

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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CHRISTIAN DEBATER GUIDE VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

Testimony to the Eternal Godhead—The Trinity

By: Dr. Edward Bickersteth
Author, *The Trinity*

The Old and the New Testament alike, assures us that in the trustful knowledge of One God, - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, - is the spiritual life of man now and forever.

The Lord grant that we may continue to bring to the study of his word, that humble spirit which prays "That which I see not teach thou me" (Job 34:32).

To one who receives with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save our souls, the Scriptures already adduced prove beyond contradiction that as the Father is God, so is Jesus Christ God, and so the Holy Spirit is God. This truth, however, must be combined with another, which is revealed with equal clearness and enforced with equal solemnity:—"I am Jehovah, and there is none else, there is no God beside me" (Isa. 45:5). The combination of these truths established the doctrine of the Holy Trinity,, for "these Three must together subsist in one infinite Divine essence, called Jehovah or God; and as this essence must be indivisible, each of them must possess not a part or portion of it, but the whole fullness or perfection of the essential Godhead forming, in a unity of nature, One Eternal Jehovah, and therefore revealed by a plural noun as the Jehovah Elohim, which comprehends these Three; but with this solemn qualification, that the Jehovah Elohim is in truth but one Jehovah, Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This supreme mystery must transcend all the powers of human thought; and the question must recur again and again, What saith the Scripture? Our imaginations must be counted as the small dust of the balance. Thus do you conceive that the very names "the Father the Son" imply a certain point in duration beyond which the Father inhabited eternity alone? Your conception cannot countervail the assertion of Scripture, that the goings-forth of the Saviour have been everlasting (Micah 5:2); or the words of Christ himself, adopting the formula which declares the Divine self-existence from eternity to eternity, "I am the first and the last" (Rev. 1:11).

The illustration, before adduced, of the sun, its beams of light, and its vital heat, may offer

some faint resemblance of this great mystery; for the beams of light are generated by the central orb; and yet the sun could not have existed, so far as we know, for a moment without emitting its radiance, nor the radiance have existed without diffusing its warmth; so that "one is not before another, but only in order and relation to one another." But no creature can adequately image forth the Creator, who asks, "To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isa. 40:18).

Again, do you imagine that the name of him who is alone Jehovah, cannot comprehend a Trinity in Unity? Your imagination is as nothing in contradiction of the words of Christ revealing the one Divine name, as "the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Do you asseverate the impossibility of three subsistences in one eternal essence? Remember, I pray you the words, "Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?" (Job 11:7). What do we know of the essence of created things? The pure white light seems indissolubly one; and unscientific man would, without hesitation, pronounce it uniform, and would utterly deny any plurality subsisting in its transparent simplicity. The colours of the rainbow seem evidently manifold; and the same man might refuse to credit their unity. Science stoops to analyze light; and we are told that—

"The prismatic spectrum consists in reality of only three spectra of nearly equal length, each of uniform colour, superposed one upon another; and that the colours with the actual spectrum exhibits, arise from the mixture of the uniform colours of these three spectra superposed. The colours of these three elementary spectra, according to Sir David Brewster, are red, yellow, and blue. He shows that by a combination of these three, not only all the colours exhibited in the prismatic spectrum may be reproduced, but their combination also produces white light. He contends, therefore, that the white light of the sun consist, not of seven, but of the three constituent lights." — "Lardner's Museum" vol. 7 pp. 78.

The unlearned man then, in his incredulity, would have denied an established fact. The unity of that pure white light was not so simple as he affirmed. More constituents than one subsist in its ethereal essence. But has science

now fathomed the mysteries of light? So far from it, we read—

"Light is now proved to consist in the waves of a subtle and elastic ether, which pervades all space, and serves to communicate every impulse, from one part of the universe to another, with a speed almost inconceivable. In this luminous ether, matter seems to emulate the subtlety of thought. Invisible, and yet nourishing all material objects into life and beauty; so elastic, that when touched at one point, swift glances of light tremble through the universe; and still so subtle that the celestial bodies traverse its depths freely, and even the most vaporous comet scarcely exhibits a sensible retardation in its course—there is something in the very nature of this medium which seems to baffle the powers of human science, and to say to the pride of human intellect, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." Here, indeed, the most brilliant and profound analyst have continually to guess their way, when they would trace out a few of the simplest laws resulting from the existence of such an ether, and unfold their application to the various phenomena of reflected and refracted light. It is a great deep of mystery. Science grows dizzy on its verge when it strives to explore the nature of this subtle, immense imponderable ocean, which bathes all worlds in light, and itself remains, by its own nature, invisible forever." — Birks' "Treasures of Wisdom", pp. 99-106.

