

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 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. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (NIV84)

Theme: Salvation lies in the hands of the Triune God.

1. All that belongs to the Father belongs to the Son.
2. All that belongs to the Son belongs to the Spirit.
3. The Spirit will glorify the Father and the Son by making all this known to mankind.

There are plenty of things in the Bible that we don't understand but believe to be true. Perhaps there the best example of this is the doctrine of the Trinity. How can there be one God, but three persons in that one God? How can there be a Father and a Son, but they are co-equal and co-eternal? How can the Holy Spirit be sent out by both the Father and the Son, yet he is co-equal with them? We can try to understand it or explain it all we want, but we will never be able to completely. We can try to come up with different analogies or comparisons; but they all fall woefully short and result in false doctrine.

The Triune God cannot be understood, yet we believe it. Yet there are many who don't. They can't understand it, so they reject it. Even though there are many things they can't understand yet trust to be true; their reason can't get passed three equal persons in one divine being. So for them Jesus can't be God, and they completely ignore the Holy Spirit. They deny the one true God and show themselves to be unbelievers.

But God doesn't need us to understand the Trinity; he just wants us to believe it. So throughout his Word he simply puts forth the facts—and we see three divine beings, yet one God. He doesn't try to explain the Triune God to us—for he knows we can't understand it. He simply gives us the facts and leads us to faith. So today we see that our salvation lies in the hands of this Triune God.

Jesus said in verse 15, **All that belongs to the Father is mine.** How can this be? Only because they are equal. Only because they are two persons in the same God. So what is the Father's is also the Son's. And what is the Son's is also the Father's. What the Father wants so does the Son. And what the Son does, so does the Father. And the Father wanted to save us from eternity.

For he knew what would happen. The Triune God created us perfect and holy, just like him. As we read in Genesis 1, **Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,"...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.** But man wouldn't last long in God's image. We soon fell away. The devil came to tempt Adam and Eve. We doubted God's love and they ate the forbidden fruit. We lost God's image. Now sinners. Now God's enemies.

But God had mercy and compassion on his children. Instead of destroying them and starting over, he decided to show love to those who sinned against him. He told Satan and Eve in Genesis 3:15, **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.** This is the first gospel promise. God promised that one of their descendants would defeat Satan. So here we have God, at the beginning of the world, promising to send his Son, Jesus, to save sinners.

This is something that the Father had planned to do before the creation of the world. Before the world was ever created, God chose you to be his own. God chose you to be saved through the work of Christ. As Paul said in Ephesians 1, **For he (God the Father) chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.** God the Father has his hand in our salvation by choosing us to be his own before he created the world. And when we sinned he promised to send his Son to save us. And that he did. As one John says in his first epistle, **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

What belongs to the Father also belongs to the Son. So the Son never works in contrast to the Father. They are always in harmony for they

are one. The Son always does the Father's will. The Father's will was to show love to us by saving us. And that's exactly what the Son did. In Romans 5 Paul calls Jesus God and points out how he paid for our sins. **God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

It was purely an act of love that caused Jesus to do this. It wasn't because we were so good; it wasn't because we had impressed God with who we are and what we have done, that he saved it. Rather it was exactly because of who we are and what we have done that God had to save us. We were sinners on our way to hell. We were helpless to save ourselves and in need of a Savior. So out of his love and mercy Christ decided to save us. He saved us out of his grace—his undeserved love for sinners. Paul makes this point in Romans 3, **All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

Jesus did this by coming down to earth as a man. He was true God and true man in order to be under the law and keep it perfectly in our place. He saved us by suffering and dying on the cross. He took away the guilt of all our sins, and placed them on himself. He paid the price of eternal damnation when he was forsaken by God the Father. And then he gave us his perfect life. But Jesus didn't just pay for our sins. He also gave defeated the devil and death when he rose from the dead. And he gives this victory to us.

And don't think for a second that this was easy. Jesus knew it was all going to happen. He knew he would be betrayed by one of his followers. That those who he was sent to save would arrest him and treat him shamefully. He knew he would be beaten, blindfolded, and spit upon. He knew that he would be crowned with thorns, hit with rods, and flogged. He knew he would experience pain when nails were driven through his hands and feet. He knew the guilt of the world's sins would be upon him. And the anguish he would feel from being forsaken by God.

He knew all of it. And so he prayed to God. **My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.** But it was the Father's will. It was the Father's will to show us love and to save us in this manner. And so it was the Son's will. And so he did.

So the Father and the Son share everything. They both desire to show love to us by saving us. So how does the Holy Spirit come in? Jesus tells us in our text for today. **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.** The Holy Spirit speaks the words of Christ. And since the Father and the Son share all things, than God the Holy Spirit speaks for both the Father and the Son. And so he proceeds, or is sent out, from both the Father and the Son.

And since he speaks the Words of the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit speaks the gospel. The means that the Holy Spirit uses are the means of grace—the gospel in Word and sacrament. Through these he brings us to faith and leads us to the one true faith. And when he uses the gospel, he does what the Father had decided would happen from before the beginning of the world. As we read in 2 Thessalonians 2, **From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.** When the Holy Spirit spreads the gospel he completes our election. He completes the act of the Father who chose to save us through the work of the Son.

He does this by bringing us to faith. It is through him that we believe what we read in the Bible. Through him we believe true what we can't comprehend or understand. Without the Holy Spirit we wouldn't have faith. For we would never choose to believe in our enemy—we would never, on purpose, believe in something that doesn't make sense. No, it is through the Holy Spirit, and through him alone that we believe. Because of him we believe that the Triune God—three persons in one God, is the only true God.

It is faith that receives the blessings Christ won for the whole world. So it is through our God-given faith, that we receive salvation. Through the gospel, which works faith, The Holy Spirit sanctifies us, or makes us holy. Through faith in the Son, we are no longer sinners in God's eyes, but his own dear children. The Holy Spirit fulfills what Jesus once prayed to the Father. **Sanctify them by the Truth, your Word is truth.**

Through the work of the Holy Spirit we have salvation. He leads us to receive the blessings the Son won for us. He completes what the

Father decided to do. And so the Holy Spirit gives glory to both the Father and the Son. Jesus makes this point in verse 14, **He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.** The Holy Spirit gives us his Word in the Bible. He tells us what the Father has done to save us. He makes known to us what the Son has done to save us. He leads us to believe what he has done to save us.

Through the Word we see the Triune God. And we see that the three persons of the Trinity are all involved in our salvation. They all work together for our salvation. Of course they do, they are one—so when one does something, they all do something. Three co-equal persons, but one God. They all save. Our one Lord gives us salvation.

You can't understand the Trinity. You can try many different analogies to explain it, but they all fall short. You can't understand the Trinity, but you believe the Trinity, and you derive comfort from the Trinity. For the Triune God reveals himself for a very practical reason—so that we might have the comfort of salvation. For all three persons of the Triune God, are involved in our salvation—from the Father choosing us and sending his Son; to the Son dying on the cross and rising from the dead; to the Holy Spirit bringing us to faith through the gospel—all three are involved in our salvation. We may not understand the Trinity, but through the gospel we believe it, for through him we have salvation. Amen.