

The Next Seven

Pastor Rusty Yost

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Essential Doctrines of the Faith - Part Two

1 The Father Sent the Son into the World

Reading: John 3:1-21; 5:1-47; 17:1-26

2 The Son Prays the Father to Send the Holy Spirit into the World

Reading: John 14:1-31

3 When the Comforter is Come He will Testify of the Son

Reading: John 15:1-27

4 The Spirit of Truth will Guide us into all Truth

Reading: John 16:1-33

5 The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus to the Father

Reading: John 17:1-26

6 Beware of the spirit of Antichrist Manifesting in False Prophets

*Reading: 1 John 4:1-6; Matt. 13:22; 24:11; 2 Cor. 11:13; 2 Timothy 3:13; 4:3-4;
2 Peter 2:1;*

7 Remain Faithful to Christ

Reading: Revelation 2:1-3:22

Essential Doctrines of the Faith – Part Two

Lesson 12

Overview

What must we believe in order to be saved?

The most basic answer to that question is found in Acts 16:31. Paul's answer to the Philippian jailor is simple and straight forward. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

We should take careful note that faith must have the proper resting place—otherwise all is lost!

The Lord Jesus Christ must be the object of one's faith in order to be saved. And that brings us to the necessity of a proper understanding of the person of Christ and the nature of the true God.

As we proceed in this lesson the point should first be made that no one is required to be a theologian in order to be saved. However, Satan has busied himself perverting the gospel and sealing many in a false hope that denies the essential nature of Christ and rejects the true nature of the living God.

This is the issue at hand. Historically the church of necessity has clarified the doctrinal details of the faith in an effort to clearly refute the teaching of those "*crept in unawares (secretly)*"—who deny the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 4).

Therefore saving faith must rest in the "*only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*" There is no salvation for those who turn away from the true God of Scripture and his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In light of facing the possibility of a lost eternity God's self revelation in Holy Scripture becomes paramount to say the least. The true and living God has clearly revealed himself in Scripture as the great Triune God of eternity. God eternally exists as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It follows that those who refuse to confess the true nature of God are confused at best, but worse—they may be lost!

At the very heart of Scripture's revelation of God as a tri-unity is the essential teaching that Jesus the Christ is God incarnate. The entire New Testament presents Jesus as the unique Son of God. As such he is the eternal Word who came to tabernacle among us in the person of Jesus the promised Messiah.

Jesus is truly God (the Word incarnate) and truly man in one person. The book of Colossians states this great truth in the following words:

“For it pleased the Father that in him (Jesus—the Son of God) should all fullness dwell . . . For in him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead (the Divine Nature) bodily (in bodily form)” Colossians 1:19, 2:9.

Over and over again the book of St. John teaches that the Father sent the Son into the world. When the Son entered the world he brought the fullness of the divine nature into the person of Jesus the Christ.

The eternal relationship existing between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit comes into clear focus with the additional revelation God gives us in St. John chapters 14, 15, and 16. A patient study of John's gospel along with the rest of the New Testament clearly reveals God's existence as a plurality of personality in unity of substance, or Being.

While we can distinguish the distinct personalities subsisting within the Godhead we can never divide the substance of God. There is one divine nature shared by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each possesses the whole of the

one divine nature. Thus the one true God exists as a *plurality of personality in unity of substance* (or Being).

It should be pointed out that God has not invited us to place him under a microscope for inspection. Such a scenario is utterly impossible for finite men. Yet many have stumbled over God's self revelation in Scripture because of the inability to fully comprehend God.

The infinite, Triune God of eternity is incomprehensible. While it is possible—and even essential—to accept what God reveals about himself in Scripture it will never be possible to fully comprehend the attributes of the one true, living God.

Sadly many in our world reject the Lord God, and his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact the spirit of antichrist fostered by Satan the great adversary of God is at work in our world today. Instead of bowing in humble reverence to their great Creator/Redeemer many inside and outside the professing church turn to various forms of false spirituality that deny the Lord. Such are desperately lost!

It behooves all true Christians to patiently instruct those who oppose themselves that God may peradventure give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Key Passage this Week

- John 14:15-26, 15:26-27; 16:7-16

Key Verse

- John 14:23

Activity

Read St. John chapters 14, 15, and 16 carefully. There are three specific times in this section of Scripture when each person of the Godhead is made reference to in the same verse. Find them.

What verse in this section of Scripture uses the plural personal pronoun “we” in reference to Jesus and the Father? Why is this significant?

In this section of Scripture how many times can you find Jesus referring to the Holy Spirit with the personal pronoun *he*?

Digging Deeper

For those students who desire additional reading on the subject of this lesson here are a few suggestions:

The Personality of the Holy Ghost by Charles Spurgeon

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/spurgeon_charles/sermons/0004.cfm

Matthew Henry Commentary on John Chapter One

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Jhn/Jhn_001.cfm

Essential Doctrines of the Faith

Part Two

T or F Christians believe in three gods.

T or F Christians believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three stand alone beings.

T or F Christians believe the one, true God possesses a triune nature

Detail the meaning of the word “trinity” as it pertains to the nature of God.

Explain the unique nature of Jesus the Christ.

What does the word *incarnation* mean as it relates to Jesus the Christ?

T or F Christ lived a sinless life.

Scripture: John 14:15-26, 15:26-27; 16:7-16