Is such the modest confession of truth after all the triumphs of human wisdom? Is the man only wading, with tremendous footstep, into the shallow waters of that unfathomable sea called into existence by the fiat of God, when he said, "Let there be light, and there was light?" Are we so soon out of our depths in seeking to understand one of his works? How much rather may we expect to be humbled as we meditate, and to be baffled if we think we can comprehend, the glorious Creator himself? Is light a mystery? How much rather he who dwells in the light that no man can approach unto! We know

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"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)

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CHRISTIAN DEBATER GUIDE STAFF

Publisher
CHRISTIAN ANSWERS
P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714
Phone (512) 218-8022
Director/Editor
Larry Wessels
Director of Research
Steve Morrison
E-mail Address:
cdebater@aol.com
Website:

www.biblequery.org or
www.inerrancy.org

The Gospel in Brief

There is one, and only one, eternal, true God, holy, almighty, all-knowing, righteous, and good. He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

(See also Acts 10:36-43)

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels but that's not going to happen unless the Lord opens their hearts (Acts 16:14). People without the Holy Spirit just cannot get it in a saving way. The Apostle Paul was not fooling around when he said, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). Paul goes on to say in Romans 8:7-8, the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Needless-to-say unless a person is born again by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-8), that person does not have a clue about the spiritual truth of God and His ways. Unfortunately, for the spiritually born again Christian, most of the people he comes into contact with are not "born again" (Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23) and thus the battle for God-ordained truth is continually going on.

There is a need now more than ever for the faithful Christian witness to "study" to show himself approved (II Tim. 2:15) by learning God's essential truths and then sharing those truths with the dying world around him. The visible Christian Church in our day, by and large, is sinking deeper and deeper into theological anarchy. A recent Barna Research Group poll conducted among 6,038 randomly selected "church-going" adults, revealed that only 41% believed the Bible is accurate (Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics ranked the worst at between 32-34%); only 27% believe that Satan is real; only 40% believe that Jesus was sinless; only 30% believe in salvation by grace apart from works; and only 32% see evangelism as a personal responsibility. Let's face it, the visible church is weak and impotent because it is filled with UNBELIEVERS who call themselves Christians. Christ said, "...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

The battle is now clearly before the Christian (I'm talking about real Christians not "fake" ones) on all fronts, both in the church and outside of it. The mission field for evangelism does not need to be limited to just those outside of the church anymore. Good Bible preaching and teaching is required but how is it going to happen unless somebody knows and understands what the Bible is saying? Hear me Christians, get off your backsides and study God's Word and share it with others! Don't expect the "fake" Christians to do anything because they don't have a deep, loving personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to them church is just a fire insurance (Hell) policy and a family or cultural tradition anyway. This newsletter includes excellent articles by distinguished theologians Dr. Edward Bickersteth and G.D. Watson, along with study material by Steve Morrison. The nature of God is a critical truth of light and must be proclaimed into the darkness of ignorance and disbelief. Praise be to the one Holy and righteous God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Who overall, is blessed forever, Amen! May this God bless you all.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**—to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it. To bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15). To smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

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him only as he reveals himself.

This self-revelation involves a yet greater self-concealment. There will be the manifestation of God in the voluntary condescension of his love; and there will be the necessary seclusion within the clouds of his unapproachable glory. When a finite being seeks to understand anything of the Infinite, it must always be so. There will be the fragment of truth which the student has made and is making his own, and the illimitable expanse beneath, above, and beyond him. Thus in the field of nature we read, "The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein" (Psalm 111:2). Here is our knowledge. But "No man," says Solomon, "can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end" (Ecc 3:11). There is the limit of our knowledge. We are invited to consider his heavens, to trace his footprints, and to regard the operations of his hands. And yet after all, "Lo! These are parts of his ways; how faint a whisper is heard of him! The thunder of his power who can understand?" (Job 26:14) and yet we must confess, "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known" (Psalm 77:19).

Humble students are treading an upland path. Their horizon widens every step they take. The angels of light, standing on a higher eminence, see further than they. Still there must be a boundary line which limits angelic intuition; and whatever lies beyond that line must be a mystery to them, or, if made known to them, made known by revelation. We rebuke the want of modesty in the unlearned peasant who argues from his ignorance against the declaration of science: surely those blessed spirits would rebuke us, if we, through preconceived notions of our own, refused to credit the simple revelations of God regarding his own mysterious Being.

