

Sermon Notes – July 2, 2023

Introduction

This morning we begin a new 10-week preaching series entitled, “We Believe.” This series was developed by our preaching team with two key goals: 1) We want to clarify and affirm key biblical truths to help God’s people grasp more deeply and rejoice in God’s truth; and 2) In this day of theological “free-fall,” we want to counter the emotion-driven approach to determining “truth” – that is, “Truth is what feels good to me.” In this typical modern-day approach, God is no longer the ultimate authority and final arbiter of truth; we are. “Thus says the Lord” has been replaced by “Thus says me.” This summer we will visit ten key theological themes!

Our Approach To Theological Discovery

Because the Bible is not a theological _____, we cannot simply look under “T” and find an explanation of the doctrine of the Trinity. Rather, in reading the BIG story of redemption, we catch glimpses of glorious truth about what God is like, including things that are hard to grasp. We search the Scriptures diligently and we glory in and willingly submit ourselves to what we find here.

From Beginning To End, The Bible Affirms That There Is ONE God (Deuteronomy 6:4)

- ⇒ “The Lord our God, the Lord is one” or “The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.” The emphasis is on _____, not necessarily singleness, as in Genesis 2:24 (same Hebrew word).
- ⇒ We find whispers of the Trinity in the OT (Genesis 1), but far greater light in the NT.
- ⇒ Many illustrations have been offered to help us understand the Trinity; all fall disastrously short of capturing biblical truth.

A Lesson In Theology (the study of God) (Genesis 1)

The Ontological Trinity (In terms of Being: absolute equality)

God the Father -- God the Son – God the Holy Spirit = co-equal in deity, in holiness, in glory, in power, in authority; never _____; eternally existing in Triunity; uncreated. **(Sanders, 70)**

We Believe In One God Who Is Three Persons
Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1, 14-16 & related texts
Pastor Jay Mosser

The Economic Trinity (In terms of function: unified, willing, distinct, complementary “roles”; Note: “roles” does not mean “modes”) **(Packer, 15)**

- ⇒ The Father “_____” – fore-ordains – chooses **(Ephesians 1:3-14)**.
- ⇒ The Father _____ the eternal Son to be the Savior of the world **(I John 4:14)** and the Son eagerly, willingly, joyfully obeys the Father.
- ⇒ The Spirit “proceeds” from the Father and the Son **(John 14:26; 15:26)**.
- ⇒ The Spirit regenerates, indwells, convicts, breathes life, _____ Christ.

A Visit With The Apostle John

- ⇒ **John 1:1-3, 9-14, 18**
- ⇒ John 5:18-47
- ⇒ John 6:37-40
- ⇒ **John 10:27-33**
- ⇒ **John 14:15-18, 26; 15:26; 16:13-15**

Implications Of The Doctrine Of The Trinity

- ⇒ I John 4:7-11, 19 (God IS Love...pure love, holy love, righteous love, discriminating love – i.e., discriminating between _____)
- ⇒ John 17:24-26 (God the eternal Son longs for us, His children by faith, to see the fulness of the Holy Trinity one day in His glorious presence). THIS is eternal life, indeed!

Responding to God’s Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ Eternal life is not about clouds and harps and ponies and “fishing trips or golf games in the sky” but about unhindered beholding of the glorious, Triune God, and serving Him forever. There could be no greater adventure! Your dreams of heaven are likely too small!
- ⇒ The offer of salvation comes from the Triune God – God the Father calls you to believe in God the Son, who paid for your sin on Calvary’s cross, that you might be given new birth and indwelt by God the Spirit. Will you trust Him today?
- ⇒ Communion Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

Worship Next Sunday: July 9, 2023

“We Believe Jesus Is Truly God And Truly Man”

(Philippians 2 & Colossians 1)

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