**September 2014**

**Understanding the “Trinity”**

   How is the term trinity defined?  Does it just mean three?  I have pondered over this term for many years and I have come to the conclusion that I will never fully understand the divine trinity, and all of its complexities, in this lifetime.  As mortals, we are limited in our cognitive abilities; we have finite minds with limited wisdom; God has infinite wisdom.  God established this divine trinity system, this order and the roles thereof, before the world began.  Our purpose is to accept what God has created, and try to understand it as best we can, without adding to it in our studies of biblical truths.  We understand the divine trinity as the “Three in One”: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!  All are one, yet each is separate in this established order; all are of equal power and authority.  There is only one God, yet the three are viewed as the unity, forming this one God.  Jesus Christ in human form on earth was still God (John 10:30, 14:9).

   So how is the basic term trinity defined?  “A group consisting of three closely related members.” (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/trinity>).  How is the divine trinity defined?    “Trinity Theology In most Christian faiths, the union of three divine persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in one God…” (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/trinity>).  Is “Matter” a form of a trinity?  Sure it is.  Matter is made up of a solid, liquid or gas.  These forms of matter generally change, depending on temperature adjustments; thus, you have varying phases of matter.  While this is viewed as a type of trinity, can these matter states be more than one at any given time?  Of course not, it has to be a solid, liquid or gas.  In the blessed triune, can the three components of the Godhead be one and all three at the same time?  Of course they can.  When Christ was “in the flesh”, He was also God “in the flesh”.  Christ’s diety remained, even “in the flesh” as He was God, He was man; and He was perfect.

   What about another form of a trinity?  Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient = Unlimited Power/Authority, Present Everywhere at the Same Time, and Total Knowledge.  These are three very different and distinct terms, with different meanings; they do not mean the same thing, therefore, they cannot be three in one.  However, the triune Godhead maintains all three of these characteristics, individually and collectively.   How can this be?  It is difficult for the mortal mind to comprehend, but we know from God’s Word, this to be true.

   While I have attempted to help you better understand the divine trinity, as I continue to try and understand it better myself, I have probably not assisted you very much; but that is okay.  We must take God at His Word.  We must not read things into His Word that are not there; such as suggesting Christ gave up His diety when He came to earth as man.  Is there any example that may assist us in better understanding the divine trinity?  I will tell you what I do; I use the closest thing that I could come up with that I think relates best to this subject.  Belief, Faith and Trust!  Three very distinct words that all mean the same thing; they are three, yet also one.  We take God at His Word; God does not and cannot lie!  Our salvation is through faith (trust/belief); there is nothing more we can do, as Christ paid it all at Calvary and was victorious over the grave (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

   Salvation is simple, although the highest price was paid, and therefore entailed some great complexities.  In many instances man tries to make it more complicated than it is, and even takes liberties to establish doctrines without solid foundation on God’s Holy Word.  I recently heard a young grace missionary from Brazil state: “We are not in a program (system) of achieving (what we can do for our salvation), rather, we are in a system of receiving (accepting what Christ has done for us).”  It is that simple.  Don’t try to achieve it, just believe it and accept it. It is God’s Free Gift to us! (Ephesians 2:8-9). Keep the faith, hold fast in sound biblical doctrines, and study His Word as a Berean.  God be with you in your study of God’s Word, Rightly Divided!

Yours in Christ,

Joe