He reveals himself by his names, his attributes, and his acts. And, therefore, if, combined with assertions that God is one, we find three revealed in Scripture to whom the same names, attributes, and acts are ascribed, the same so far as a personal distinction allows; if we look vainly for any fourth Divine one, or any intimation of more than three; if we continue with this the intimate and necessary union affirmed to exist betwixt the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, as when the Lord Jesus says, "I and my Father are one," and when Paul says, "The Spirit searches the depths of God;" if, then, we find that every Christian is baptized into one Name,- the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,- we are led swiftly and irresistibly up to the doctrine (call it by what name you will) of the Trinity in Unity.

Hence, at the risk of apparent repetition, I shall bring together again some few Bible testimonies to the Deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; combining them in one view; and adding a further declaration from Scripture of our soul dependence on the alone Jehovah; so that you may see at a glance, that we are compelled by the Christian verity, "to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity; and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity."

THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE ETERNAL

1. I am the first, and I am the last (Isa. 44:6). The everlasting God (Rom. 16:26).

2. I am the first and the last (Rev. 1:17).

Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2.).

3. The eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14).

The *One Eternal is our trust*. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms (Dt 33:27).

II. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST CREATED ALL THINGS.

One God, the Father, of whom are all things (I Cor. 8:6). The Lord...it is he that hath made us (Psalm 100:3).

All things were made by him (the Word, etc. John 1:3). By him were all things created, etc. (Col 1:16).

Who hath measured, etc. who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord? (Isa. 40:12, 13). The Spirit of God hath made me (Job 33:4)

The One Almighty is our trust. Commit the keeping of their souls to him,- as unto a faithful Creator (I Peter 4:19).

III. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE OMNIPRESENT.

Do not I fill the heaven and earth? saith the Lord (Jer 23:24).

Lo, I am with you always (Matt 28:20).

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? (Psalm 139:7).

The One Omnipresent God is our trust. He is not far from every one of us; for in him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:27, 28).

IV. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE OMNISCIENT.

No one knoweth the Father, save the Son (Matt. 11:27). Known unto God are all his works, etc. (Acts 15:18).

No one knoweth the Son, save the Father (Matt 11:27). Lord, thou knowest all things (John 21:17).

Who being his counsellor hath taught him? (Isa 40:13). The Spirit searcheth all things (I Cor 2:10).

We worship the One all-seeing God. All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do (Heb 4:13).

V. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE TRUE, HOLY & GOOD.

He that sent me is true (John 7:28). Holy Father. Righteous Father (John 17:11, 25). The Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).

I am ...the truth (John 14:6). The Holy One and the just (Acts 3:14). The good Shepherd (John 10:11).

The Spirit is truth (I John 5:6). The Spirit, the Holy One (John 14:26). The spirit is good (Psalm 143:10).

We adore the One Lord of infinite goodness, who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy (Rev 15:4).

VI. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST HAVE EACH A SELF REGULATING WILL.

1. Him that worketh all things after the counsel of his own will (Eph 1:11).

2. The Son wills to reveal him (Matt 11:27). Father, I will (John 17:24).

3. Dividing to every one severally as he wills (I Cor 12:11).

We rest on the will of him who alone is Jehovah.

The will of the Lord be done (Acts 21:14).

VII. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.

1. With thee is the fountain of life (Psalm 36:9). God hath quickened us (Eph 2:4, 5).

In him (the Word) was life (John 1:4). The Son quickeneth whom he will (John 5:21).

The Spirit is life (Rom 8:10). Born of the Spirit (John 3:8).

We depend on one life-giving God. Love the Lord thy God...cleave unto him,...for he is thy life (Deut 30:20).

VIII. THE FATHER, THE SON, & THE HOLY GHOST STRENGTHEN, COMFORT, & SANCTIFY.

Thou strengthenedst me with strength in my soul (Psalm 138:3). I will comfort you (Isa 66:13). Sanctified by God the Father (Jude 1).

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil 4:13). If any consolation in Christ (Phil 2:1). Sanctified in Christ Jesus (I Cor 1:2).

Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man (Eph 3:16). The Comforter, the Holy Ghost (John 14:26). Being sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Rom 15:16).

We trust in One God for spiritual power. My God, my strength, in whom I will trust (Psalm 18:2).

IX. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND HOLY GHOST FILL THE SOUL WITH DIVINE LOVE.

Every one that loveth him that begat (I John 5:1).

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him (I John 2:15).

The Love of Christ constraineth us (II Cor 5:14).

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor 16:22.).

I beseech you for the love of the Spirit (Rom 15:30). Your love in the Spirit (Col 1:8).

