

- **NEXT WEEK: Eighth Annual “Evening of Thanksgiving.”** Bring a favorite snack and items to share for a time of giving thanks to God.
- PRAY
- READ Deuteronomy 6; Matthew 3:13-4:17

Theme: “Behold your King is coming to you” (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5)

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THIS EVENING:

- INTRODUCTION TO THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS (Matthew 4:1-11)
- PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES (Matthew 3:7ff.)
- “GO TO THE JORDAN AND THERE YOU WILL SEE THE TRINITY” (Matthew 3:13-17)

JOHN IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND JESUS BEGINS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM (Matthew 3:2 with 4:12-17)

Matthew 3:2
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:12
Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;

Matthew 4:17
From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

What are the parallels & contrasts between the temptation of the first Adam & the Second? (cf. Matthew 1:1 with Genesis 5:1)

What are the parallels and contrasts between the temptation of Israel, God’s son, and God’s Son? (cf. Matthew 2:15)

Does Matthew make any distinction between “living in the Spirit” versus the law of God?

What does Jesus’ use of the law teach us about the worth of the law in our lives? (cf. Matthew 5:17-20).

Seeing that Matthew does not see a life lived in the power of the Spirit as opposed to the law, how are we to understand some of the “negative” statements Paul makes about the law? (cf. 2 Cor.3:6-9)

PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES (Matthew 3:7ff.)

What was John's opinion about the Pharisees and Sadducees? (v.7)

Pharisee means _____.

Were the Pharisees all that bad?

With this background about the Pharisees, do you find it puzzling that many of them (Mt.3:7) went to the Jordan River to be baptized?

What other famous person in the NT was a Pharisee? (Acts 26:5; Phil.3:5)

“GO TO THE JORDAN AND THERE YOU WILL SEE THE TRINITY” (Matthew 3:13-17)

I. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD (Deut.4:35,39; **6:4**; 32:39; 2 Sam. 7:22; 1 Kings 8:60; Ps. 86:10; **Isa. 42:8; 44:6; 45:5–6**; Joel 2:27; Zech. 14:9; Mark 12:28,29; John 5:44; 17:3; 1 Cor. 8:4–6; Gal. 3:20; Eph. 4:5; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Tim. 6:15; James 2:19)

II. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS PLURALITY WITHIN GOD (Gen.1:26; 3:22; **11:5,7**; Psalm 45:6,7; 110:1; Isa.6:8; **61:1; Mt.3:16,17; 28:19**; 2 Cor.13:14)

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In Genesis, chap. 1:26, 27, God says: *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*, etc. And *God created man in his own image, male and female created he them*. And Gen. 3:22, *Behold, the man is become as one of us*. From this saying, *Let us make man in our image*, it appears that there are more persons than one in the Godhead; and when He says, *God created*, He signifies the unity. It is true, He does not say how many persons there are, but that which appears to us somewhat obscure in the Old Testament is very plain in the New. For when our Lord was baptized in Jordan, the voice of the Father was heard, saying, *This is my beloved Son*; the Son was seen in the water, and the Holy Spirit appeared in the shape of a dove. This form is also instituted by Christ in the baptism of all believers: *Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

III. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE FATHER IS GOD, THE SON IS GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD (Psalm 45:6,7; 110:1; **Mt.3:16,17**; 22:41-45; **28:19**; **Luke 1:35**; 2 Cor.13:14)

THE FATHER IS GOD
(**John 6:27**; 1 Peter 1:2; etc.)

THE SON IS GOD (Angel of the LORD; Psalm 45:6 with Heb.1:8,9; Psalm 68:17,18 with Eph.4:8-10; Psalm 102:25-27 with Hebrews 1:10-12; Psalm 97:7 with Heb.1:6; 110; Isaiah 6:1-3 with John 12:41; Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:5,6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 2:8, 9; Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 16:16; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3; 3:13; 5:18; 8:57, 58; 10:30; 17:5; **20:28**; **Acts 9:20**; **20:28**; Romans 9:5; 10:3,4,9; Philippians 2:5,6; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13,14; Hebrews 1; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 3:16; 5:20; Revelation 1:8; 5:11-14; etc. etc.)

THE SPIRIT IS GOD
(Matthew 12:32; **Acts 5:3,4**; 7:51; Isa.6:8 with Acts 28:25-27; 1 Cor.3:16-17; 2 Cor.3:17,18 etc.)

Eternal: **Psalm 90:2**

Eternal: **Micah 5:2; John 1:2; Rev.1:8,17**

Eternal: **Gen.1:2; Heb.9:14**

Almighty: **1 Pet.1:5**
Omniscient: Jer.17:10

Almighty: **2 Cor.12:9**
Omniscient: **John 2:24-25**; 21:17; Rev.2:23

Almighty: **Rom.15:19**
Omniscient: 1 Cor.2:10,11

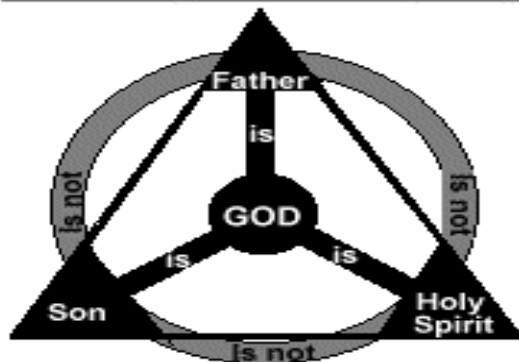
Omnipresent: Jer.23:24
Holy: Rev.15:4
Truth: Jn.7:28
Merciful: Rom.2:4

Omnipresent: Mt.18:20; 28:20
Holy: Acts 3:14
Truth: Rev.3:7
Merciful: Eph.5:25

Omnipresent: Ps.139:7
Holy: Acts 1:8
Truth: John 16:13
Merciful: Neh.9:20

IV. HOW DO WE HARMONIZE THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION THAT THE FATHER IS GOD, THE SON IS GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD AND YET THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD?

Ancient Diagram of the Holy trinity



John Wesley said: “Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the triune God!”

V. WHY IS THIS DOCTRINE IMPORTANT FOR US? (Matthew 22:36-38 with John 17:3)

NEXT WEEK: EVENING OF THANKSGIVING

