

Holy Trinity (2021)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day.
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee.
 Amen.

John 3:1–17 *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

In the Name of Jesus.

So, y'all made it through another recitation of the Athanasian Creed. Praise the Lord. Praise Him, for the THREE great mysteries revealed to us in all our words of praying together today.

Three!

The mystery of the Holy Trinity; the mystery of the Incarnation of God; and the mystery Nicodemus could not grasp, despite all his insights and certainties about heaven: how can these things be? Born of water and the Spirit.

That God is One God in Three Persons does not fix anything about you and me with Him; OR the world. He is just as un-graspable as ever.

That God took up our humanity into Himself and now—as the Creed says in one of its happier phrases—Christ is God and Christ is Man, not by mixing or gluing or any of our notions: just ‘one altogether!’

And yet, my dear ones, just adding a GREATER mystery—Boundless God taking up all we are bound to; bound man now boundless God—just adding THAT wonder on top of the incomprehensible Holy Trinity ALSO does not get you, me or any part of the world relaxed with Heaven.

But our Baptism, birth from above, as a gift, water and Spirit and Grace and Truth—that changes everything.

Nick said: WE know you are from God.

Jesus said: WE know what WE are talking about!

“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

Your poor pastor has made a pledge to get to the point.
Pray for me.

God is One God, yet the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God—EACH ONE...fully God, as if the other two do not even exist; yet they do.

He IS...THAT...WAY—for you! He IS what He IS—otherwise it would not be great for you!

That's what I know; what WE know: your poor pastor, the apostles, the Holy Spirit, Everyone above.

You...KNOW...this too. Ignore E...V...E...R...Y... voice that seeks to 'clue you in' about God. Brush it aside with the Son of God: 'You have nice theories and ideas. WE have already been from heaven to earth, through the grave to life, and now have heaven ON earth! If Jesus, the King, the Son of God; then, OF COURSE, the WORLD! And the 'world' includes me. You too!'

So wrap up all that men dream is 'up there,' 'above.' Wrap Him up in your pray-ing, your living, your admitting what you are: without fear. Delight His 'Above-ness' by calling Him, with all boldness and confidence, your Father.

AND...call Him your Christ, your Brother, your Resurrection, your Life, your Shepherd, your King, your Slave. Just don't deserve any of those happy titles He takes on. In fact, make sure you DO NOT deserve them.

Call upon the Holy Spirit to Breathe ONLY for you: 'Show the Gospel—Show That Grace and Truth, which only YOU...KNOW. Show it to me. Jesus said you would. Oh! Show the world!'

And, dear children of God, stay stymied by your God! Stay small. Stay children.

A great saint objected in a Bible Class one day: 'You are talking about Jesus. I am talking about the REAL God!'

It took many of y'all's prayers and a lot of time to repent of being stunned by such mixed up ideas about our religion. God continues being God ONLY for YOUR sake! I am living proof of that! Jesus finished His work ALSO for self-satisfied Nicodemus and self-satisfied Pastor Paul. 'Not Jesus. REAL God!' Oh! The HONESTY! The confession! The faith!

Another great one—little one—asked, 'I'm okay with God making everything. I'm just still wondering who made Him?!' Before the Spirit of Jesus showed me the Gospel, I really wanted to take that dear man to the Athanasian Creed and straighten out his figuring about the Uncreated God.

And how many of the greatest have called your poor, miserable pastor, 'Our Jesus, who stands up front at church.' Or the most holy one who asked Mrs. Laura during Sunday School, 'When do we go over to that other building where that man in the dress stands up front and sings?'

The Athanasian Creed MAY help firm up such thoughts. But the birth from above all those dear children have received make God delighted at such baby-talk.

The One Who came from God and Who cried out 'It is finished!' for us from the cross of shame: He pledges that if YOU, child of God, are NOT God's total agenda, focus, delight, then Jesus' whole life was a waste.

But He died; because you die. He rose, because you will—so, why not HIM?! He calls God His Father and His God, because YOU...GET...TO.....FIRST!

Y'all must be praying for your sad pastor. Sometimes even I can recite the Athanasian Creed, and STILL sound like a child of heaven, in the Name of Jesus.