The love of the One living and true God characterizes the saint. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart (Deut 6:5).

X. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST GAVE THE DIVINE LAW.

The law of the Lord is perfect (Psalm 19:7). The word of our God (Isa 11:8). Thus saith the Lord God (Ezek 2:4).

The law of Christ (Gal 6:2). The word of Christ (Col 3:16). These things saith the Son of God (Rev 2:18).

The law of the Spirit of life (Rom 8:2). Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:21). The Holy Ghost said (Acts 13:2).

The Word of One Legislature is the believer's rule. One Lawgiver who is able to save (James 4:12).

XI. THE FATHER, THE SON, THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL IN THE HEARTS OF BELIEVERS.

I will dwell in them (II Cor 6:16). God is in you of a truth (I Cor 14:25). Our fellowship is with the Father (I John 1:3).

Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith (Eph 3:17). Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1:27). Our fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ (I John 1:3).

The Spirit dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:17). The communion of the Holy Ghost (II Cor 13:14).

The contrite heart receives One Divine guest. Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, I dwell with him that is of a contrite, and humble heart (Isa 57:15).

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XII. THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST ARE EACH HIMSELF, THE SUPREME JEHOVAH AND GOD.

1. I am Jehovah thy God (Exo 20:2). Thou, Lord, art most high for evermore (Psalm 92:8).

2. Jehovah our God (Isa 40:3, with Matt 3:3). The Highest (Luke 1:76, with Matt 11:10).

3. Jehovah God (Ezek 8:1, 3). The Highest (Luke 1:35).

The One supreme Lord God is our God forever and ever. Jehovah, our Elohim, One Jehovah (Dt. 6:4).

From this brief comparison, which might be elaborated at far greater length, Scripture assures us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, have the same Divine attributes, concur with a mind and will and heart, personally independent but unitedly harmonious, in the same Divine acts, and are addressed by the same Divine names. And further, we learn that our trust is not dispersed or confused by this coequal Godhead of the Sacred Three: but that (a way of access being opened in the gospel through the revelation of the Father in Christ by the Spirit) we rest on, we worship, and we love One God.

The Three Divine Persons

By: G.D. Watson (1845-1923)

While no one can be a New Testament Christian without an unquestioning faith that there are Three Divine Persons in the Godhead, of the same substance, eternity and glory; yet there are very few who have searched into the Bible doctrine upon this subject, sufficient to find out the mode of the Divine existence, or the offices of these three Divine Persons, or the experiences we may have in communion with them. In treating upon this blessed theme, we want to examine some Scriptures on the subject. We will then endeavor to form a clear view of the mode of God's existence, and then the special functions of the adorable Trinity.

It is a beautiful task to study about God. The human mind can never be employed on any subject so full of rich reward as when trying to find the knowledge of God. To search after the character and perfections of God is the highest science, the deepest philosophy, the loftiest poetry, the sublimest history, the truest theology and the most thrilling biography.

1. Let us examine some Scripture passages that unmistakably set forth that the true and living God is a community of three Divine Persons. In the Old Testament the word "Elohim", translated God, is in the plural form, indicating more than one Person. God is spoken of by the name "Father", about ten times in the Old Testament. The second Person in the Godhead is spoken of as the "Son of God" nearly as many times, and the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person is spoken of scores of times.

When we come to the New Testament where the Son of God is manifest in flesh and blood, the veil that seemed to hang over the Divine Trinity in the Old Testament, is entirely removed. Nothing can be more clear than the revelation of the Godhead, as Father, Son and Holy Ghost in the gospels and epistles.

In Matthew 3:16 we read, "When Jesus was baptized, the Heavens were opened unto Him, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and

lighted upon Him, and a voice from heaven said, his is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased". Here we see the Son of God standing on the earth in His humanity, and then the Holy Spirit descended from the Father and resting on the incarnate Son in a visible form, and then the unseen but distinctly heard Person of the eternal Father, speaking from Heaven. Here are not only three Divine Persons, but they are acting in perfect unity, and their relative positions exactly set forth their special offices, as the authoritative Father, the submissive and obedient Son, and the proceeding and anointing Holy Spirit.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands His ministers, "to go and make disciples among all nations, baptizing them in the name (or into the name) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". Here again is the Trinity of Persons with perfect oneness of nature. A name in Scriptures indicates the nature of the person or thing bearing the name, and hence you notice the name is one, but the Persons are three, baptizing them not into the names, but into the name, that is, into the Divine nature of one God. Who is the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

In John 14:16-26, we read, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth." And again, "but the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things". And in John 15:26, "When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me."

