.

	God the Father	God the Son	God the Spirit
Is Called Creator	Isaiah 64:8	John 1:3, Colossians 1:15-17	Job 26:13, 33:4
Resurrects The Dead	1 Thessalonians 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Romans 8:11
Indwells His People	2 Corinthians 6:16	Colossians 1:27	John 14:17
Is Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matthew 28:20	Psalms 139:7-10
Is All Knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30, 21:17	1 Corinthians 2:10-11
Sanctifies or Sets Apart Us	1 Thessalonians 5:23	Hebrews 2:11	1 Peter 1:2
Is The Life Giver	Genesis 2:7, John 5:21	John 1:3, 5:21	2 Corinthians 3:6-8
Fellowships With Us	1 John 1:3	1 Corinthians 1:9	2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 2:1
Is Eternal	Psalms 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Romans 8:11, Hebrews 9:14
Has Power	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Corinthians 12:11
Speaks With Authority	Matthew 3:17, Luke 9:25	Luke 5:20	Acts 8:29, 11:12, 13:2
Exemplifies Love	John 3:16	Ephesians 5:25	Romans 15:30
Searches The Heart of Man	Jeremiah 17:10	Revelation 2:23	1 Corinthians 2:10

Jesus Christ was, is, and will always be *fully God*
Who assumed *fully Perfect Humanity* so that He could save us.

Jesus Christ did everything that He did - not from His own desires and wants - but in *complete union with the Godhead*. This is not only a fantastic Scriptural truth - it

is *central* to the teaching of the Christian faith.

2. Jesus Speaks & Works In Union With The Godhead, So I Must Know Jesus

FOCAL John 5:21-23 KJV "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so **the Son quickeneth whom he will. {22}** **For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: {23}** **That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him."**

Why is it important that we understand that Jesus works and speaks in perfect harmony with the Godhead?

a. Jesus Christ is the *manifest* member of the Godhead.

Jesus took on humanity - perfect and sinless humanity - not only so He could be an offering for our sin, but also so we could *see God*. In the Old Testament God told Moses:

Exodus 33:20-23 NIV But," he said, "**you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.**" (21) Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. (22) When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock

and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. (23) Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

It would have killed the Old Testament Saint to look at God according to our Lord. Yet God bridged this limitation by taking on humanity through His virgin birth. Jesus Christ in His humanity is *without sin* (Hebrews 4:15; 9:28). By seeing God face to face we are able to understand God better - and able to understand what a great love He has for us.

b. As the manifest Member of the Godhead, Jesus Christ has been given **all judgment**.

It is Christ Who will judge as to salvation - thus it is imperative that we have a *working relationship with Christ*. We may *profess* to know Christ as Savior, but if we *do not have a personal relationship with Him* then we need to remember that warning:

FOCAL John 5:21-22 KJV "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth {makes them alive} them; even so **the Son quickeneth {makes alive} whom he will. {22} For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son .."**

When the Second Member of the Godhead agreed to assume humanity so that He could be the *Mediator*

between God and man. As the Scripture says:

1 Timothy 2:3-6 KJV "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior; (4) Who will have all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (5) For there is **one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."**

God the Father and God the Spirit want **all to be saved**, but the only way to be saved is through that **One Mediator**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the *Mediator of the New Covenant* (Hebrews 9:15; 12:24) God the Father has given Jesus Christ sole authority to *grant eternal life* and to *judge*. In our context in **verse 26** we read:

John 5:26 KJV "For as the **Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself"**

Jesus *alone* has the power to judge, and Jesus has power to give eternal life to whom He will. Again we see the necessity of having a *working relationship* with Jesus Christ. It is not enough to have a knowledge *of Him* - you must *know Him*. It is not enough to know Him *doctrinally*, but you must know Christ in that intimate,

believing way that only a born again Christian can.

C. The unique mediatorship of Jesus Christ was foretold by Moses in the first five books of the Bible.

Jesus told the Jews who disbelieved Him:

John 5:44-47 KJV "How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only? (45) Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even **Moses, in whom ye trust.** (46) **For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.** (47) **But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"**

When Jesus made this statement He made an enemy of both the Pharisee as well as the Sadducee.

