

The Iron Men of Fellowship of Champions

Colossians 1:19

Lesson 8

Noel R. Vincent

13-May-2023

Opening Prayer

Colossians 1:19 (NOTES)

- “the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him” – “Father’s” is not in the original manuscript. The translators are attempting to make sense of the text absent a definite article and are, to an extent, editorializing/commenting/interpreting the text, no doubt on the premise of readability. But translators must keep to translation, that is, “How does the original language of the text read in the translated language?” Otherwise, we end up with a paraphrase rather than a translation.
- The text would better read, “It pleased the Divine Nature”, or “it pleased the Godhead (deity = theotes).” The original Greek text puts it this way “because in Him was well pleased all the fulness to dwell” “all the fullness” is both what indwells and what was pleased.
- This “fulness” (Gr. - pleroma: lit. - "that which fills") is the Divine Nature/Deity of Co 2:9 (KJV - “Godhead”). That is, it was the Godhead’s will and pleasure that the human body of Jesus should house all of that which is the triune God (theotes = godhead), in the second person of the Godhead, the Son.
 - Heb 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, ‘SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME.
 - Col 2:9 For in Him also the fullness of *Deity* [*theotes* = godhead] dwells in bodily form.
- Various versions of the word “Godhead” (Gr. - theotes) appear just 3 times in the KJV, but 5 times in the original manuscripts. It does not refer simply to a divine being, but to the fulness of divinity and its state of being expressed in the triune God of the Bible.
 - Co 2:9 For in Him also the fullness of *Deity* [*theotes*] dwells in bodily form.
 - Ac 17:29 Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature [*theotes*] is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.
 - Ro 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature [*theotes*], have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- 2Pe 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence'. 2Pe 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises', so that by them you may become partakers of [the] divine nature [theotes], having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Discussion: Why is this doctrine of the deity of Jesus so important? It qualifies Him as Savior. Why does anybody care? What He said was true (the Gospel). What difference does it make to us a believers? "For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1Co 1:18) Why does it matter to unbelievers? His deity gives Him authority, rejecting His commands have consequences.

- God is a triune spirit-being, *subsisting* (in the legal sense: *remain in being, force, or effect*; not in the natural sense: *to barely get by*) in three persons.
 - Mt 22:41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: Mt 22:42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." Mt 22:43 He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, Mt 22:44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES UNDER YOUR FEET'"? Mt 22:45 Therefore, if David calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" Mt 22:46 No one was able to offer Him a word in answer, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him any more questions.
 - Ps 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
 - Php 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, Php 2:6 who, as He [already] existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, Php 2:7 but emptied Himself [by] taking the form of a bond-servant [and] being born in the likeness of men. Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. Php 2:9 For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, Php 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Php 2:11 and [that] every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- God does not manifest Himself at various times as either Father at one time, or Son at another time, or Holy Spirit at yet another time – that would be the heresy of modalism. Non-trinitarian groups that deny orthodox trinitarianism include: United Pentecostal Church International, Oneness Pentecostalism (Jesus Only Movement).
- God is not three gods – that would be the heresy of *polytheism*. Rather, God is one God – the orthodoxy of *monotheism*: one essence, which is spirit, subsisting in three persons.
- Islam falsely claims in its Qur’an that Christianity is polytheistic (many gods). Islam falsely claims that Christians hold to a God-Jesus-Mary view of the trinity, and that each of three gods make up the trinity. Not only is this false, but it is telling that the Qur’an, which claims to be truth from the all-knowing Allah, somehow gets its facts wrong about Orthodox Christian trinitarianism. The Bible is true, and the Qur’an is false.
 - De 6:4, 32:39, Is 44:6, 45:5, Ja 2:19