In Ephesians 2:18 we read that through Christ, "we both have access by one Spirit, unto the Father". Here is the same unchanging order of the three Divine Persons; Jesus is the Mediator, through Whom we have access by the operation within us of the Holy Spirit, unto the Person of the Father, Who is the Divine Fountain Head, the ultimate resting place of our souls. More than a score of similar passages could be cited, in which the three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned, and always the invariable order of office belonging to each Person.

2. The mode of Divine existence. Let us put together all the various thoughts which we gather from the Bible, as to the order of the Divine Personalities, and find out how there are three Persons of eternal necessity, and only three, and the relation they sustain to each other.

It will not hurt us, but help us, to do a little deep thinking, and go slow in these sublime mysteries. After we get through, it will be so much easier to understand a great many things about God, and the Bible, and our own religious experiences which have in the past so puzzled and perplexed numberless Christians.

There is only one God. The Scriptures declare this over and over. Hence Unitarians and Mohammedans are gravely false when they charge Christians with worshipping three Gods. There is one and only one Divine Being. Who is a Spirit-substance, without beginning, without ending, without increase, without diminution, with absolute power, knowledge, truth, love, justice, wisdom, and goodness. He fills all immensity, possesses every possible perfection in all infinite degree, and is eternally immutable.

In this one Divine substance of Spiritual begi-

ning, there are of necessity and eternally, three coequal Persons—the Father, the eternal begotten Son, the eternally proceeding Holy Spirit. There are not two Fathers, nor two Sons, nor two Holy Spirits, nor two Gods; but one Father, one Son, and one Holy Spirit, Who exist in one blissful, uncreated unity of substance and being. The Father is the Fountain in the Godhead, supreme in authority and love Who utters forth His word in a second Person and pours forth His Spirit in a third Person.

It is the Son who is another Divine Person; coequal, and coeternal, with the Father's own Person, that adorable, begotten Son, Who dwells in the bosom of the Father. He is the articulation of the Father's self-knowledge, the pronouncing of the gladness of God's understanding and hence is named "the Word, which was in the beginning with God, and which was God".

The Person of the Holy Ghost is constituted by the union of the love of the Persons of the Father, and the Son, for each other. The Father loves the Person of His outspoken Word, with all the strength of His omnipotence, and the only begotten Son loves the Person of His Father to the uttermost extent possible to Divinity. The union of these two streams of immense, burning love, is so powerful, so unctuous, that it constitutes a third personality inside of the one Divine essence, and that is the Person of the Holy Spirit, Who proceedeth, floweth, like a river of burning omnipotence, without beginning and without ending, from the Father and from the Son.

The Holy Ghost is not begotten like the Son, and is not outspoken from the Father, but Scripture emphatically states "He proceedeth" from the other two Divine Persons. The second Person sets forth God's knowledge of Himself, so the third Person sets forth God's love of Himself. The Son is light, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, revelation, truth, so the Holy Spirit is heat, emotion, feeling, energy, unction, power, and love.

The Holy Spirit is always compared to things in motion, like air, heat, fire, exuding oil, a living dove, and a flowing river. He is never compared to standing water, but to a flowing river, a gushing stream. Motion is force, power; hence the Holy Spirit is constantly referred to in Scripture

as the power of God, the Energizer, the Person Who imparts Divine feeling, Divine motion. As Christ reveals to us the truth of the Father; so the Person of the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the burning mutual love of the Father, and the Son, causes us to feel, to experience, to rejoice, in what the Son reveals.

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is manifest outside the Divine nature, in giving life to creatures. When the Son of God had created all things, it was the Spirit that brooded over creation, and filled creation with living creatures and it is by the fruitful Spirit that penitent sinners are born again.

3. The various offices of the three Divine Persons correspond most accurately with the three great functions in our bodies—the heart, the head and the hand. God, the Father, is the infinite heart in the Godhead, the original, unseen, living fountain, from which the other Persons flow.

The eternal Father is, in the Godhead, what the heart is in the body—the fountain, the spring,

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

hidden out of sight-and its special function is to live and give for with every pulse it is giving . God is love. The Father so loved "that He gave His only begotten Son". The Holy Ghost is the gift, the promise of the Father. The Father has appointed His Son to be the head over all things. Paul tells us all things are to be headed up in Christ. The head is the organ of knowledge, understanding, wisdom, revelation, dominion, kingship, and judging, which are in Scripture, in multiplied ways, ascribed to our Lord Jesus.

