

Video Series #317
The Trinity: One God or Three?
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August, 2016

Seminar #317_01
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our first study in this seminar on the Trinity. I know this is a controversial topic for many people. Therefore, I have chosen to approach this topic from nine theological positions rather than using a hundred "proof texts."

I hope you will watch all nine segments and consider the theological consequences that are involved within each topic.

Our first segment is titled: "The Testimony of the Father"

The remaining segments are titled:

2. Why Is Jesus Called 'The Word'?
3. New Light Terminates Sufficient Light
4. A Perfect Man Could Not Atonement for Sin
5. How Did Jesus Become The Son of God?
6. Why Was Jesus Found Worthy?
7. What Kept the Father from Dying for Sinners?
8. God is Love. Is He?
9. Is the Holy Spirit A Separate Deity?

With these things said, let's begin.

What does the Bible teach about the Godhead? Typically, there are three positions:

1. There is one God and no other.
(Jewish monotheism)
2. There is one God manifesting Himself
in three different persons.
(Christian monotheism)

3. There are three separate, distinct, co-eternal Gods manifesting themselves as one God. (Tritheism)

These three views (and variants of them) have been debated for centuries and Christians are still divided on the topic.

If you haven't made up your mind, I hope you will watch this seminar. Please be patient and let this study unfold because I think this is one of the most profound and interesting studies in all the Bible!

I am not here to argue or convince you of something that you do not wish to believe.

I am giving this seminar to share what I have found in the Bible. If the Holy Spirit impresses you there may be some truth in what I have found, I will be delighted. If not, you have nothing to worry about!

Because this topic is very large, I cannot explain it in 20 minutes. No one expects to understand nuclear physics in 20 minutes and no one should expect to understand a huge topic like the Trinity in 20 minutes.

Some truths about God are easy to understand and some are difficult. But in all cases, "Truth is proven true by the harmony that comes from the sum of its parts."

By the time we finish this study (and I sincerely hope that will you watch all segments), you will see that numerous issues are involved with our understanding of God and these issues have substantial consequences.

When properly understood, this topic produces a sense of awe and admiration for God that is otherwise impossible.

The nature of the Trinity is deep in detail and rich in content because there is nothing in the universe like God.

To get started, we will investigate some things that Jesus said.

Shortly before His death, Jesus was arrested and tried by the Sanhedrin, Israel's supreme court. He was accused of several crimes by false witnesses. But Jesus did not defend Himself against these witnesses.

Mat 26:59 "The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death.

Mat 26:60 But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Wishing to end the trial and move to a guilty verdict...

Matthew 26:62 ". . . the high priest [Caiaphas] stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

Mat 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ [the Messiah], the Son of God."

Mat 26:64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven."

Mat 26:65 Then [with a show of indignation and outrage] the high priest tore his clothes [something which God forbid the high priest to do, Leviticus 21:10] and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses [to condemn Him]? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy [with your own ears]."

Caiaphas knew that Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God on numerous occasions. Therefore, he demanded that Jesus, once again, declare His identity so that everyone present could hear Jesus speak blasphemy.

When Jesus confirmed that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, He insulted the most sacred doctrine within Judaism: A doctrine called, "monotheism."

The Jewish version of monotheism teaches there is one God. His name is Jehovah and all other gods are false and imaginary.

Any statement against this doctrine was considered blasphemy and blasphemy was punishable by death.

Before He responded to Caiaphas, Jesus saw the trap. If He denied His identity, He would be a liar. If He spoke the truth, He would be killed for blasphemy.

The origin of Jewish monotheism is easy to discern in the Old Testament. Consider the following passages:

One day, Moses saw a burning bush. . . .

Exo 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Exo 3:6 Then He said, "I am the God of your father [Amram], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." [Notice the singular.] At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God."

Later, from Mount Sinai, God spoke the first commandment:

Exo 20:2,3 "I am the Lord [Jehovah] your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (Notice the singular.)

Shortly before his death, Moses made this declaration:

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord [Jehovah] our God, the Lord is one." (Notice the singular.)

Finally, notice what God says about Himself:

Isa 44:6 "This is what the Lord [Jehovah] says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord [Jehovah] Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." (Notice the singular.)

Given these few verses, I hope you can see why Jewish Monotheism teaches there is only one God and His name is Jehovah (a title which means eternal God).

We need to understand and appreciate Jewish monotheism because Jesus spoke against it. Jesus was put to death for blasphemy.

Mat 26:65 "Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy."

Mat 26:66 What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.

The Jews believed it was impossible for Jehovah to have a Son (and they still do).

At the present time, orthodox Jews still anticipate the arrival of the Messiah.

They are convinced that he will be an ordinary man because it is impossible for Jehovah to be the Messiah.

Here's the problem the Jews faced with Jesus: If Jehovah had a son, there would be two Gods! If there were two Gods, monotheism would be a false doctrine and Judaism would be a false religion.

This story illustrates the problem:

One Sabbath, Jesus came upon a crippled man who was lying beside a pool of water in Jerusalem. The man...

John 5:5 ". . . had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

John 5:7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred [by the angels]. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

John 5:8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

John 5:9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

John 5:10 and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

John 5:11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

John 5:12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

John 5:13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later, the man learned that Jesus had healed him....

John 5:15 The man went away and told the Jews [priests] that it was Jesus who had made him well.

John 5:16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted Him [as a law breaker].

John 5:17 Jesus said to them, My Father is always at his work to this very [Sabbath] day, and I, too, am working [within the boundaries of the Sabbath commandment -- which the Jews had badly distorted]."

John 5:18 "For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making >>> Himself equal with God.<<<"

The Jews understood that a son was the equal of His father because this is the order of life itself.

A watermelon produces a watermelon because the seed within the parent is identical to the seed in the offspring.

A cow produces a cow because the seed within the parent is identical to the seed in the offspring.

The seed within a father is identical to the seed in his son.

"Like begets like." "Like father, like son."

Therefore, when Jesus said that God was His Father, the Jews became furious because He was "making Himself equal with God." "Like begets like."

Blasphemy they screamed! Stone Him!

Pay close attention to this: When Jesus said that God was His Father, it was the Father speaking through the lips of Jesus.

Jesus did not speak on His own.

The Father wanted the Jews to know that Jesus was His equal and He spoke words through the lips of Jesus that clearly conveyed this idea to them.

The words were outrageous and insulting, but it wasn't Jesus speaking!

Later, Jesus said:

John 12:49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

On another occasion, Jesus said:

John 14:24 "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

John 14:10 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work."

Here's a profound point:

The Jews were confronted by the Father Himself. The Jews were highly offended by the testimony of the Father which came out of the mouth of Jesus.

Incidentally, this is how it will be during the Great Tribulation. The world will hear the testimony

of Jesus spoken through the lips of the 144,000!

For a moment, put yourself in the sandals of the Jews.

How could a poor, homeless and homely looking man from Nazareth, about 30 years of age, be so insulting and brazen? How can He or anyone say that He is "the Son of God," the equal of Jehovah?

The Father testified that Jesus was His equal on several occasions:

1. At His baptism, the Father said to everyone at the Jordan River, "This is my Son. . . ." (Mat 3:17)
2. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the Father said to the disciples. . . "This is my Son." (Mat 17:5)
3. Just before His crucifixion, Jesus called on the Father to speak from Heaven so that everyone knew that He was the Son of God and the Father did! (John 12:28-30)
4. When Jesus died, the Father sent an angel to tear the temple curtain from top to bottom. This was the wool curtain (about 4 inches thick) that separated the Holy from the Most Holy from top to bottom. Tearing it open indicated that "the Son of God, the Lamb of God" had been slain and the Levitical system was terminated. (Mark 15:38)

Now that you know the Father spoke through the lips of Jesus, go back and reread the four gospels. A new level of meaning will occur. Notice also how the Father tried to reach the Jews through the miracles which He had Jesus perform.

What else could the Father do to get the truth across to the Jews that He had an equal?

One day, after healing the man beside the pool:

John 10:24 The Jews gathered around Him [Jesus], saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ [the Messiah], tell us plainly."

John 10:25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you [that I am the Messiah], but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,

John 10:26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:30 I and the Father are one."

John 10:31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,

John 10:32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, >>> claim to be God<<<."

Again, the Father spoke through the lips of Jesus. The Father wanted the Jews to understand that

Jesus was God and they understood the message . It made them furious. They would have stoned Jesus right there but He got away.

When Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." What did the Father mean for the Jews to understand?

Did the Father want the Jews to understand that He and Jesus are the same person? No.

Did the Father want to the Jews to understand there is only one God? No.

What did the Father want the Jews to understand?

The Father wanted the Jews to understand that He and Jesus were "the same," identical twins.

Why did the Father want the Jews to believe that He and Jesus were identical twins?

Because the Jews worshiped and embraced "a Jehovah" which was nothing like "the Father."

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I [am exactly like the Father and I] came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own [I am not doing what I want to do]; but He sent me."

John 8:47 "He who belongs to [the genuine] God hears what God [the Father] says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to [the Father] God [your God is false and imaginary]."

Do you now understand how the testimony of the Father, spoken through the lips of Jesus put the Jews in a very difficult position?

Which would be easier? Admitting that monotheism was a false doctrine or killing a lowly looking homeless man for blasphemy???

If a Jew admitted that Israel's most sacred doctrine, monotheism had been proven by the Father to be a false doctrine, what happens to his life-long religious heritage???

Have you ever had a cherished view to crumble? Have you ever experienced a complete paradigm shift? Painful isn't it?

Summary:

The testimony of the Father was sent to the Jews through the lips of Jesus. The Father made it perfectly clear that He and Jesus were equals. The Jews fully understood the testimony of the Father. This is proven by their actions.

Now you know why the Jews eventually killed Jesus. It was for blasphemy.

If you had been born and raised a Jew, if you could trace your religious culture and heritage back to Abraham and you heard the Father speak through the lips of Jesus, how would you have reacted if He said this to you:

John 8:47 "He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Jesus was sent to Earth to confront numerous errors. It was a painful experience for Him, but He did

it.

Would you have said:

John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

We're out of time! Thanks for watching. Please bookmark this video. I hope you will watch it again and share it with your friends. Please proceed to the next segment!

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_02
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our second study on the Trinity. Today's study is titled:

"Why Is Jesus Called 'The Word?'"

What does the Bible teach about the Trinity?

Is there one God?
(Jewish monotheism)

Is there one God manifesting Himself in three persons? (Christian monotheism)

Are there three separate Gods manifesting themselves as one God? (Tritheism)

I want to discuss a concept that many Christians have not thought about:

Many Christians think that religious beliefs must never change. I was raised in the _____ church, and I'm never leaving. They love to sing, "Give me that 'old time religion."

Did you know that 95% of the population of Earth does not change religion. For most people, the only way out of the religious system inherited at birth is death.

The changeless nature of religion has a mortal enemy called "new light." New light is a term that means truth has grown.

Jesus was sent to Earth to abolish a doctrine which the Jews had embraced for more than 1,400 years. They thought this doctrine (or teaching) was absolute truth and it was their most sacred doctrine.

And anyone who spoke against it was condemned to death for blasphemy.