The difference between the Pharisees and the Sadducees was that the Pharisees accepted the whole of the written Old Testament, whereas the Sadducees accepted *only the books of Moses*, the first five "Books of the Law".

Jesus told both Pharisee as well as Sadducee that **Moses wrote of me**. This is very true! The Apostle Peter preached **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**, and said:

Acts 3:19-23 KJV "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (20) And **he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:** (21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (22) For **Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.** (23) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

The ancient Jews knew that Moses was an Old Testament *type* of the coming Messiah, and that God would one day send the Savior to Israel. Moses wrote of the Coming Messiah in **Genesis 3:15**, and the Old Testament festivals and ceremonies in the Law were shadows or early teachings of the Coming Christ. The Lord told the Jews - both conservative as well as liberal in theology - that the *five Books of Scripture they all agreed on spoke of Him*.

3. If I Know Jesus, I Will Never Be Condemned

The Trinity of God and the Unique Mediatorship of Christ as a part of that Trinity is *no new doctrine*. We

may not have understood God as Triune in the Old Testament, and we may not fully comprehend the truths of the Trinity even now. But one thing is certain: If you do not have a *life relationship with Jesus Christ* and if He alone has the power to authoritatively judge you - then you are in big trouble.

FOCAL John 5:24 KJV "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**"

If you *do* have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ then you **shall not come into condemnation; but are passed from death unto life**. This relationship is the most important thing you will ever have in your life.

Illustrate Several years ago in New York City two trains going in two different directions collided headlong with one another. The problem was that the person who was supposed to be controlling the tracks became confused and, because of miscommunication, sent two trains in two different directions down the same shared track. Miscommunication has caused more despair, more death, and more lost souls than we could possibly count in our generation. When you put two arrows on the string, you *cannot* hit the target, for one arrow will cause the other to stray. When you put two charges in the cannon you cannot possibly fight the battle. The double charge will cause your cannon to explode - and then where will you

be?

As I sit here writing this text, I hear a lady on a well known Christian television show say:

"God wants to give us the ability to speak forth our prosperity, to speak forth our children's prosperity... discover the champion in you."

This is not the message that Christ came to bring us. The message that Jesus brought was *not* that there is a champion in us, nor did Jesus Christ bring us a prosperity gospel. The message that Jesus Christ brought us could be summed up this way:

**I Am God, Manifest In The Flesh For You
I Am Eternal, And Work According To The Trinity
I Alone Will Judge You In Eternity
I Alone Have The Power To Save You
I Alone Am The Mediator Between You And God
Know Me, And You Will Never Be Condemned**

Under the Old Covenant God asked Israel:

Deuteronomy 10:12 KJV "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee,

and then answered that question when He said:

but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul"

What did God require of the people He loved? That they walk with Him, obey Him, know Him on a personal level. Oh Beloved, **what doth the Lord require of thee?** That you know Jesus Christ, the Manifest Member of the Godhead, as Savior and Lord.

That you walk with Him, love Him, serve Him with **all thy heart and all thy soul**. Beloved, I truly believe that many of the things that the devil throws at the Church and at the world today are things which are meant to *distract from a solid relationship with Jesus Christ*. You will be judged and will enter eternal life or eternal condemnation based on whether you have a relationship with Jesus or not. Regardless as to the *word of faith professors*, there are many who will be cast out of God's presence *even if they did mighty works for God*. Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21-23 NIV "**Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** (22) Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' (23) Then I will tell them plainly, **'I never knew you.** Away from me, you evildoers!' "

What doth the Lord thy God require of thee? He

requires the same thing under this Covenant as He required under the Old Covenant. He requires that you know Him, that you walk with Him, that you have a saving personal relationship with Him. There is only one difference between this Covenant and the Last.

God is now manifest in the flesh, and Jesus Christ is His Name. You must believe on Him, you must submit to Him, you must love Him, you must know Him.