Excursus on Trinitarianism

- The Father says “I,” the Son says “I,” and the Spirit says “I.” The Father says “You” to the Son, the Son says “You” to the Father, and the Father and the Son refer to the Holy Spirit as “He” and “Him.” The Father loves the Son; the Son loves the Father, and the Spirit testifies of the Son.
- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons - for a person is an intelligent subject who can say “I,” who can be addressed as “You,” and who can act and be the object of action. Thus, the divine being subsists in three persons - Father, Son and Spirit. Each person has the same attributes and is the same in substance and is equal in power and glory.
- There is an order of authority and subordination (administration) the Father is first, the Son second and the Holy Spirit third. The Son is of the Father and the Spirit is of the Father and the Son. The Father sends the Son. The Father and the Son send the Spirit. The Father operates through the Son. The Father and the Son operate through the Spirit. The converse is never true: the Son and the Spirit never send the Father or operate through Him. The Spirit never send the Son or operates through Him.
- The Scriptures do not provide a single passage wherein the doctrine of the Trinity may be succinctly presented (such as is the doctrine of the resurrection or the doctrine of faith). 1Co 15, Heb 11
- Rather, the doctrine of the Trinity, like so many other doctrines in Scripture (eternal life, redemption and the rapture of the church, for example) is spread throughout the OT and NT, “a little here, a little there.”

- Isa 28:13 So the word of the LORD to them will be, “Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there,” ...
- But there are a number of passages where the three are specifically mentioned.
 - Isa 48:16 Come near to Me, listen to this: From the beginning I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.”
 - Joh 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; Joh 14:17 the Helper is the Spirit of truth, ... Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. Joh 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.
 - Joh 15:26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify about Me.”
 - Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ... Ga 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba! Father!”
 - 1Pe 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood...
- The names of God are in the plural. The plural word for God, “Elohim,” appears 2,347 times in the OT in reference to the triune God. Personal pronouns are used in the plural - “Let Us make man in Our image.” Ge 1:1, 26.
- The benediction of baptism is in the singular “name” of the plural “Father, Son and Holy Spirit”, not *names* (plural).
 - Mt 28:19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- In Christ’s baptism, the Father addresses the Son, and the Spirit descends like a dove.
 - Lu 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, Lu 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.”
- There is a distinction made between the Lord (YHWH) and the Angel (malak) of the Lord (YHWH), both of whom command and receive divine worship. “Angel” (Heb. - “mawlawk”) meaning to dispatch as a deputy or ambassador. The Lord is the Father. The Angel of the Lord is the Son. Ge 16 - Hagar, Ge 22 - Abram, Ge 32 - Jacob, Ex 3 - Burning Bush, Num 22 - Balak,
 - #Gen 16, Gen 22, Gen 32:24-30, Ex 3, Num 22
- Jud 13 & Is 9 - His Name is “Wonderful”.

- Isa 9:6 *“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty, God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”*
- At the announcement of Samson’s birth in Jud 13:18 *“But the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”*
- There is a distinction made between the Holy Spirit and the other two persons of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the designated source for all truth, knowledge, wisdom and understanding.
 - Joh 16:13 *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*
 - Isa 11:2 *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*
 - 1Co 2:6-16, 12:4-11
- The Holy Spirit can be sinned against and grieved.
 - Mt 12:31 *“Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Mt 12:32 “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the [age] to come.”*
 - Eph 4:30 *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

Discussion: How does the doctrine of the trinity impact nonbelievers? Of all the religious beliefs out there, it is the lighthouse that points the way to the one true God, because all other formulations of god fall short on this doctrine. It is self-proving. Fellowship, love, creation, salvation, eternity – all require a triune godhead. What are some ways the doctrine affects our daily lives as believers? We pray and are reconciled to God the Father. We trust in Christ as savior from His wrath. We are regenerated by and yield to the Holy Spirit. How important is it to understand and be able to articulate this doctrine?

Application Discussion

Closing Benediction: 2Co 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Closing Prayer

Small Groups

- Discuss current Scripture reading assignment.
- Prayer:
 - Praise reports.
 - Matters of accountability.
 - Prayer requests.