

## Text— 2 Corinthians 13:14

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Today is Trinity Sunday. Therefore, we especially ponder the fact that the one true God is three distinct Persons and yet one divine essence.

We human beings cannot comprehend the holy Trinity; nevertheless, we know that very term is accurately descriptive of what the Holy Bible reveals to us concerning the one true God.

Why, in the very first verses of the Holy Bible, we read, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3) Hence, we observe God creating, the Spirit of God moving, and the Word of God being spoken— three distinct Persons, yet one divine essence. It’s as 1 John 5:7 reports: “there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” Yes, three distinct Persons, but one divine essence: the Triune God.

Furthermore, back in the first chapter of the first book of the Holy Bible, we note that Genesis 1:26 says, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” There we observe the ONE GOD saying US and OUR in regards to His creating man; thus, the one true God is plural in Persons. The one true God is the Triune God.

The eternal only begotten Son of God declares, in Isaiah 48:16, “Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.” So, we see Jesus Christ in prophecy declaring that He was sent

by God the Father and the Spirit of God, God the Holy Ghost— that’s the Triune God in action.

Accordingly, the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament is the same one true God, the Triune God.

Our sermon text is a beautiful benediction, which can help us grow in appreciation of the true God, as it informs us concerning:

“HOW WE ARE BLESSED BY THE TRUE GOD”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) How we are blessed by God the Son
- 2) How we are blessed by God the Father
- 3) How we are blessed by God the Holy Ghost

-1-

Verse 14, ----- (2 Corinthians 13:14)

*The Lord Jesus Christ IS GOD THE SON*, for we read in 2 John verse 3, “Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.” Accordingly, the Lord Jesus Christ IS TRULY the SON of GOD THE FATHER.

Jesus Christ is NOT merely a son of God; Jesus Christ is the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD from eternity. Psalm 2:7-12 states: “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

Think about those words from Psalm 2, for we see that whenever they are read, the LORD, Jehovah God, is saying to His SON – Son with a capital “S” – “this day have I begotten thee” — thereby indicating the Son is eternally begotten, eternally generated, by God the Father. Note also that serving the LORD, serving Jehovah God, with fear and trembling, includes kissing the Son, – that is, according to the Hebrew, showing Him affection, reverence and respect – for He is one with God the Father.

Indeed, Jesus Christ is LORD as God the Father is LORD, for in Psalm 110:1 David says: “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.” Jesus Christ Himself referenced those words penned by David, for we read in Matthew 22:41-46, “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” Accordingly, Jesus is TRUE and very GOD in addition to being true Man, sinless man, for Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.

It’s as Matthew 1:18-23 reports, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of

the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Yes, Jesus is Emmanuel, GOD WITH US! And, Jesus is also TRUE MAN, sinless man, for Hebrews 4:15 informs us that He, “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

The Lord Jesus IS true God and true Man, but one Christ, who is to be worshiped and adored, like the Father and the Holy Ghost. Those who label themselves “witnesses” of “Jehovah” – while holding that Jesus Christ is less than the Father – had better take the words of Jeremiah 23:5-6 to heart, where we read, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” — *Jehovah Tsidquenuw*, in the Hebrew. David’s Son, Jesus Christ, is David’s LORD. The Lord Jesus Christ IS JEHOVAH GOD!

Our sermon text says: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us with His grace— His undeserved love, His unmerited favor. Think about it. Jesus kept God’s Law perfectly for us and then Jesus paid for our lack of keeping God’s Law, for Jesus shed His holy and precious blood while nailed to the cross of Calvary, thereby paying for our sins in full.

We are all sinners who deserve never-ending damnation in hell because of our sins, but Jesus has earned salvation for us! Ecclesiastes 7:20 states, “there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” And, Romans 6:23, followed by 1 Peter 1:18-19, relates, “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible

things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly gracious. Jesus blesses us with His grace, repeatedly providing us with forgiveness. Let us be grateful to Him.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see how we are blessed by God the Father.

Again, verse 14, ----- (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The phrase "love of God" here refers to God the Father as distinct from the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. In Matthew 6:9 Jesus Himself teaches, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Thus, we have a heavenly Father who is God, for in John 20:17 Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." Thus, God is indeed our heavenly Father.

When we Christians think about the love of God the Father, one Bible passage in particular surely comes to mind, that being, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Our greatest need is a Savior; so, our heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son to redeem us. Yes, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." — reports 1 John 4:9-10.

Think about God the Father and His comforting love. Consider the words of 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, where we read, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all

our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." Oh, our heavenly Father's love toward us is certainly shown in His many mercies showered upon us undeserving sinners, for He provides for all of our temporal and spiritual needs; God the Father provides for us in this life and in the life to come.

David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, writes in regards to God the Father, Psalm 145:15-18, "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psalm 103:13-14 adds, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Hence, our heavenly Father surely loves us undeserving sinners.

Galatians 4:4-6 informs us, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Think of it: God the Father loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to redeem us, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Yes, fellow Christians, we are God's adopted sons, God's children, for God sent forth the Holy Spirit of His only begotten Son into our hearts, thereby gifting us with faith, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." — declares Galatians 3:26-27.

Accordingly, fellow Christians, it is certain that God the Father blesses us with His love. Let us be grateful to Him.

As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see how we are blessed by God the Holy Ghost.

Again, verse 14, ----- (2 Corinthians 13:14)

*The communion of the Holy Ghost* is that most beautiful and beneficial fellowship and participation which Christians have with God the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Ghost is truly God, for in Acts 5:1-4 we read, “a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.” Note it well, lying to the Holy Ghost IS lying to GOD! Accordingly, the Holy Ghost IS GOD!

Fellow Christians, we ALL need the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, since the Holy Ghost is who worked faith in Christ in our hearts and keeps us in that faith, for 1 Corinthians 12:3 states, “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” Ephesians 2:8-10 adds, “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Hence, God the Holy Ghost also enables us Christians to be fruitful in the faith, bringing forth good works, works done in full accord with God’s Word, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” — declares Philippians 2:13.

Thus, we truly need the continued indwelling of God the Holy Ghost in our hearts, if we would continue in the faith of Jesus Christ and be fruitful in the same, for Romans 8:9 informs us, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Yes, God the Holy Ghost IS the SPIRIT of Christ AND the SPIRIT of God the Father, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” — reports Romans 8:14-17.

Think about the great benefits we Christians have because the Holy Ghost dwells within us, working with our spirit. We Christians are children of God who will inherit eternal life in heaven when we depart this life in the faith of Jesus Christ! We are truly blessed by God the Holy Ghost through His being in communion with us. Let us be grateful to Him.

My friends, we’ve considered how we are blessed by God the Son, how we are blessed by God the Father, and how we are blessed by God the Holy Ghost. However, we must always keep in mind the fact that the three Persons are NOT three Gods, but ONE GOD, the Triune God, for in His great commission recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Yes, note well that Jesus says NAME, not names, of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, for the three PERSONS are but ONE DIVINE ESSENCE— the one true God, the triune God.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord, for He, together with the Father and the Holy Ghost, are but the one

true God who has blessed us and continues to bless us. Yes, *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.* And again I say, Amen— yea, yea, it shall be so.

m.e.l.