The third great function of the body, the hand is preeminently the organ of power, of executive strength, of ministry to all the body, so the Person of the Holy Ghost, Who proceedeth from the Father and Son, is the hand, the power, the executive Minister, the unction, the all efficient Agent of the Godhead. The hand obeys the heart and the head, as the Holy Ghost implicitly and powerfully carries out the will of the Father and Son. As the hand is that organ that ministers to all needs— feeding, bathing, nursing, soothing, caressing, lifting, and moving with executive power, the affections of the heart, or the judgment of the head, so the Holy Ghost is spoken of as performing these corresponding ministries in the things of God.

Thus in our own bodies, our God has set up a type of His own glorious being, and the functions of the three Divine Persons. Have you ever noticed how the power of the Holy Ghost is spoken of in Scripture, as "the hand", and as "God's right hand", and as "His holy arm"? For years, I used to wonder why the Bible so many times says, that "God spake by the hand of Moses". I understand it now, since the glorious Trinity has been so sweetly and powerfully revealed to me. Moses spake by the Holy Ghost Who is the right hand of God's power. In like manner from all eternity, in the bosom of the Father, the heart of the Godhead, the love-fountain of all being, there was the blessed Son and the Holy Spirit, of the same substance, essence, and glory, to be successively manifest to us creatures in time.

The Athanasian Creed

"We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost...the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal...So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty...So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet there are not three Gods, but one God...The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten, the Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding... And in this Trinity none is afore or after other; none is greater or less than another. But the whole three persons are coeternal together, and coequal. So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity". —quoted from *Cyclopaedia of Biblical Theology and Ecclesiastical Literature* (New York; 1871), by John McClintock & James Strong, Vol. II, pg. 560, 561.

Seven Simple Facts About the Trinity



Steve Morrison

The term "Trinity," coined by the early Christian Tertullian, addresses seven very important Biblical facts.

1. There is an undeniable "threeness" found in the Scripture.

Matt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2, Eph. 2:18, 2:14-17, 1 Thess. 1:3-5, Rev. 4:8. Similarly, the following question has "three answers," "Who raised Jesus from the dead?" Answer: God the Father (Acts 3:26 and 1 Thess. 1:10), Jesus (John 2:19-21), and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11). These "Three" are the ONE God because Acts 17:30-31 says God raised Jesus from the dead!

2. The three are inseparable in some ways.

Matt 28:19, John 10:27-30, 12:44-46, 14:23, 16:15, 17:10, 15:26, Rom. 8:9-11. The Father and Jesus share at least 25 names and titles. How often have you said the last part of 1 Cor. 12:3 understanding that Jesus is the Lord God?

3. The Three are distinct in some ways

Matt 3:16-17, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:1, 6:38, 8:17-18, 14:31, 15:26, 16:28, 17:5, Acts 5:31-32. Heaven was not empty when Jesus came to earth. The Three communicated when Jesus was baptized. Jesus declared he had two witnesses, Himself and the Father, not just one, and so forth.

4. The three are each individually called God. The Father is God: 1 Peter 1:3, Eph. 5:20, 1:3, 3:14, Titus 1:4, The Son is God: Hebrews 1:8-9, John 1:1, 18, 20:28, Isa 7:14, 1 John 5:11, 12, 21, Col 2:9 & Matt 1:23, The Spirit is God: Rom 8:9-16, Luke 1:35, 1 John 4:12, 13, 15-16, 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19.

In some passages idols are referred to as gods, (Gen 31:30,32, 1 Cor 8:5) and in two places in Scripture men are referred to as gods (Psalm 82:6-7, John 10:34-36). God, the true and living One however, is defined as:

1) One whom we and all the world are created through, 2) rightfully worshipped by angels and men, 3) rightfully given praise and devotion by men, and 4) rightfully called our Lord and our God.

By the above definition Christ is God according to: 1) John 1:3, Col 1:16-17, 2) Heb 1:6, 9 (proskuneo), Rev 5:8-9, 3) 2 Cor 11:3,

4) John 20:28-29, Heb 1:8-9, Rev 22:20 and

Christian Debater Guide

Phil 2:11 (Lord).

If you refuse to do the things prescribed in the preceding verses there is not much point continuing in this study until you decide to repent and follow the Bible.

Scripture has a "boasting" and glorification of Jesus Christ such as: Gal 6:14, 1 Cor 1:23, 30, 31, 1 Cor 2:2, John 1:14, Phil 2:10-11, and 2 Peter 3:18. How many times have you gloried (or boasted) of what Paul gloried (or boasted) in Gal 6:14?

5. There is only One God (not Three Separate Gods). Deut 4:35-39, 6:4, Mark 12:29-33, Isa 43:10-12k, 44:6,8, 45:5-6, 14, 21, 46:9, 1 Tim 1:17, 6:15-16.

6. They are coequal in a similar way as a Father and Son are coequal. John 5:18, John 5:23, Col 2:9-10, and John 10:30.

On earth, a father and son are equal in nature and value. If this were not true, then each generation of people must be less valuable and inferior to the previous generation. People make things but "beget" only people. God created many things but "begets" only God. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father, thus He is God, coequal and coeternal.

Correspondingly, should church worship be modeled after heavenly worship? If you have never sung or given glory to both God and the Lamb, prayerfully read and sing Rev 4:9 and Rev. 5:12-14.

7. They differ in role in a similar way as a Father and Son differ. 1 Cor 11:3, 15:28, Matt 12:18, Eph 1:17, John 14:28. An example of this can be shown by the operation of the blessed Trinity in the salvation of men. With the Father it is predestination (Eph. 1:11-14); with the Son propitiation (1 John 2:2, 4:10); with the Spirit regeneration. The Father chose us; the Son died for us; the Spirit quickens us (John 3:3-8, 6:63). The Father was concerned about us; the Son shed His blood for us; the Spirit performs His work within us. What the one does is eternal; what the Other did was external; what the Spirit does is internal. The Father purposed our new birth; the Son has made possible (by His "travail") the new birth; but it is the Spirit who effects the new birth—"Born of the Spirit" (John 3:6). Therefore, God sends His Holy Spirit to hell-deserving sinners who are then led to actually believe on the Lord Jesus as their risen Saviour (Phil. 2:13; Acts 13:48; 10:44-46; 11:15-18; John 16:7-15; 1 Cor. 2:10-16). Praise to the Blessed God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

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Please write, call, or e-mail *Christian Answers* for a free resource list. The current list contains approximately 60 videos, 300 audio tapes (including radio shows), books, pamphlets, and tracts. Thank you for any orders or donations, it helps us pay our bills to continue our work.



BACK ISSUES OF THE CHRISTIAN ANSWERS NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the *Christian Answers Newsletter* are available. Get four copies for a dollar. Get four different issues or four of the same issue or any variation for the simple cost of four for a dollar. Purchase as many as you want. These newsletters make great witnessing tools serving as quick reading tracts among your unsaved friends, relatives, and associations. These newsletters also serve as valuable research material for Christian apologists, evangelists, laymen, Bible teachers, etc.

- Vol. 1, #1— *Roman Catholicism*, 8 pages
- Vol. 1, #2— *Mormonism*, 8 pages
- Vol. 1, #3— *Jehovah's Witnesses*, 8 pages
- Vol. 1, #4— *Oneness Pentecostals*, 10 pages
- Vol. 2, #1— *Church of Christ*, 8 pages
- Vol. 2, #2— *The Trinity*, 8 pages

Back issues of the "*Christian Answers Journal*," Vol. 1, #2 are also available. This 48-page magazine is filled with articles covering subjects such as Roman Catholicism, Hinduism, and Campbellism. Get it for the special price of \$5.00+S&H (catalogue price is \$7.00+S&H).

NOTICE

Since this issue of the *Christian Debater Guide* is concerned with the critical doctrine of the Trinity, our readers may be interested in obtaining a back issue of the *Christian Answers Newsletter* concerning Oneness Pentecostals (Vol. 1, # 4), if they do not already have it. The Oneness issue is packed with Biblical and historical information concerning the Trinity not found in this issue of our newsletter (it includes two extra pages of detailed apologetic material such as early church history well before the Council of Nicea in AD 325 for the doctrine of the Trinity). The Oneness Pentecostal newsletter also gives the Christian defender of the faith more detailed responses to specific attacks made against the Trinity by Oneness adherents and others. To order it see details above in the "Back Issues" ad.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Is Speaking with Tongues the Initial Evidence of the Spirit Baptism?

An 8-page treatise on the teaching by Oneness Pentecostals and some Charismatic groups concerning tongues and spirit baptism. This is a "Pilgrimette" article put out by Pilgrim Publications of Pasadena, TX.

PAM-7, \$3.00+S&H.

THE TRINITY DEBATE

Nationally known author and speaker James White debates one of the chief spokesman for Oneness theology in the United States, Robert Sabin. Those familiar with James White know that he is meticulous in his quest for accuracy and as usual they will not be disappointed in his debate effort here. James tackles Oneness heresy both historically and scripturally (especially from the original languages). This debate provides excellent preparation for the Christian in dealing with attacks against the Biblical God. This 4 hour debate also includes questions from the audience.