This doctrine was that serious.

But there was a problem: We now know that Jewish monotheism wasn't an absolute truth even though for many centuries, it was >>> a sufficient <<<< doctrine.

What is the difference between a sufficient truth and absolute truth?

Answer: Sufficient truth always has loose ends. Not perfect, not airtight.

The testimony of the Father was spoken through the lips of Jesus. John 10:30 and many other verses prove that monotheism was not and is not an absolute truth.

The Father said that He and Jesus were one (identical twins) and the Jews perfectly understood the Father to mean that Jesus was a God, equal to the Father and this made them furious.

Bottom line: The Father was responsible for revealing the truth: Monotheism was a false doctrine.

He sent Jesus to Earth so that He could speak through His lips and the good news is that some people actually believed that Jesus was speaking the truth!

Consider the words Jesus spoke to the Father in a prayer:

John 17:6 [Father,] "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. . .

John 17:8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me."

If the four gospels teach us anything they must teach us this lesson:

Our understanding of God and His truth is always partial. Therefore, we must remain open to advancing truth because we never know when or through whom it will come.

The Father reveals "new light" constantly.

Paul observed this phenomenon but only after He became a Christian:

Eph 3:2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,

Eph 3:3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

Eph 3:4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 >>> which was not made known to men in other generations <<< as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

Paul said the mystery of Christ "was not made known to men in other generations."

What does He mean?

The Father controls the release of knowledge.

Look around. During the past three centuries the Father has dramatically released knowledge within every science.

For thousands of years, man could not travel any faster than a horse or a camel could run. Man could not fly. Man did not have telephones, radios or computers.

But the materials needed to make all of these items have been on the Earth ever since Creation!

How is it that man could not figure out how to fly until the Father released the knowledge?

Since the Father constantly releases knowledge, we can be sure that whatever is regarded as truth today will be eclipsed tomorrow by "new light" (improved knowledge).

And when "new light" does not align with what is thought to be truth, conflict always arises.

The Father knows this. Conflict generates opposition and opposition generates energy and when properly channeled, energy motivates people to investigate.

When the Father releases "new light" in religious matters, there are two outcomes.

The first result is insult and rejection.

We see this illustrated in the endless conflict that went on between Jesus and the Jews. How is the doctrine of two Gods compatible with the doctrine of one God?

The second outcome for "new light" is this: It will struggle, it will grow and over time, the Father insures that it will become acceptable to a number of people.

Jesus was sent to Earth by the Father (He did not come on His own) to reveal the truth about the Father.

But the Jews did not want more truth.

They weren't interested in truth, they were interested in maintaining the ancient traditions of the elders.

The Father wanted to abolish the "Jehovah icon" which the Jews had created because it was embarrassing to Him.

The Jews worshiped a God that was totally unlike the Father. If they had been investigating and worshipping a God that was something similar to the Father, they would have loved Jesus, His identical twin.

Just think of the many wonderful things that the priests of Israel could have learned from Jesus who came from Heaven, full of grace and truth!

But their "old time" religion shut out the arrival of "new light."

Jesus is the only person who could come to Earth and reveal the Father because Jesus is exactly like the Father, an identical twin of the Father.

But the mission did not go well.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but He sent me.

John 8:43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire [which is to murder me]. . .

John 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

These are very strong words! Inflammatory words! Even today, they are words that every Christian should carefully ponder, especially since we know that it was the Father speaking through the lips of Jesus!

Of course, the Father knew that Israel would have a very difficult time letting go of its monotheistic tradition so He confirmed the words that He spoke through Jesus with astonishing signs and miracles on many occasions.

The first miracle was the birth of Jesus.

Jesus was born of a virgin. No other human has been born of a virgin.

Isaiah predicted it in chapter 7 and Matthew repeated the prophecy in chapter 1:

Mat 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" -- which means, "God with us."

Literally means, God with us.

The Father sent Gabriel to Mary saying:

Luke 1:31 "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."

Think about this: Mary was among the first to hear that God had a Son!

The angel declared a profound revelation when He said: "The Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."

The phrase, "The Holy One" was very meaningful to the Jews. It is used ~50 times in the Old Testament to identify Jehovah as Almighty God.

Notice this passage from Isaiah:

Isa 40:18 To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to?

Isa 40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the Earth was founded?

Isa 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the Earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the Heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

Isa 40:23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

Isa 40:24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the

ground, than He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

Isa 40:25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says The Holy One.

Isa 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the Heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Isa 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD [Jehovah] is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

After reading this passage from Isaiah 40 (and others in the Old Testament), we can see why the Jews treated monotheism as an absolute truth. And until "new light" was released, it was a "sufficient truth" in God's sight.

But, how could "The Holy One" (Almighty God) be born of a virgin?

John describes the miracle this way:

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory [on the Mount of Transfiguration], the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth [no lies]."

Why is Jesus called, "the Word?"

Why was "The Word" made flesh?

Jesus is called "The Word" because the Father speaks through His lips.

When the Father wants something said, He speaks through Jesus.

Many people do not realize that the Father rarely speaks in the Bible. When He does, He either speaks through Jesus, to Jesus or He exalts Jesus.

Notice these passages:

Jesus told the Jews that it was the Father speaking through Him:

John 12:49 "For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it."

John 14:24 "He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

John 17:8 [Father,] ". . . I gave them [my disciples] the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me [to speak for you]."

Clearly, the Father spoke through Jesus.

Now, notice how the Father exalts Jesus:

Luke 9:34 While he [Peter] was speaking [on the Mount of Transfiguration], a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

Luke 9:35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son [equal], whom I have chosen [the Messiah]; listen to Him."

Do you get it? The voice declared: "This is my identical twin."

The Father also exalted Jesus when He was baptized:

Mat 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment Heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him.

Mat 3:17 And a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

When the Father called from Heaven that Jesus was His Son, He exalted Jesus as His equal! The Jews perfectly understood the equality of a father and son and it made them furious.

Finally, notice what the Father says to Jesus in this Old Testament passage (and this is one of those "loose ends" that should have kept Jewish monotheism from becoming an absolute doctrine):
The Father said to Jesus:

Psa 45:6 >>>Your throne, O God,<<< will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Psa 45:7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; >>> therefore God,
your God, <<< has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Clearly, the Father calls Jesus, "God" and He calls Himself "God" in Psalm 45.

Psalm 45 should have been a big hint to Israel that monotheism was not an absolute doctrine, but tradition has a way of hiding things that we don't want to believe.

Bottom line: We see in Scripture that the Father speaks through Jesus, He exalts Jesus and He speaks to Jesus.

But the Father does not otherwise speak to humanity.

This is a very important point and in part, it explains the Father's need for a spokesperson.

But there is another reason the Father needs a spokesperson.

The Father is invisible!

He has not been seen, He cannot be seen and He will never be seen!

Even the angels have not seen Him. They can see an outline of His form, and at the Second Coming, mankind will see an outline of His form, but He cannot be seen because He lives in "unapproachable light."

His infinite glory and power is too great to be seen!

This explains why Jesus has been and will forever be the Father's spokesperson.

The testimony of the Father comes through the lips of "The Word."

Consider these four passages which describe the Father:

#1

John 6:46 [Jesus said:] No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only He has seen the Father.

#2

Col 1:15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God . . . Heb 1:3 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. . ."

#3

1 Tim 6:15 " . . . God [the Father], the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

1 Tim 6:16 who alone is immortal and >>>who lives in unapproachable light,<<< whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.

(I'll say more about this passage in a later segment.)

#4

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God [the Father] but God [the Son] the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

Do you remember the promise Jesus made to the Sanhedrin?

Mat 26:64 "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven."

Notice how the promise will be fulfilled:

The Father will come with Jesus at the Second Coming. Jesus will be seated at the right hand of the Mighty One, but again, only an outline of the Father will be seen.

Notice this account of the Second Coming in Revelation 6:

Rev 6:16,17 "They [the wicked] called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face [the brilliant glory] of Him who sits on the throne [the Father] and from the wrath of the Lamb [who sits at His right hand]! For the great day of >>their<< wrath has come, and who can stand?" [Notice the plural.]

You have heard me say several times that Jesus is an identical twin of the Father.

Why is it important to know that the Father has an identical twin?

When we behold the life of self-denial and sacrifice, the humility and kindness of Jesus, we are also looking at the character of the Father.

Think about this:

Can you see Jesus washing the dirty feet of His disciples, allowing wicked men to ridicule Him, spit on Him and beat Him within an inch of His life before going to the cross. And then on the cross saying, "Father forgive them," before He died?

Because Jesus did these things, because Jesus is an identical twin, we know the Father would have done the same thing because Jesus is a perfect reflection of the Father.

John 14:9 Jesus answered [Philip]: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Our invisible Father has revealed Himself through the life, death and ministry of Jesus. This is why it was so critical that Jesus did everything just as the Father commanded.

Recapping:

Since the Father lives in unapproachable glory, He has chosen to speak to all creation through the lips of Jesus who is an identical twin.

This is why Jesus is called "The Word." Out of His mouth comes "the words of the Father."

The words that Jesus spoke when He was upon Earth were not His own! The Father spoke to the Jews through the lips of Jesus.

John 14:10 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work."

Now that we understand why Jesus is called "The Word," John 1:14 makes perfect sense:

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us [so that mankind could understand the Father and hear from Him]. We [the disciples] have seen His glory [on the Mountain], the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

We're out of time! Thank you for watching. Please watch this video a few times. Bookmark it and share it with your friends. Please proceed to the next video!

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August 2016

Seminar #317_03
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our third study titled:

"New Light Terminates
Sufficient Light"

We begin this study with a revelation given to John by the Holy Spirit:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God [the Father], and the Word was God.

>> Two << Gods are plainly declared in John 1:1.

Do you see why Jews today cannot accept the New Testament? It would mean the end of Judaism.

Letting go of religious traditions, religious culture, religious friends and beings ridiculed by family members for the sake of truth is a very VERY difficult experience.

If we take John 1:1 at face value, the result is simple.

Two separate Gods existed before anything was created.

The Father is called "God," the other is called "The Word" in John 1:1.

"and the Word was God"
"and the Word was with God [the Father]"

If you watched the previous segment, you know why Jesus is called "The Word."

The Father is invisible. He lives in unapproachable light.

Therefore, He speaks through Jesus, to Jesus and He exalts Jesus. He does not say anything else.

Even though Jesus lived in Heaven with the Father before He came to Earth, "The Word" was not called "Jesus" until Gabriel revealed the name which the Father gave Him. While we're on this topic, did you know:

The Father named Jesus.

The Father named John (the Baptist).
The Father named Isaac.

The Father named Jezreel and Lo-Ammi.
(sons of Hosea)

The Father named Lo-Ruhamah.
(daughter of Hosea)

And even though the name "Jesus" was a common name when Jesus was born, the Father has decreed that it shall become the highest of all names!

Phil 2:9 Therefore God [the Father] exalted Him [Jesus] to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name,

Phil 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth,

Phil 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord [Jehovah], to the glory of God the Father [Jehovah]."

The Father wants everyone to honor Jesus just as they honor Him.

Think about the ramifications in this verse, Jesus said:

John 5:22,23 "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

that all >>> may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him."<<<

When it comes to worship and honor, the equality of Father and Son is only possible if they are identical twins.

One God is visible, one God is not.

One was in Heaven while the other was on Earth. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father.

If you have seen the first video in this series, you will recall that for centuries, the Jewish version of monotheism was "a sufficient doctrine," but it was never an absolute doctrine -- even though the Jews made it absolute in their thinking.

Before his conversion, Paul was a zealous Pharisee. He was a zealot for Jewish monotheism, even to the point of consenting to the murder and the persecution of Christians.

After meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul became humble and teachable and Jesus opened his mind to many things which he did not know were true.

Then Paul discovered the headache that comes with "new light." Try telling your friends and relatives that "new light" has come and their religious views are in error.

Not a pleasant experience. And Paul suffered many blows from the Jews for telling them that monotheism and the Levitical system had been abolished.

What does history say about advancing truth?

On or about the time of fulfillment of prophecy, God reveals His plans, His ways and His will to ordinary people who seek truth.

This is how the wise men (Gentiles) discovered the time of Christ's birth and the priests and scholars in Jerusalem knew nothing about it!

When the time comes for the arrival of new light, new light always terminates "sufficient light." Of course, the problem is that most people think their "sufficient light" is "absolute truth."

Therefore, it is human nature to resist change. History reveals that most people are unwilling to let go of what they think is "absolute truth" when it can be shown that it was "sufficient light." Change is just too hard.

For fourteen centuries, Jewish monotheism was "a sufficient doctrine," but Jesus was sent to abolish that doctrine with "new light" and history says most of the Jews were unwilling to let go of their most sacred doctrine.

After his conversion, Paul recognized the onward march of truth. After He realized who Jesus was, he restudied the Old Testament with a new mindset and then he saw the life, death and ministry of Jesus as a prophetic fulfillment that had been hidden for many centuries.

Notice his excitement for the "new light" as he closes the book of Romans:

Rom 16:25-27 "Now to Him [the Father] who is able to establish you [build up the church]

(a) by my gospel and

(b) [by] the proclamation of Jesus Christ, [who has been revealed] according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God [the Father],

so that all nations might believe and obey Him [Jesus Christ] -- to the only wise God [the Father] be glory forever through [the ministry and teachings of] Jesus Christ! Amen."

Did you see it? Paul exalts the release of a new truth, there are two Gods:

". . . according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God [the Father]. . . "

When Paul became a convert to Christ, he was shocked to discover that he did not know Jehovah-Father or Jehovah-Jesus. As "a Pharisee of the Pharisees," he thought he convinced 100% that he knew Jehovah very well!

To give Paul time to rethink everything shown him, Jesus sent Paul to "Arabian Desert University." He spent three years out there sorting out many things which he had believed to be truth, but were not.

Paul's extreme transformation from Persecuting Pharisee to Persecuted Christian is proof that anyone can change if they are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to guide them into "all truth."

I want to go in another direction for a moment. Did you know that Jesus is the Creator of everything

that exists? Many Christians are unaware of this.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.

Jesus created the universe. He created the angels and everything in Heaven and everything on Earth. Jesus creates whatever the Father wants created.

Col 1:16 "For by Him [Jesus] all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him [Jesus] and for Him [the Father]."

Why is it important to know that Jesus created everything for the Father? Why is it important to know that the Father speaks through Jesus?

These facts are clues indicating there is more than one God! In fact, it takes three Gods to function as one God! In a later segment, you will see why the Father, Son and Holy Spirit decided to set up the Trinity in this way.

For now, consider how "new light" operates:

Let's go back to Isaiah 44:6. We looked at this verse in Segment 1 of this video series to see why Jewish monotheism was a sufficient doctrine for more than a thousand years.

Isa 44:6 "This is what the Lord [Jehovah] says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."

Sounds singular, doesn't it?

Now, let's zoom forward to A.D. 95.

Jesus has been in Heaven for 65 years. John is now an old man, exiled on Patmos because of His faith in Jesus. One Sabbath day, Jesus appeared to John.

Rev 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Rev 1:12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. . .

In Rev 1:17, "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

Rev 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades [the grave]."

Who said to John that He was dead, but is alive forever and ever in Revelation 1? Answer: Jesus

Who called Himself "the first and the last" in Revelation 1?" Answer: Jesus

OK, returning to Isaiah 44:6, we ask, who is Israel's redeemer and king? Answer: Jesus

Who said to Isaiah that He is the first and the last and apart from Him, there is no God? Answer: Jesus!

Jesus speaks in Revelation 1 and Isaiah 44.

If there are two Gods, how can He call Himself "the first and the last?"

Answer: The Father and Jesus are eternal Gods and both are called "Jehovah" in the Bible. This is a title which means "eternal God."

Jesus identifies Himself as the first and the last to Isaiah and John so that those who read the Bible can know that Jesus is from everlasting to everlasting. Jesus has no beginning and no end.

Speaking of the Creator, king David wrote:

Psalm 90:2 "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the Earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

When Jesus said in Isaiah 44:6, "apart from me, there is no God" does He exclude the Father?
Answer: No.

When Jesus spoke to Isaiah, He spoke within the context of the >>> sufficiency of monotheism.<<<

Israel did not know there were two Gods (although the Old Testament offers some hints).

The time had not yet come for Israel to know about two Gods.

The only God that had revealed Himself up to this point in time was a Jehovah that turns out to be Jesus.

Jesus speaks in the first person singular throughout the Old Testament because He was the only God that had been revealed, the only God that Israel knew.

Jesus is the God that created Adam and Eve.

Jesus is the God that destroyed the world with a flood in Noah's day.

Jesus is the God that delivered Israel out of Egypt.

Jesus is the God that spoke the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai.

More than 95% of the time, the Jehovah speaking in the Old Testament is Jesus.

Now that you understand that Jesus was the Almighty God that interfaced with Abraham and his descendants, perhaps you can grasp the infinite sorrow found in this verse:

John 1:11 "He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him."

How could this rejection happen?

Apostasy always overtakes people when people refuse "new light."

When a religious body becomes stationary, whatever truth they have becomes stagnant. "Sufficient truth" morphs into absolute truth and religious ideas and practices that have nothing to do with truth.

The Father understands the process and this is why He is constantly releasing "new light" to freshen up the pool of truth that exists.

So, when a group of people reject "new light," they cannot prevent themselves from falling into darkness [apostasy] because the light of truth never stops moving.

If we don't move forward with "new light," we will soon be left in darkness.

Israel's failure to move forward with the ministry of John the Baptist helps to explain Israel's rejection of Jesus.

Jesus said:

Mat 15:8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Mat 15:9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

The Jehovah worshiped by the Jews was imaginary, nothing like the Father and His Son!

This is why Jesus was sent by the Father to clear up a great stronghold of darkness.

But it didn't happen. John wrote:

John 1:5 "The [new] light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

Suppose you were a priest in Israel at the time of Christ. Suppose you were acquainted with Isaiah 54:5. What would you have thought looking at someone who was not formally trained as a priest?

Here's the text:

Isa 54:5 "For your Maker is your husband -- the LORD [Jehovah] Almighty is his name -- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the Earth."

Could you believe that Jesus was the Creator, Jehovah Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the Earth?

No. Not unless the Father revealed it to you.

One day, Jesus tested His disciples:

Mat 16:15 "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in Heaven.

No human being could imagine that a lowly looking homeless man could be the God of all the Earth.

The disciples really struggled with this. When they finally understood that Jesus was a fulfillment of prophecy, their faith in Jesus became strong.

Concerning the ministry of Jesus, Isaiah had predicted:

Isa 53:2 He [Jesus] grew up before Him [the Father] like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him [cursed] stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."

John wrote later:

1 John 1:2 "The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you >>> the eternal life <<<, which was with the Father and has appeared to us."

Jesus is an eternal God. He is the only one who has ever seen the Father:

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God [the Father] but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known."

So Jesus brought "new light" from Heaven to Earth. The Father wanted to terminate fourteen centuries of Jewish monotheism and a small number of people in Israel finally saw "the light."

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men!

I have seven summary points in closing:

1. John 1:1

Jesus is called "the Word" because He is the spokesperson for an invisible Father who lives in unapproachable light.

2. John 1:3, 10, Colossians 1:15,16

Jesus is the Maker and Creator of everything in the universe.

3. John 1:1, 18

Jesus is God. He was sent by the Father to reveal to the Father. He is the only one who has ever seen the Father.

4. John 1:14

The Word became flesh and lived on Earth. Jesus was sent to Earth so that the Father could speak through His lips.

5. Luke 1:35

The angel said to Mary, the Father testified through the lips of Jesus that Jesus was "the Son of God." The Jews perfectly understood His claim and killed Him for blasphemy.

6. Romans 16:25-27

After his conversion to Jesus, Paul understood that monotheism was a sufficient doctrine for centuries. It served a purpose. But the doctrine was made null and void when Jesus was born.

Another God had appeared. New light was revealed that had been kept secret for thousands of years.

7. Isaiah 44:6, Revelation 1:18

Jesus and the Father are eternal Gods. Both can say that He is the first and the last. They were together before anything existed and they will be together after everything is gone. They are identical twins.

We have covered some very important concepts and some even better concepts will be presented in following segments.

I hope you will watch this video series many times, because these are wonderful things to look into! We're out of time! Thank you for watching and please tell your friends about this seminar.

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_04
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our forth segment in this series. Today's title is:
"A Perfect Man Could Not
Atone for Sin"

I hope you have watched the previous segments, because they are the basis for the following conclusions:

There is more than one God. At one time, Jewish monotheism was a sufficient doctrine.

The Father sent Jesus to Earth to speak through His lips. The Father wanted the Jews to know that Jesus is His identical twin. This made the Jews furious and they crucified Him for speaking blasphemy.

Jesus and the Father identical, separate, distinct, co-eternal beings. They work very closely together for the benefit of the universe in different roles.

When these elements are added together we reach the following conclusion:

The salvation of sinners required the death of a deity who could donate two powers to mankind which was lost because of sin.

The Father designed the Plan of Salvation. His plan was designed to withstand every possible question, challenge and inquiry through out eternity. It is a perfect plan.

The life and death of a God indicates that sinners could not be saved through the death of a created being, such as a perfect angel or a perfect man.

Please consider the following:

1. When Adam sinned, several things took place.

Adam changed spiritually, mentally and physically because the power of sin overtook him.

The power of sin is a relentless force (like the power of gravity). Even if God does not execute sinners, the power of sin will do so. The power of sin takes every sinner down and the power of sin prevents a sinner from living a life free of sin. (Romans 7)

Adam became a slave to the power of sin when he sinned. He could never again be a perfect reflection of "the likeness" of God.

2. Because the power of sin took over, Adam's behavior changed dramatically on the day he sinned. Instead of being naturally selfless, he became naturally selfish.

Adam's propensity flipped 180 degrees. He went from joyful and natural submission to God's authority to natural defiance and resistance.

3. Sin's power over sinners grows stronger and stronger over time unless there is intervention. Given enough time and no intervention, the power of sin will transform every sinner into a predator.

