

Bkgd. Paul in Ephesus - WHO IS GOD?

People "all shouted for 2 hrs "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians"

met disciples of John the Baptist

"we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit" Acts 19.2

After 3 years ministry - "You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you...publicly and from house to house...I have not hesitated to proclaim to you THE WHOLE WILL OF GOD" Acts 20.20,27

OPPOSITION TO CONSIDERATION OF TRINITY / even Ugandan pastors!!

1. Keep faith "simple" // Complex Society, Jobs, COMPUTERS

Study / Work Hard to stay on "CUTTING EDGE" / Knowledge of God?

"Love God with heart, soul, MIND, and strength"

2. All the same God anyway / All roads lead to God

Illus. Yesterday I bought a table, you have table in your house,
THUS - You have MY table in YOUR house! -LOGICAL FALLACY

You worship ZAMZAM, I worship ZAMZAM, we worship same ZAMZAM

EVERYONE DOES NOT WORSHIP THE SAME GOD!

"For this is ETERNAL LIFE, that they might KNOW YOU, the ONLY TRUE GOD, and JESUS CHRIST, whom you have sent." John 17.3

God of the Bible / Salvation - One God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

3. Word Trinity is not in the Bible - TRUE /so also Bible

COINED TO EXPRESS BIBLICAL TRUTH - One God, Three Persons

4. Disdain irrelevant, theoretical speculation / LATER TRUE

Bible - Practical, Personal, WHAT GOD F/S/HS HAS DONE FOR US!!

Paul writes ONE LONG, BREATHLESS, SENTENCE OF PRAISE...

BEYOND OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS to God's Purposes?

Ephesians 1.3-14 "Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"

1. The Father, Architect of Salvation (vs. 3 - 6)

a. Blessed by the Triune God

v. 3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

John 16.15 "All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you"

b. Chosen to be Holy

v. 4 "he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight"

v. 11 "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"

1 John 4.19 "We love because, he first loved us"

John 1.12,13 "to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision... but born of God"

c. Adopted as God's Children

v. 5 "he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ"

Galatians 4.6,7 "we have received the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son"

v. 5 "in accordance with the pleasure of His will"

Romans 9.15 "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion"

John 15.16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."

d. Our Confession

v. 6 "to the praise of His glorious grace"

Matthew 11.25-27 Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

2. The Son, Accomplished Salvation (vs. 7 - 12)

All of God's Blessings to Us are: "IN CHRIST"

Galatians 2.20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

a. Redeemed by His Blood

v. 7 "In Him we have redemption, through His blood"

Mark 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

b. Forgiven by His Grace

vs. 7, 8 “the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding”

2 Corinthians 5.21 "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

c. Head over Heaven and Earth

vs. 9-11 “...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ...”

Colossians 1.16 “all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"

Romans 11.36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever."

d. Our Confidence

v. 12 "for the praise of His glory"

Romans 8.28 “God works all things together for the good of them that love God and are called according to His purpose"

3. The Holy Spirit, Applies Salvation (vs. 13 - 14)

a. The Promise Fulfilled

v. 13 “you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

Joel 2.28 "I will pour out My Spirit on all people"

John 16.14 "He will take what is mine and declare it unto you"

Acts 2.38,39 "Repent and be baptized...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you..."

b. Hearing and Believing

v. 13 "you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked"

John 6.37,44 "All that the Father gives me will come to me....No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him"

Romans 10.14,17 "How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?...Therefore, faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ"

c. Marked with a Seal

v. 13 "you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit"

4.30 "the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"

Romans 8.16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children"

d. Down-payment Guarantee

v. 14 "a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession"

Romans 8.23 "we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies"

Matthew 19.28 "at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne"

e. Our Celebration

v. 14 "to the praise of His glory"

Luke 10.21 "Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth"

Acts 7.55 "Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

2 Corinthians 3.18 "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Philippians 3.3 "we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus"