

February 4, 2024

## The Doctrine of God – Week 15

For the last two weeks, Matt has been helping us to better understand the Trinity.

This morning, we will begin to look at **Eph.1:3-14** to see how each Person of the Trinity is equally but differently involved in our salvation.

In Titus, when Paul says *...God our Savior...*, Whose Name comes to mind?

This morning, we will begin to look at **Eph.1:3-14** to see how each Divine Person is equally but differently involved in our salvation.

Let's begin by 1<sup>st</sup> by identifying the author and the recipients in **v. 1-2**.

**v. 1a** *Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...*

- *...Paul, an apostle...* *Apostolos* - a person who is officially commissioned as a messenger
- *...of Christ Jesus...*
  - *...of...* or belonging to Christ Who had the authority to appoint Paul as His messenger of the Gospel.
    - *Authority - Matt. 28:18* *...Jesus... spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."*
    - *To appoint Paul - Acts 9:15* *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles..."*
      - *...Lord...* - *kurios* - a person who has supreme authority.
      - *...to carry My Name...* - Paul was the messenger and the messenger of the Gospel.
- *...by the will of God...* - God [the Father] is the Source of Jesus' authority.

This phrase is the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of the Trinity. In it we see the equal yet distinct involvement of the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is explicit at this point.

**v. 1b** ...to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are [also] faithful in Christ Jesus...

- ...saints... - Greek *hagios*, from the Hebrew *kedesh* for *holy*
  - Holy - to be set apart for God's purpose [**Gen. 1:26; Rom. 8:29**]; to be morally pure.
    - **Lev. 19:2** ...be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.
    - They are saints because God has made them holy [**2 Cor. 5:21**] in Christ.

Next, Paul identifies these saints as those:

- ...who are at Ephesus... to the church at Ephesus [Acts 18]
- ...who are faithful in Christ Jesus...
  - ...faithful... from the Greek *pistos*. Theirs is a steadfast faith that endures to the end.
    - **Col 1:23** ...continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel...
  - ...in Christ Jesus... the location and Source of their faithfulness.
    - ...in... is *en* in the Greek and identifies Jesus as the Location and Source of their faithfulness.
    - ...in... speaks about their union in [with] Christ so that they are now ...partakers [partners] of the Divine Nature [**2 Peter 1:4**]
    - Because they are ...in... Christ, they now share in His faithfulness ...by the Spirit [**Gal. 5:25**] Who is in them

**v. 2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ...Grace... - the unmerited basis of their being called ...saints...
  - **Eph. 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...
- ...peace... - the result or the effect of grace.
  - **Phil 4:7** ...the peace of [that belongs to] God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Rom 5:1** ...having been justified by faith, we have [relational] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
- ...from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...
  - ...and... - Paul uses the conjunction *and* [Kai] to show that ...Grace... and *peace*... are equally yet distinctively from the Father and the Son.

In these two verses, Paul begins by emphasizing the centrality and necessity of the Trinity in our salvation.