A predator is someone who wants something and to get it, he will prey on the innocence, weakness or misfortune of someone else.

Predators prefer darkness (when their deeds cannot be seen by everyone), deceit (when their deeds cannot be known by everyone) and force (if/when/as necessary even murder is used) to get whatever they want.

4. When Adam sinned, he could not reverse or escape the power of sin.

Sin derives its power on sinners according to law. The law governing sin is like the law that governs gravity. Gravity is a force that constantly pulls us toward the center of the Earth and sin is a force that constantly pulls us toward evil.

When Adam sinned, he became doomed to commit sin for the rest of his life. Even though Adam became a "born-again" child of God (I believe he did), Adam continued to sin against God and his neighbor because the power of sin is forever within every sinner. (Romans 7)

I hope this brief summary about the power of sin helps you understand why the Father created a law that says, "The day you sin, you die." Long before sin existed, the penalty for sin was "sudden death" because there is no fix for the curse of sin other than death.

Even in the heart of born-again believers, the sinful nature has to be put to death each day or it will spring to life and the power of sin will overtake our best intentions.

Now that we have discussed the power of sin, consider this:

Although the Father has made a way for sinners to be forgiven, He cannot forgive, erase, hide, ignore or forget a single sin.

(Note: Yes, I know there are beautiful metaphors in the Bible indicating that God will forget or bury our sins at the bottom of the ocean (such as Jeremiah 31:34 and Micah 7:19), but please bear with me for a moment.)

Every sin is recorded, it is a historical event. Does God rewrite history? No.

Every sin has an owner or owners. Does God remove this ownership from us? No.

Every sin has consequences. Does God prevent the consequences of sin? No.

Every sin hurts someone or something. Does God keep people from hurting one another or from being hurt? No.

Because sinful deeds have records, owners and painful consequences, God does not forgive sin. But He will forgive sinners if they meet the terms and conditions which He has declared.

We have briefly discussed the power of sin and the consequences that come with sin.

You need to know that in terms of salvation, these issues are only half of the problem. The other half is this: God's laws are changeless and He has billions of highly intelligent observers who currently live in a sin-free environment.

Because God intends to replace the angels who were cast out with Lucifer, the holy angels have every reason to be concerned.

One day, Heaven is going to be filled with "a bunch of minions made of dust" and these people could ruin Heaven and sully the happiness which the holy angels have long enjoyed.

Do you now understand both halves of the sin problem? If not, you can rewind the video and try again.

Contrary to what many people think, God cannot use a giant eraser to erase our sins or a deep ocean to hide our sins because sin cannot be "undone" or "erased."

Have you heard about Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit? Yes, of course you know about it because their sin wasn't erased or hidden in the bottom of the ocean.

Just think: If God could have erased the sin of eating forbidden fruit and sin had no power, what would life on Earth be today?

The guilt of eating the forbidden fruit is one thing and the power that overtakes sinners is another.

To resolve the problems which sin produced, the Father created a solution called "Atonement."

And in the process of atoning for sin, the Father designed that repentant sinners will be restored to a position that is higher and better than the original position given to Adam and Eve!

Think of a new Adam and a new Eve, version 2.0!

Because billions of highly intelligent beings are closely observing the Father and His plan to save sinners . . .

Because these highly intelligent beings can think, reason and they have long lasting memories, because they are educated and observant, they well understand what justice and mercy are and they know what fairness is and is not. . .

To prevent a future mutiny in Heaven, the Father knows that billions of highly intelligent beings must be perfectly satisfied that (a) He broke no rules in the process of saving sinners, (b) He did He not use any questionable short-cuts and (c) the price paid by the Father is more than justice demands.

Therefore, the Father's plan has to withstand the closest scrutiny so that no hint of impropriety is

possible.

So, what is the Father's plan?

When Adam and Eve sinned, the Father chose to redeem them from the curse of sin by providing everything necessary for them and their offspring.

The only requirement placed upon sinners is that they would obey the voice of the Holy Spirit and live by faith.

Because the power of sin is a relentless force that leads to death, the Father has sent the Holy Spirit to every person. The Holy Spirit works in every willing heart to prevent evil from having dominion over every sinner.

Unfortunately, the Bible indicates that most people will not listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. For example, at the time of Noah's flood, very few people were willing to listen.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. They lost access to the Tree of Life and since they did not have the power of life within themselves, the power of sin took them to the grave.

So, Adam and Eve lost the power of righteousness and the power to live.

These two losses explain why the Father's plan required a donor who had these powers within Himself.

If they were donated, they could be taken from one and transferred to the other.

Angels could not make atonement for sinners because angels cannot donate powers they do not have.

Angels are created beings. They receive the powers of righteousness and life from the Creator, one breath at a time.

Look at these texts:

Heb 1:3 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. . . "

Col 1:17 He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Isa 45:12 "It is I who made the Earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the Heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts."

Psa 22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations.

Psa 22:29 All the rich of the Earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before Him-- those who cannot keep themselves alive."

No created being can keep himself alive.

Everything that lives is sustained by the power of Jesus. Paul said,

Acts 17:28 "For in Him [the Creator] we live and move and have our being."

You and I are alive because our Creator sustains us!

The Father could not use a created being to save sinners because a created being has nothing to donate.

Created beings are borrowers, dependents who "bring nothing to the table." We have nothing other than what our Creator provides.

Therefore, the redemption of sinners required the death of a God -- someone who had the powers of righteousness and life within Himself, someone who would be willing to cease to exist so His powers could be donated to repentant sinners.

If the Father could find such a donor, and if the Father could prove to the universe that the donor actually gave up these powers for no other reason than love, then the Father knew that He could >>> legitimately transfer<<< the powers of righteousness and life to repentant sinners as a gift and a universe of highly intelligent observers would be unable to raise a legitimate objection.

To satisfy the demands of His changeless law and to billions of highly intelligent observers, the Father set up these conditions:

1. Every sinner who shows a willingness to obey the Holy Spirit and walk by faith will receive the powers of righteousness and eternal life.
2. The price paid for the salvation of sinners infinitely exceeds the requirements of justice.

What did justice require?

Justice demanded that Adam and Eve be put to death.

But Adam and Eve did not defiantly sin.

There was a predator in the Garden and love was there, too. Adam loved Eve.

Therefore, the Father offered unmerited favor (grace) to Adam and Eve.

He would provide atonement for them.

A God would become "the Lamb of God."

Before the Father could accept the powers of righteousness and life that belonged to Jesus, the Donor must accomplish two objectives:

- a. He must be tempted in every way that human beings are tempted. (Heb 4:15)
- b. He must be tempted to use His divine power for personal safety or advantage. (Luke 4, Matt 27:46)

If Jesus was successful in overcoming both sets of temptations, the Father could legitimately offer the powers of righteousness and eternal life to sinners as a gift because the donor accomplished far more than any test which any created being would ever face.

Because there is nothing in the eternal laws of Heaven that prohibits the Father from transferring the powers of righteousness and eternal life to a sinner who lives by faith, and since the victories over temptation go beyond anything created beings will ever face, and since the sacrifice of an infinite God has infinite value, and since the Father's love for sinners is equal with His love for His twin brother, the Father wants the universe to see that He and Jesus truly love their neighbors as themselves.

Who could find fault with such a plan?

Who can question the legitimacy of such a transaction?

Not even the devil. A day is coming when the devil will even admit that what the Father and Jesus did for sinners goes beyond the limits of understanding.

Isa 45:23 "By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

Isa 45:24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD [Jehovah-Jesus] alone are righteousness and strength.'" All who have raged against Him will come to Him and be put to shame."

Bottom line: A created being could not atone for sinners because all created beings are dependent on Jesus for the powers of righteousness and immortality.

Jesus is not a created being. He is a God.

The salvation of sinners is built upon the existence of two Gods. The Father sent Jesus to Earth to test Him severely so that if Jesus passed all tests, the Father could donate to sinners the two powers that were within Jesus.

What kind of love is this?

Now that you know why Jesus was sent to Earth, you are ready to hear why Jesus is called "The Son of God." I'll discuss fascinating topic in our next segment.

We're out of time! Please bookmark and share this video with your friends and proceed to the next video segment!

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_05
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for today's study titled:

"How Did Jesus
Become the Son of God?"

There is much more to the subject of the Trinity than an argument over the number of Gods involved.

I want to begin this study with a short explanation about the title, "the Son of God."

Please consider the following:

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy], God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. . .

He said to Mary:

Luke 1:31 "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God [Jehovah-Father] will give Him the throne of His father David,

Luke 1:33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

How did Jesus become "the Son of God."

Was it the result of being born of Mary?

No.

Was it the result of being created by the Father? No.

Jesus lived with the Father for a long time before He became "the Son of God."

Jesus became "the Son of God" on the day that Adam and Eve sinned.

Here's the story:

When Jesus created Adam and Eve, He put them under the obligation of law.

KJV Gen 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Adam and Eve sinned.

Instead of immediately killing Adam and Eve after they sinned, Jesus went to the Father to see if there was any possible way to save them from death.

The Father said "yes," He had a solution, but the process would be lengthy and incredibly expensive.

Several things would be necessary to make atonement for them and their offspring.

The Father informed Jesus that the salvation of repentant sinners was only possible through the death of their Creator.

The Father's plan required that Jesus donate His powers for righteousness and eternal life.

The Father went on to explain that if He accepted, Jesus would have to come to Earth and live as a man.

For 33 years He would have to face and overcome every temptation known to man, and He would have to face the even greater temptations to use His own divine power for personal advantage. If Jesus did not yield to any temptation, His power over sin would be given to repentant sinners as a gift.

Then, the Father explained that Jesus would have to donate His eternal life so that it could be given as a gift to sinners who obey the voice of the Holy Spirit and live by faith.

Then, the Father promised Jesus that if He did everything as required, He would raise Him from the dead and at the end of sin's drama He would give every redeemed saint to Jesus as personal property.

For no other reason than love for the Father and for mankind, Jesus accepted the Father's offer.

At that very moment, Jesus became man's high priest. He became man's intercessor.

Jesus took a position between guilty sinners and the demands of the law (immediate execution).

The Bible describes the agreement reached between Jesus and the Father in Psalm 2:

Psa 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD [Jehovah]: He said to me [Jehovah], "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the Earth your

possession.

Psa 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Psa 2:10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the Earth.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD [Jesus-Jehovah] with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son [obey, submit to the Son of God], lest He be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for His wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him."

The Hebrew word for Son is *ben* and it means "a subject, one under authority."

In order to save sinners, Jesus, an identical twin of the Father, subjected Himself to the will of the Father and ever since that day, Jesus has been known as "the Son," the Subject of God the Father.

We see the submission of Jesus in John 8:42, ". . . I have not come on my own; but He sent me."

John 6:38 For I have come down from Heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me."

Clearly, two wills are involved.
Clearly, two persons are involved.

One person was The Sender, the other was The Sent.

Look at this well known verse:

KJV 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."

Jesus is called the Father's "only begotten Son" in John 3:16 for two reasons:

1. There could be no higher price for the salvation of sinners than the gifts which Jesus would have to produce.
2. There could be no greater suffering on the part of the Father than to require His identical twin to suffer all what was necessary for the salvation of sinners.

This was the Father's incredible agony:

Requiring Jesus to live victoriously over sin and donating His eternal life to sinners goes far beyond Abraham offering Isaac or Jephthah offering his daughter as sacrifices.

But many people use John 3:16 as a proof text to prove that Jesus is a created being. They say, "Jesus is the Father's only begotten son."

Such use of the Bible is wrong because it puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict.

Jesus was not created by the Father.

Many verses in the Bible indicate that Jesus is an eternal God, just like the Father.

1 John 1:2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you >>>the eternal life<<<, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.
Moses said of Jesus:

Psa 90:2 "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the Earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

When Jesus agreed to live and die for sinners, Jesus agreed to do something that He had never experienced.

Jesus had never experienced death. He had no idea what that was all about, but it didn't matter. If His life and death were required to save us, He would do it because He loved us as much as the Father loved us!

The Father promised to raise Jesus from the dead and give Him the whole world if He perfectly carried out His plans -- and Jesus had every reason to believe the Father.

But while on the cross, the Father did something which Jesus did not anticipate.

During His last few minutes on the cross, the Father imposed the curse of sin on Jesus (2 Cor 5:21) and suddenly, for the first time ever, Jesus was separated from the Father and He became totally hopeless and afraid.

When the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from Jesus, He was crushed (a) by total separation from the Father's love, Jesus felt betrayed and then (b) Jesus was convinced of the harsh reality that He would never see life again! King David summed up the anguish that Jesus felt:

Psa 22:1 ". . . My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?"

Psa 22:2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Psa 22:3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

Psa 22:4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

Psa 22:5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

Psa 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

Psa 22:7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

Psa 22:8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Psa 22:9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

Psa 22:10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Psa 22:11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help."

Mark 15:34 "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus cried out for an answer, "Why?"

At the last minute of Jesus' life, the Father intentionally crushed every hope of resurrection out of Jesus. He put Jesus in this horrible position because the Father wanted to know if Jesus really loved sinners enough to donate His eternal life to sinners and forever cease to exist.

Would Jesus actually go all the way and give up His eternal life if He believed there would be no resurrection?

Or, did Jesus go to the cross out of duty. Was Jesus dying with "resurrection assurance?"

The Father put this awful test to Jesus because He wanted the universe to see the price that the salvation of sinners required.

The greatest test which the Father could impose on Jesus was that of causing Jesus to feel there was no hope of living again.

And even though He did not understand what was going on in that last minute, Jesus did not fail the test.

This is profound to me:

Even though Jesus had predicted His resurrection (John 2:19), Jesus died without any hope of resurrection.

Can you believe, "He did it for no other reasons than faith and love?"

Wow!

Knowing the situation during His final moments on the cross, I cannot comprehend the faith that Jesus had in the Father. Jesus chose to believe the Father's promise --- even though everything within Him screamed that the Father had let Him down and there was no hope of resurrection.

What a victory over doubt!

I want to talk about a temptation that Jesus faced, but few people give it any consideration:

Jesus could have exercised His divinity at the moment the Father abandoned Him.

Jesus could have, on His own, exercised divine power and saved Himself.

Jesus could have said to the Father, "You tricked me, you said you would restore my life on the third day."

But Jesus refused to give in to doubt.

Jesus refused to abandon His faith in the Father.

Jesus refused to love His life more than sinners.

Even while Jesus was being treated with extreme cruelty, He refused to exercise divine power.

Notice what the Bible says about the very last minute of Jesus' life:

Luke 23:46 "Jesus called out with a loud voice [notice, this is not the voice of a man gasping for breath, a man who had been deprived of food and water and nearly beaten to death by Roman soldiers, but with the voice of deity, Jesus spoke loudly to show the universe that deity was speaking], "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit [breath]." When He had said this, He breathed His last."

Jesus willingly gave up His life and the Father took it from Him.

This is why Jesus is called, "The Son of God, the Lamb of God." Notice His subjection to the will of the Father:

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth."

When we consider that Jesus was willing to subject Himself to the will of the Father, willing to produce the righteousness that sinners need and willing to donate His eternal life that sinners lost, the infinite sacrifice that Jesus made for sinners, what does this say about His identical twin, the Father?

In the seventh segment, I will discuss a question that may interest you: "Instead of sending Jesus to die for sinners, why did the Father not send Himself?"

We're out of time! Thank you for watching. Please bookmark and share this video with your friends and proceed to the next segment.

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_06
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our sixth study in this seminar titled:

"Why Was Jesus Found Worthy?"
(Christian Monotheism Challenged)

When the doctrine of the Trinity is properly understood, a thousand internal conflicts will disappear! The truth on this topic causes a host of things to become clearer and more beautiful than ever before.

I want to begin this study with some details taken from Revelation 5.

For reasons beyond the scope of this study, John was taken to Heaven in the Spirit and zoomed forward in time to see an amazing story that took place in Heaven in 1798. (If you want to investigate the timing of this event, please go to our website and watch my a seminar titled, "Recent Dates in Bible Prophecy.")

The story begins when the Father called all of Heaven's angels to His throne.

The Father had a search conducted among the angels to find someone worthy to open a book that He had written before anything was created and sealed with seven seals.

No one was found worthy among the angels.

After everyone in Heaven had been considered, everyone who lived or had lived on Earth was also considered.

But no one was found worthy.

Then, Jesus offered Himself for consideration.

The story in Revelation 5 is written in such a way that the reader is not clearly informed about the importance of the event or the process that John observed.

For example, the qualifications needed to receive the book sealed with seven seals are not listed.

The purpose of the book is not declared and the secrets within the book are not revealed. But answers to these questions and many more become clear when several things are properly

understood. I'll say more about this in a moment.

John reports that after Jesus was found worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals, all of the angels and the four living creatures bowed down and worshiped Him.

Why did they do this?

Jesus was given sovereign authority over everything in Heaven and on Earth. (Dan 7:13,14; Rev 5:12-14)

Do you remember the prophecy in Ephesians 1:9,10? Paul said that a day would come when the Father would "bring all things in Heaven and on Earth together under one head, even Christ." This was prophecy was fulfilled in 1798.

When Jesus took over the Throne of God, the Father recused Himself. He stepped aside.

The Father gave up His position as King of kings and Lord of lords so that Jesus could use His own authority to conclude the sin problem.

OK, this is the basic story in Revelation 5, but here's an important question as it relates to the Trinity:

If Christian monotheism is true, e.g., there is one God, manifesting Himself in three persons (as most Christians believe), Revelation 5 creates a big problem: What difference does it make if Jesus was found worthy to receive the book, the same God still has the book He wrote!

How can this be: The God that wrote the book found Himself worthy to receive His book?

What is the point of searching the universe to find someone worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals if God finds no one other than Himself is worthy?

Internal conflict occurs when Bible verses cancel out each other. Therefore, Revelation 5 only makes sense when two separate Gods are involved.

Please bear with me for a few moments, I want to explain something. . .

When the Trinity formed, three equal, co-eternal, distinct and separate Gods came together to discuss the future. After some discussion, they decided to function as one God for the benefit of the universe. If three Gods ruled the universe, created beings would end up taking sides and needless conflict and competition would result.

So three Gods decided to function as one God.

Their decision required each of them to give up 2/3 of their rights and prerogatives.

For example, it was decided that one God, the God we now call "Jesus" would become the Creator of everything that exists.

To accomplish this, the Gods we call "the Father" and "the Holy Spirit" gave up their power to create so that Jesus would be the Creator.

The Gods we now call "Jesus" and "the Father" gave up the power to be omnipresent.

Only the Holy Spirit can be everywhere at once.

The Gods we now call "the Holy Spirit" and "Jesus" gave up their right to sit on the throne, the God we call "the Father" was given power and sovereign authority to be "Most High God."

And the two Gods we now call "the Holy Spirit" and "Jesus" gave up their ability to foreknow the future.

Only the Father has the power of foreknowledge and it was this power that enabled Him to write a complete history of life before any life was created.

Each God gave up 2/3 of His powers. The outcome of their surrender to each other can be expressed this way:

$$1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 1.$$

After the Trinity formed, they began to function as one God. They are one in purpose, plan and action.

For now, please consider this:

When the Father, wrote His book, He included the history of every angel in Heaven and every person on Earth before anyone was created.

Because the contents of His book are extremely sensitive (He foreknew who would be saved and who would not even before anyone was created), He sealed the book with seven seals so that no one could possibly know what He foreknew until after the drama with sin ends.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit do not know what the Father wrote in His book.

If anyone should discover what the Father wrote before sin's drama is completed, the Father would never escape the criticism that He ordained who would be saved and who would be lost -- even before the creation of life began!

Therefore, He sealed His book with seven seals. Nobody knows until everyone knows what He wrote.

Why does He want to show everyone the contents of His book at the end of the 1,000 years?

The Father wants to prove that He foreknew the drama with sin. He foreknew the price that would have to be paid to save sinners. He foreknew who would choose to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and receive salvation and who would not.

He wants to prove that even though He perfectly knows the future, He does not control the choices that His children can make. He allowed Lucifer and his followers to sin, He allowed Adam and Eve to sin, and He allows us to sin against Him if we wish. All of His children have free will and the power of choice.

And all sinners who listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit are given power to overcome evil. All others are taken to the grave by the power of sin.

Going back to Revelation 5:

Bible prophecy reveals that the Father initiated a process in 1798 that would bring the problem of

sin to a close.

The first thing He had to do was to find someone worthy to receive sovereign power, take over His throne and break the seven seals.

The Bible indicates that after everyone else in Heaven and on Earth had been considered for the task at hand, Jesus was considered and found worthy.

What made Jesus uniquely worthy to receive the book?

Consider these reasons:

Jesus was sent to Earth by the Father and He perfectly carried out the Father's will, even to the point of dying without any hope of resurrection.

No greater example of perfect submission to the will of the Father has ever been demonstrated and no greater love for sinners has ever been seen.

Jesus lived among human beings as one of us. He faced every temptation known to man and He also faced numerous temptations to use divine power for personal advantage and He never sinned.

After Jesus was condemned to death for blasphemy and nearly beaten to death by Roman soldiers, Jesus could have quit.

He could have exercised divine authority and ended the entire process to save sinners. (This was a huge temptation.)

But Jesus rejected the temptation. He chose to go to the cross and die for sinners, including those who were abusing Him. No one else has faced such a temptation and done this.

While on the cross, the Father surprised Jesus. The Father placed the curse of sin on Jesus. This separated Jesus from the Father. The Father did this because He wanted to see if Jesus loved sinners enough to die without any hope of living again so that His power to live could be given to sinners as a gift.

Given the nature and awesome accomplishments of Jesus, who else in the universe comes close to revealing the love which the Father and His identical twin have for sinners?

Who could be more worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals, the Father's throne and His sovereign power but Jesus?

There was no competition.

No one else in the universe comes close to the accomplishments of Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus was legitimately found worthy by the Father and billions of highly intelligent angels to receive the book sealed with seven seals.

Jesus was given the Father's throne (sovereign power) and after a great celebration, He began to break open the seven seals!

What does this story have to do with the Trinity?

During the third seal, the judgment of mankind begins. Jesus opened the books of record in 1844 and He began to investigate each life. Jesus determines which sinners will be saved and which will not. He does this in full view of billions of observing angels.

Jesus is the Judge of mankind.

John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.

Paul wrote,

2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

If the Christian version of monotheism is true, there is "One God manifesting Himself in three persons," the outcome of Revelation 5 makes no sense:

One God conducted a search of the universe and found Himself worthy to receive a book which He had previously written and then He gave Himself permission to break open the seven seals. Then, this same God began to judge mankind during the third seal to see who would be saved or lost.

This is nonsense.

The basis for Christ's worthiness was found in this: He overcame every temptation, He lived in perfect submission to the Father and His incredible love for sinners has been proven by His death.

Jesus is the only person in the universe who is worthy to judge sinners and resolve the sin problem because He loves the Father in the same way that He loves sinners!

We are out of time! Thank you for watching. Please bookmark and share this video with your friends and hurry to the next segment.

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_07
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our seventh study titled:

"What Kept the Father
From Dying For Sinners?"

For many years, Lucifer spread lies and innuendo among the angels that the Father was unfair and His laws were created for personal benefit. The devil argued that if anyone stepped out of line, sudden death would be the result.

This approach to keeping everyone under the dominion of the Father, the devil taunted, was not the way of love.

For many years, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit did everything possible to get Lucifer and his followers to repent and change course. But they refused and eventually, they committed the unpardonable sin.

Did you notice they committed the unpardonable sin?

The final straw was broken when Lucifer and his followers defied a direct order from the Father. God does not endlessly extend mercy and grace to defiant and rebellious children therefore, Lucifer and his followers were cast out of Heaven.

Through the centuries, people have wondered whether it was a good decision to allow Lucifer to live. They ask, "Why wasn't the "sudden death" law applied to Lucifer and his followers when they were cast out of Heaven?"

This is a good question and I hope you will consider the following:

According to infinite wisdom, God did not immediately execute Lucifer and his followers for several reasons.

1. God wanted the universe to see something that could not otherwise be seen. He wanted highly intelligent beings to witness and observe the ways of good and evil.

Think of "the knowledge of good and evil" as a package of information that matures with age. When the power of sin is fully mature, only then can the power of sin be properly understood.

When highly intelligent observers see the fruit, the horrible consequences that the law of sin always produces, only then does "the sudden death law" become a righteous law in the eyes of those who understand good and evil.

2. God turned Lucifer's rebellion into an opportunity to educate highly intelligent beings about the nature and curse of sin. By sparing Lucifer and his followers for a season, and limiting them to one planet, the rest of the universe could safely observe the curse of sin and form their own opinions about God and His character.

3. The Father allowed Lucifer and his followers to live so that he could reveal a number of things that could not be otherwise known:

a. He wanted to demonstrate what love is and is not. This was an opportunity to show the universe once and for all eternity to come, the depths of His love for His children.

b. He wanted to demonstrate the nature and use of divine authority. He wanted to show that His foreknowledge and His omnipotence are not used to manipulate His subjects. Every child has free will.

c. He wanted to demonstrate a judicial process that had not been revealed. He wanted the universe to see that justice and mercy are equals, they operate together in perfect harmony.

d. He also wanted to demonstrate the nature and operation of the Trinity. He wanted the universe to see and understand the wisdom of three Gods operating as one God.

There are many other reasons for postponing Lucifer's death, but we can be sure that at the end of sin's drama, when the 1,000 years are finished, all of God's children will understand and unanimously agree that allowing Lucifer and his followers to live for a season was the perfect choice.

The Father not only did the right thing, He brought many wonderful lessons and blessings to the universe by allowing the curse of sin to exist for a season!

OK, let's change gears for a moment:

The sins of Adam and Eve were unlike the sin of Lucifer and his followers. The sins of Adam and Eve created a very different situation.

Adam and Eve were not defiant, they did not commit the unpardonable sin. They did not disobey a direct order out of rebellion or stubbornness.

Eve disobeyed through deception. She ate the forbidden fruit because she believed a lie.

Adam disobeyed through idolatry. He loved Eve more than God. Adam put the second commandment first. Adam loved Eve more than He loved God. Adam chose, out of love for Eve, to suffer "sudden death" with her. He did not want to live without her.

Knowing what you now know about the power of sin, the sorrow, pain, suffering and death that came upon mankind as a result of their sin, what do you say about Adam's choice? Was it romantic or stupid?

So their sin was unlike the sin of Lucifer and his followers, and since Adam and Eve did not sin defiantly, the Father was willing to offer salvation to them.

The Father also saw a wonderful opportunity. Adam and Eve could procreate. Therefore, if the Father extended salvation to mankind, He foreknew that some sinners would be saved! This means the Father could use the salvation of ex-sinners to repopulate Heaven and Heaven would be off than ever before!

By replacing Lucifer and his followers with ex-sinners, the Father has created a wonderful solution for keeping the universe free of sin for all eternity to come.

Suppose a billion years from now that a newly created person should consider rebellion against the Father and His government. What can the Father do to prevent another instance of sin? He can send millions of ex-sinners to the door step of the person tempted to sin! What a marvelous rescue!

Because ex-sinners lived in sin, because they were victims of the curse of sin, they can personally testify about the power of sin and the misery it brings.

If their testimony and the efforts of the Holy Spirit cannot prevent a person from committing rebellion, the saints and angels will sadly agree that righteousness dictates "sudden death."

For these reasons and more, the Father chose to make atonement for Adam and Eve.

If Jesus and the Father had not reached an agreement concerning the salvation of sinners, Adam and Eve would have been executed the very day they sinned.

And Jesus, I assume, would have simply created two new people to live in Eden.

But think what would have been lost if Adam and Eve had been put to death!

The universe would not know the depths of God's love as we now do!

OK, now that we have briefly discussed the defiance of Lucifer and his followers, the deception of Eve and the idolatry of Adam, look at this verse:

John 3:16 "For God [the Father] so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Question: If the Father "so loved the world enough to give up His only begotten Son," why didn't the Father Himself come to Earth and die for us?

What kept the Father from coming down from Heaven and dying on the cross?

Many non-Christians cannot understand why Jesus had to die. Why would "a God of love" have to kill His only begotten Son in order to save sinners. It makes no sense to them.

What kept the Father from dying on the cross? This is a serious question and scholars have fussed with it for centuries.

Before we look at possible answers, please consider two things:

First, if the Father's death **could have achieved the best possible outcome**, the Father would have come to Earth and gladly died for sinners. He loves us this much.

Since He did not come to Earth to die on the cross, there are very important reasons for it. For

example:

It would be more difficult for the Father to give up someone that He dearly loved instead of giving Himself.

Suppose that you have a child and you love him dearly, especially when he is tucked in bed and sound sleep. Looking down on that little face, which is easier for a parent to do, let his son die or die in his place?

I know a number of parents who have prayed to God, volunteering to give up their lives if God would heal their sick child. This is true love.

We can be sure that it was more difficult for the Father to give up Jesus than it would have been for Him to give up Himself. His love for Jesus is that great!

The second consideration is this: The Father's plan to save sinners cannot be based on the behavior of one God because: After the Trinity formed, [it takes three Gods to function as one.](#)

The Father gave up Jesus.

Jesus gave up His life.

And, the Holy Spirit [condemned](#) Jesus as an unpardonable sinner.

Now that you have these considerations in mind, what do you think of this:

If the Father had come down from Heaven and died on the cross, could it be said later on in eternity that He is not fair?

Suppose someone sins a billion years from now and the sudden death law is implemented.

Is it possible that some family member of the deceased will say, "Why didn't the Father die for him? He died for Adam and Eve, why not for him? They sinned and He died for them, he sinned and He killed him. God isn't fair! He loves some more than others."

Even though it could be made, this argument would not be valid because Adam and Eve did not have the knowledge of good and evil when they sinned. (Gen 3:22)

After the drama with sin is completed and the knowledge of good and evil is spread throughout the universe, there is no excuse for sinning, for rejecting the Holy Spirit or the testimony of ex-sinners. There will be no logic or evidence supporting the claim that the Father is unfair.

But wait, there is one more reason to consider.

The Father did not come to Earth and die for our sins because He wanted to make Jesus an eternal Hero. He wanted to exalt Jesus above Himself.

Even though the Father sits on the throne, Even though He reigns as Almighty God, He chose according to sovereign power and infinite wisdom to exalt Jesus above Himself.

Wow.

For eternity to come, Jesus will have great honor and endless worship wherever He goes and this will not compete with the Father in the least because He is just as humble and selfless as Jesus.

There will be no jealousy between Jesus and the Father. The Father has deliberately and purposefully exalted Jesus and He will be delighted to have Jesus receive the same worship, honor and praise that belongs to Him -- forever.

When the Father set up the plan of salvation, Jesus did not know about the plan or His participation in it. Before sin began, the Father **chose** to use Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins rather than Himself so that He could exalt Jesus. When 1798 arrived, the Father put everything in Heaven and Earth under Jesus' control so that a humble looking Jesus will forever be praised and worshiped in the same way that our invisible Father who lives in unapproachable light is praised and worshiped.

The humility of Jesus is the humility of the Father.

The heart of the Father and the heart of Jesus are filled with **the same love for sinners**.

Therefore, on the basis of demonstrated love we can say that the Father chose, according to infinite wisdom and sovereign authority to accomplish the salvation of repentant sinners in a way that would simultaneously accomplish several eternal objectives AND it is the glorious outcome of these many objectives that caused Him to design the Plan of Salvation as He did.

>>> The Father's design for the salvation of sinners includes far more than just the salvation of sinners and the death of a God! <<<<

Look at the big picture: The Father's plan of salvation pivots around education and revelation. In it, we learn about power of righteousness and the power of sin, we learn about good and evil, love and lust and most of all, the Gods that make up the Godhead!

The Plan of Salvation reveals a host of things about all three Gods that would otherwise be impossible to know!

For example, the Father has used His plan to reveal the depths of His love for human beings and not only the depths of His love, but also the depths of love that Jesus, the Creator, has for sinners!

Two hearts of love have been fully revealed with one solution!

The Father has used the plan of salvation to reveal the nature of His government to the universe.

Billions of angels (and I assume, people living on other worlds) have seen and now understand how the two laws of love actually operate. The Father has revealed the necessity for justice and the importance of mercy.

As a result, there is an understanding of Heaven's judicial system that did not exist prior to the cross.

For 6,000 years the universe has seen God's love (His justice and mercy) applied in a wide range of situations -- both in Heaven and on Earth.

And when the 2,300 days in Daniel 8:14 ended in 1844, all of the angels were assembled to watch Jesus investigate the records of the dead and pronounce judgment on each person.

And last, but not least, the Father has used the plan of salvation to reveal that Jesus is His identical twin.

Going forward into eternity, the Father wants everyone to know that even though Jesus wears a humble visible body, He really is a God, an equal of the Father who lives in unapproachable light. Their differences are in their roles, not in their deity.

Look at the Trinity: One God lives above all. He sits on the throne. One God lives beside all. He lives as one of His created beings. And one God lives within every willing heart.

If the Father's death had been the best solution, He would have died on the cross for us. But He chose, according to infinite wisdom and sovereign authority, to achieve the salvation of repentant sinners in a way that would simultaneously accomplish several objectives and these objectives will never stop producing wonderful results throughout eternity!

Given the Father's love for two sinners on a tiny speck of a planet in an infinite universe, the Father made Jesus an offer.

Jesus could have the whole world if He was willing to redeem it.

Because Jesus loved Adam and Eve as much as the Father loved them, Jesus accepted the Father's offer, fully

understanding the requirements and the price that would have to be paid.

And on that day, instead of executing Adam and Eve, Jesus was executed, slain from the foundation of the world!

Jesus became the Lamb of God, "the Subject / the Son of God" and now you know why the redeemed will be a kingdom of priests belonging to Jesus throughout eternity!

This high and lofty status doesn't mean much yet, but it will prove to be an amazing position for eternity to come!

When the drama with sin is over and the endless creation of planets filled with people resumes, Jesus will have a numberless multitude of priests who will gladly serve Him and fulfill His desires!

Rev 1:5,6 "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father -- to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

And what is a priest?

Heb 5:1 [A priest] "is appointed to represent them [people] in matters related to God."

Throughout eternity the saints will serve as priests of God, telling an infinite number of new worlds containing billions of new people about the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

We are out of time! Thank you for watching. Please bookmark and share this video with your friends and proceed to the next segment.

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_08
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

Hello, I'm Larry Wilson. Please join me for our eighth segment titled:

"God is Love. Is He or Are They?"

I want to present one of the best arguments favoring the existence of three separate, equal, distinct, co-eternal Gods.

I know that we have not yet discussed the deity of the Holy Spirit, but we will in the next segment.

For now, please consider a declaration that is far more profound than many people realize:

God is Love

The Bible says, "God is love." (1 John 4:8, 16)

What does this declaration mean?

What is love?

How is love defined?

How does love operate?

What actions are consistent with love and which actions are not?

These are not abstract questions that have no answers. However, they are very difficult questions and the answers are only found in one place: God.

God lives and acts within the boundaries of love.

God is a perfect demonstration of "what love is."

God's behavior defines love.

Thus, the Bible declares, "God is love!"

Historically and prophetically, the Bible provides a 7,000 year sample of God's words and actions.

This large sample of time is enough time for every possible situation to arise for God to demonstrate what love is and is not. It is also enough time for the seeds of sin to fully mature so that everyone can see what the curse of sin produces.

For thousands of years, God has preserved the Bible because it is the only book that correctly reveals His ways, His plans, His character and His love.

God wants everyone to know Him and His ways through His Word.

Why has God put Himself in a position to be studied so closely?

He wants the whole universe to understand love because the two highest principles in His government are based on love.

One day, a lawyer asked Jesus:

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Mat 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

OK, what is love?

Love is not feelings or emotions.
Love is not indulgence or lust.
And love is not an insatiable desire.

Love is wise.
Love has boundaries.
Love is disciplined.
Love is always fair.
Love exalts righteousness.
Love honors integrity and truth.

Love requires intelligence and free will.

God's love is a promise that He will never hurt or harm His children. Even the penalty for sin is not torture! The penalty is "sudden death." (Yes, torture will be imposed on the wicked at the end of the 1,000 years, but only in proportion to the amount of torture the wicked imposed on their neighbors.)

God's love is an infinite commitment to a perfect balance between justice and mercy.

Paul describes the second commandment with this simplicity:

Rom 13:10 "Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the [second] law."

But, who determines what harm is and what harm is not? God.

This may come as a surprise. Love has well defined boundaries and these boundaries are called laws.

Because God is love, all of His laws are based on love. For example, love does not commit murder. Love does not steal. Love does not commit adultery. Love does not lie, love does not covet the possessions of others and love exalts and honors our parents.

Love for our neighbor does no harm, it is demonstrated through concern and selfless behavior.

On the other hand, selfishness is demonstrated by abusive words, hatred, murder, lying, cheating, stealing, sexual immorality, greed and dishonesty.

Lust (I want) is the opposite of love (I give).

OK, love has boundaries which were created by infinite wisdom.

The Father sees the outcome of every action and He knows which actions are beneficial and which are harmful.

Therefore, He has created a set of laws and imposed them on us to help us live within the ways of love.

Each of His laws defines where love begins.

For example, one law says, "Thou shalt not steal." This law tells me that when I love my neighbor enough that I would not consider stealing from him, I have begun to fulfill the law.

Now hear this: If I do not steal from my neighbor because there is a law against it, I have not begun to fulfill the law. I am merely obeying the law. Did you know that you can obey the law without loving your neighbor!

Sure!

Obeying the law and fulfilling the law may have similar results for awhile, but God knows that a wide gulf will develop between these two behaviors. Paul wrote:

1 Cor 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Cor 13:3 "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Love is a profoundly important topic to God because His ways are the ways of love.

You may be wondering, what does love have to do with the Trinity?

Actually, far more than I thought!

Here's the problem:

If the Jewish version of monotheism was true, e.g., there is one God and His name is Jehovah, how does the first law of love fit in?

First law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, mind and soul."

How can a selfless God of love demand that His subjects love Him above everything and everyone else? Do you see the paradox?

The command is selfish and self-seeking if there is one God because God puts Himself first! Moreover, how can a God of love demand that free-will subjects love Him?

If Jehovah demands first place and highest position, how is He different than Stalin, Hitler or other dictator?

Dictators and kings operate on the premise that any attempt to depose, dethrone or restrict their powers is treason and all traitors are deserving of death because traitors love another authority, they want to tear down the authority of THE authority.

So, when we look at the first law of love within the context of one God, we have a situation where the one and only God cannot be questioned, challenged or rejected without the threat of death. Lucifer told the angels, "Break the first law of love and the penalty for sin is all yours."

OK, let's look into the Christian version of monotheism, e.g., there is one God who manifests Himself in three different persons.

How does the first law of love apply?

The situation is similar to the Jewish version of monotheism.

There is still one God demanding that His subjects love Him with all of their hearts, minds and souls.

Again, such a command is contrary to the nature of love because love is something that a person, having free-will must choose to give. Love can only be given, it cannot be coerced, demanded or extracted.

If God commands His subjects to make Him first and highest because He is first and highest, how is He different than a dictator?

OK, what about this?

Suppose there are three equal, distinct, separate, co-eternal Gods that make up the Trinity.

Suppose three separate but equal Gods came together one day and they chose to unite and function as one God for the benefit of the universe they wished to create.

Suppose they chose to live and function as one God because this would forever prohibit "highly intelligent beings" from playing one God against another. (I'm sure you recognize the game that all children play as they grow up...)

In order to unite and function as one God, each God had to give up $\frac{2}{3}$ of Himself so that $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1$.

They chose to subjugate themselves to each other in love and operate as one God of love.

For example, they decided among themselves that only one God would speak for them. He would be called, "The Word."

They decided that only one God could be everywhere, seeing and hearing everything and reporting back to the other two Gods. This God is the one we call the Holy Spirit.

They decided that only one God could sit on the throne. He would be the Most High God. He would be in charge of the universe forever. This God, we call the Father.

They decided that one God would be the Creator. He would create everything that the Father wanted and give it life, but the Holy Spirit would keep it alive. The Creator is the God we call, "Jesus."

If you will consider the idea that the Trinity functions as one God because all three Gods have surrendered 2/3 of themselves to each other, guess what?

The Trinity becomes a living demonstration of love.

Each God loves the other two with all of His heart, mind and soul!

And all three of them love their neighbors as themselves!

This means that if necessary, all of them would have died to save sinners!

Now we see why the two highest laws in the universe are laws of love.

This is how three Gods live and this is the only way that three Gods can harmoniously function as one God.

The Trinity is a daily demonstration of what love is.

They live in perfect unison and happiness through selflessness.

And no union in the universe is greater in selflessness and happiness than the Trinity.

And they want their experience to be the experience of their children! This is why the angels and Adam and Eve were created in their image, after their likeness, with a powerful propensity for selflessness. All created beings are made in the image of God!

And when born-again sinners are inducted into "the family of God" through baptism, Jesus commanded that we are to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit because they are the founding members of a family forever bonded together by love!

Jesus said the two highest and greatest laws in the universe are the two laws of love.

If we understand the Trinity to consist of three Gods serving as one God, the two laws of love require us to live and love as they do and if we do, the laws of love will be fulfilled! We will be found living within them and they will be found living within us!

This is what Jesus meant when He said:

John 10:37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

John 10:38 But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Love cannot be demanded.
But...
Love studied and observed,
Love chosen and freely given
-- is love awakened.

When I read the phrase, "God is love," I now understand the phrase to mean that more than one party is involved.

God is a party of three and what a party it is!

Love is the only way that three omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent co-eternal Gods can serve the universe as one God and love is the only way that all of God's children can live with in harmony with them and with one another for eternity to come.

Each God is totally selfless and His humble submission, giving 2/3 of Himself to the other two makes the Trinity possible.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have made a covenant with each other to live this way for all eternity. Wow.

Do you realize that their infinite love for each other is our only guarantee that eternal life will be filled with happiness and unlimited joy forever?

Heaven will be a safe place for angels and human beings someday because love will flourish in the House of God forever.

We're out of time! Please bookmark this video and share it with your friends and proceed to the conclusion.

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August, 2016

Seminar #317_09
Speaker: Larry Wilson

The Trinity: One God or Three?

This is our ninth and final segment in this seminar series. Today's study is titled:

Is the Holy Spirit A Separate Deity?

We have examined several passages from the Bible which show the presence of two separate, distinct, co-eternal Gods.

The Father is an eternal God and so is Jesus.

At this point we need to focus on the nature and identity of the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit a separate, distinct, co-eternal God like the other two or is the Holy Spirit a perfume or sweet influence that exists between the Father and Jesus or between these Gods and humanity?

The following four references convince me that the Holy Spirit is a separate, distinct, co-eternal member of the Trinity:

1. Notice the words of Jesus in John 16:

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."

All of the characteristics indicated in these two verses describe a being who can hear, who can speak, who can think and who can carry out an intelligent mission.

1. "He will not speak on His own . . . "

(indicating that He can speak on His own and for Himself.)

2. "He will speak only what he hears . . . " (indicating that He can hear and understand what is said, He has intelligence and reasoning powers.)

3. "He will bring glory to me . . . "

(indicating He knows how to bring glory to Jesus, He knows what must be done.)

4. "He will guide you into all truth." (indicating that He able and capable of guiding people into all

truth.)

So, John 16:13,14 indicates a separate being called, "the Spirit."

Second Text: The Holy Spirit was present when Earth was created:

Gen 1:2 "Now the Earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Why was the Spirit of God hovering over the waters?

Answer: The Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead that sustains life to everything that is given life.

The Holy Spirit is the conduit through which God's grace and power is transferred to His children.

John 6:63 "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are [empowered by the] Spirit and they are life."

Notice what God said to Noah:

Gen 6:3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

What happened after 120 years?
The flood came.

Why?

1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Finally, Solomon wrote in Eccl 12:7 that when a man dies, ". . . the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the Spirit [the sustaining power of the Spirit] returns to God who gave it."

Text #3. It is possible to lie to the Holy Spirit. This indicates He knows a lie when He hears it. He is a member of deity, He is not a perfume or influence:

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Acts 5:4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

The Holy Spirit is a God, too!

Text #4. Rejecting the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin. Jesus said:

Mat 12:31 "And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Mat 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come [throughout eternity]."

What does this warning really mean?

The Holy Spirit is the only omnipresent God. He is unseen, but He is everywhere at the same time. He sees and hears everything and He connects all created beings with the Father and Jesus.

He constantly updates the Father and Jesus about everything taking place.

If we defy the Holy Spirit and shut Him out, it is impossible to connect with God, and God cannot connect with us.

This is why rejecting the Holy Spirit is so serious.

Notice what the Holy Spirit does:

Rom 8:26 ". . . the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Rom 8:27 And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

A member of deity searches our hearts and intercedes for the saints.

This is not the work of a perfume or an influence that exists between two Gods.

The Holy Spirit is fully God, just like the other two. Because they decided that three Gods will function as one God, the Holy Spirit is the only God who can be everywhere, the only God that be within us and He is the only God that connect us an invisible Father and a Jesus who currently sits on the throne of God.

The Holy Spirit is invisible (like the Father), but this does not reduce His importance or position within the Trinity.

In fact, Jesus commanded that when a person is baptized into the family of God, each person is to be baptized into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit because they are identical triplets who function as one God.

I could say more about the Holy Spirit, but I don't need to. The Holy Spirit will show you from Scripture who He is if you are willing to let Him speak!

The Bible points forward to a day when something most unusual will take place. The whole world is going to see a great display of Holy Spirit power. The prophet Joel gives us some indication about this:

Joel 2:28 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

Why is this going to happen?

Before Jesus returns, the sheep from the goats must be separated. And what is the spiritual difference between His sheep and the goats?

John 10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Rom 8:14 " . . . ' those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

Do you see the connection?

I would like to close this seminar on the Trinity with a short summary taken from each segment. I believe the Bible teaches the Trinity consists of three separate Gods. Here's why:

In the first segment titled, "The Testimony of the Father," we discussed the following:

- Jewish Monotheism teaches there is one God (Jehovah) and all other gods are false or imaginary.
- Jesus was sent to Earth by the Father so that the Father could speak through the lips of Jesus. The Father wanted to confront the Jews with the fact that they did not know Him.
- Jesus said that He and the Father were one. The Jews properly understood the Father to mean that Jesus was a God, He and the Father are identical twins.
- Jesus was crucified for speaking "the testimony of the Father" which the Jews regarded to be blasphemy.
- The Father confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God by speaking at the baptism of Jesus, by speaking on the mount of transfiguration, by speaking shortly before Jesus was crucified and by tearing the temple veil from top to bottom. In addition to this, He spoke to the Jews through the lips of Jesus and worked many miracles through Jesus.
- The Father said that if the Jews loved God, they would also love Jesus because Jesus is just like the Father.
- Because the Jews could not let go of monotheism. Jesus was put to death.

In the second segment titled, "Why Is Jesus Called 'The Word?'," we discussed the following:

- The Father releases knowledge over time. Therefore, truth is always unfolding. "New light" can abolish doctrines that were previously thought to be absolutely true.
- The Father attempted to terminate the Jewish doctrine of monotheism through Jesus. The Father wanted Israel to know Him, so He sent Jesus to the Jews to speak the truth through Him.
- The Father validated the deity of Jesus with many miracles, even His virgin-birth. But the miracles only hardened their hearts. When the mind is unwilling to let go of tradition, miracles do not matter.
- When the Father speaks in the Bible, He speaks through Jesus, to Jesus and He exalts Jesus. He does not otherwise speak.
- The Father is invisible, He has never been seen by anyone but Jesus. He lives in unapproachable light.

- Jesus is the called "The Word" because the testimony of the Father comes through His lips.
- The Father will come with Jesus at the Second Coming and those who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus will be resurrected to see them sitting side by side.

In the third segment, titled, "New Light Terminates Sufficient Light," we discussed the following:

- Jesus is called The Word because the Father sent Him to Earth to speak for Him.
- God follows a predictable process. On or about the time of fulfillment, God reveals His ways and plans to people willing to learn, people searching for truth.
- After Paul's mind was opened, he understood that God reveals mysteries over time and what was thought to be absolute has to be updated with new light.
- Jesus is the Creator of everything that exists. Everything He makes belongs to the Father with one exception. Everyone that Jesus redeems belongs to Him.
- Jesus spoke to Israel within the context of monotheism. He was the only God that had spoken to them. He was the only God they knew. Therefore, He used the singular tense in many of His statements.

In the fourth segment, titled, "A Perfect Man Could Not Atone for Sin" we discussed the following:

- Because Jesus is deity, because Jesus died on the cross, we know that the salvation of sinners required the death of a deity.
- If a perfect man could have saved sinners, the Father would have created someone like Job to satisfy His Plan of Salvation.
- To legitimately give the powers of righteousness and eternal life to sinners, the Father required a donor who had these powers within Himself.
- The Plan of Salvation is built around the premise that the powers of righteousness and eternal life are transferable, but only after the donor has overcome every possible temptation.
- Because the power of sin cannot be fixed, because the powers of righteousness and eternal life cannot be created out of "think air," the Father's Plan of Salvation is based on a concept called "Atonement." He took upon Himself the responsibility of providing everything that was lost through sin.
- Advocates for a "created Jesus" or "a perfect man" are protecting the Jewish version of monotheism. Jewish monotheism was terminated by the Father.

In the fifth segment, titled, "How Did Jesus Become The Son of God?" we discussed the following:

- Jesus was not created by the Father.
- Jesus became a subject of the Father when He accepted the Father's plan to save sinners.
- Jesus did not come to Earth on His own. He was sent by the Father.

- Jesus is called the Father's "only begotten son" to indicate no higher price could be paid for sinners.
- There could be no greater anguish on the Father's part than requiring His identical twin to suffer all that was necessary for the salvation of sinners.
- Before Jesus could die for sinners, He had to be tempted as sinners are tempted and He had to be severely tempted to use divine power for safety or personal advantage.
- While on the cross, the Father caused Jesus to be crushed when the curse of sin was put upon Jesus.
- Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."
- The Father removed from Jesus any hope of resurrection to see (a) if Jesus loved sinners enough to donate His eternal life to them and (b) to see if Jesus would doubt the Father's promise of resurrection and use divine power to prevent His death.
- Jesus was tested and tempted far above anything sinners have to experience. He was faithful to the demands of the Father and because of His subjection to the Father, Jesus is called "the Son of God."

In the sixth segment, titled, "Why Was Jesus Found Worthy?" we discussed the following:

- Christian Monotheism (one God manifesting Himself in three different persons) puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict. We found this to be true in Revelation 5.
- It makes no sense for the Father to write a book, seal it with seven seals, conduct a search throughout the universe for someone worthy to receive the book, only to find Himself worthy to receive the book which He wrote.
- Jesus was worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals for the following reasons:
 - a. Jesus came to Earth and overcame every temptation to sin.
 - b. Jesus lived a life that was in perfect compliance with the Father's will.
 - c. Jesus was willing to die for sinners even if there no hope of resurrection.
 - d. Jesus could have used divine authority at any time to end the cruel treatment that He suffered, He could have come down off the cross if He wanted, but He chose to die without any hope of living again so that sinners could be given His power of righteousness and His eternal life.
- No one in the universe was found worthy to sit on the throne and receive sovereign power but Jesus.
- The Father put everything in Heaven and on Earth under Jesus so that He could complete the sin problem in such a way that no deficiencies could be found throughout eternity.

In the seventh segment, titled, "What Kept the Father from Dying for Sinners?" we discussed the following:

- When Lucifer and his followers were cast out of Heaven, the Father did not immediately destroy them.

- The Father chose to let the devil and his demons live for a season so that the universe could witness something that could not otherwise be seen.
- The Father wanted the universe to see the fruit that the curse of sin produces.
- The Father wanted the universe to see the depths of His love for His neighbors.
- The Father wanted the universe to witness the nature and use of divine authority.
- The Father wanted the universe to observe a judicial process that had not been implemented before.
- In short, the Father allowed Lucifer and his followers to exist so that the knowledge of good and evil might endure for all eternity to come!
- If the Father's death for sinners would have achieved the best possible outcome, the Father would have certainly come to Earth and died for sinners. He has the same love for sinners that Jesus has.
- If the Father had come to Earth and died for sinners, what argument would He have a billion years from now if someone sinned? How could the Father implement the "sudden death" law and avoid the accusation of being unfair? Can't you hear a loved one saying, "Well, He gave His life for sinners long ago, why not now?"
- The Father, according to infinite wisdom and sovereign authority created a plan of salvation that would only need to be implemented once. This plan includes many revelations about nature of God's love and government. It also includes object lessons that will endure for all eternity.
- One of the outcomes of the Father's plan of salvation is this: The Father will have a host of ex-sinners who will testify throughout eternity about the power of sin. Their testimony and the ministry of the Holy Spirit will forever keep a universe of free-will children safe from sin. If someone should insist on rebellion after hearing from ex-sinners, if he should continue in the path of rebellion, defying the voice of the Holy Spirit, that person will be put to death on the day he sins and no one in the universe will object.

In the eighth segment, titled, "God is Love" we discussed the following:

- God lives and acts within the boundaries of love, therefore, He defines love.
- Love (giving) is the opposite of lust (getting).
- A person can obey the law without loving his neighbor.
- Until a person loves his neighbor enough to do him no harm, he has not begun to fulfill the law!
- If there is one God, the first law of love makes no sense. Love cannot be commanded or demanded from a free-will being. Love is something that has to be given.
- God loves a cheerful giver!
- The Trinity is a daily example of love.
- In order to function as one God, three Gods gave up 2/3 of themselves. Their selfless behavior is a living example of what love is.

- The commandment "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind and soul" can only be fulfilled through selflessness, living in the Trinity as they live in the Trinity.

- Jesus said that when baptism occurs, sinners are to be baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This means that when a sinner is brought into the family of God, he recognizes the presence of three equal Gods!

- The Father does not consider it blasphemy to worship the other two Gods because they are His equals.

- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have made a covenant of love with each other for all eternity. Their covenant guarantees that eternal life will be happy and safe, free from the power of sin.

And finally, we learned at the beginning of this segment that the Holy Spirit is a deity, He is a separate, co-eternal member of the Godhead.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is the only conduit to and from the Father and Jesus.

If it were not for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, no one could know God, walk with God or enjoy the love of God.

The Bible reveals a wonderful truth: The Trinity consists of three eternal, wonderful, selfless Gods perfectly united in purpose, plan and action. They function as one God for the benefit of their children and it is their selfless giving to each other that defines what love is and is not!

So, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, this seminar is concluded.

Thank you for watching! If you would like to download a copy of my notes, please click on the information icon located at the top right.

I hope this study has been helpful. Please bookmark this video and share it with your friends.