AC-281-283, 4 hrs., \$17+S&H

The Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity

The Scripture Declares:

There is One God: Isa. 43:10, 44:6, 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21-23; I Cor. 8:16
The Father is God: John 5:18; Rom. 15:6; II Cor. 1:3, 11:31; Gal. 1:1
Jesus is God: Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8; Titus 2:13; John 20:28; I Tim. 3:16
The Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4, 13:2-4, 15:28, 28:25; John 14:16, 26
Distinction of Persons: Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:1, 6:38, 14:31, 15:26, 17:5

- Program #1— *The Trinity Defined*
- Program #2— *The Trinity Established in History*
- Program #3— *The Trinity Defended Against Attacks*
- Program #4— *Jesus, Trinity and Resurrection*

The historic Christian doctrine of the Triune God has been attacked by multitudes throughout history. Everything from "world religions" to heretical pseudo-Christian cults and agnostics have come against the Trinity with all the zeal they can muster. Sophisticated arguments and twisted Bible interpretations are constantly brought into play to destroy the faith.

Author and Publisher Bob L. Ross, Evangelist Larry Wessels, and others present the Scriptural proofs for the doctrine of the Trinity (John 3). I John 4:1 says, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" This video presentation is designed to assist Christians in defending their faith against attacks of the false prophets and refute those who come against the historic Christian faith. Excellent for group presentation.

**VT-39, VHS, 4 hrs., \$25+S&H, Audio
Soundtrack: ES-8, 4 hrs., \$17+S&H**

Evidence that Jesus is God



James White and Larry Wessels

James White, author of *The Forgotten Trinity*, and Christian Answers director Larry Wessels reveal key scriptural texts to prove that Jesus is God in the flesh, the second person of the blessed Trinity. This presentation likewise deals with attacks by Jehovah's Witnesses on the deity of Christ. This video is very popular on local cable television.

**VT-36, 1 hr., \$12.00+S&H
Audio soundtrack: AC-147,
60 min., \$5.95+S&H**

THE TRINITY AND THE ETERNAL SONSHIP OF CHRIST

by Bob L. Ross

The Scriptures warn the following:

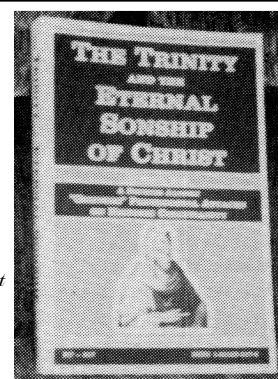
II John 9: Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

I John 2:22: Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

I John 4:2, 3, 14, 15: Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world... And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Oneness Pentecostals deny the Eternal Sonship of Christ and are in danger of the above verses. Bob L. Ross has put together thorough research to refute Oneness theology both historically and Biblically. This book also specifically deals with Oneness author David K. Bernard's book, *The Oneness of God*, in detail. All of the cults reject the Eternal Sonship of Christ, namely Christ without beginning, of the same essence as the Father. An important addition for anyone's library in the defense of the Biblical nature of God.

BK-38, \$12.00 + S&H, 300 pages



Christian Answers Tract Pack

Subject : The Trinity

This package includes many articles and tracts dealing with the Trinity. Titles include: *Seven Simple Facts about the Trinity, Indwelling of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit, Early Church Teaching on the Trinity, Three Truths*, and many more.

Pack-22 : Trinity, \$3 + S&H

Christian Answers Live ! Radio: WHY YOU SHOULD BELIEVE THE TRINITY

Featuring guest Robert Bowman, Jr.

Robert Bowman, Jr. has worked with various Christian ministries including the Christian Research Institute and Watchman Fellowship and has authored numerous books including *Why You Should Believe the Trinity and Orthodoxy and Heresy*. During the broadcast Robert does an excellent job of historically and biblically explaining the doctrine of the Trinity. The latter half of the show features a live debate between Robert and an anti-Trinitarian advocate. Unfortunately for the anti-Trinitarian debater, as the listener will hear, the evidence is overwhelmingly against him.

RP-42. 90 min.. \$5.95 + S&H

TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups). You may choose any four of the 28 minute videos below for the single price of \$30.00 + S&H. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order **Bahaism**, "Church of Christ", Mormonism, and Islam, list on order form as CATV- 1, 8, 12, and 16. Four videos on one tape for one low price of \$30.00+ S&H.

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Seventh-Day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
Seventh-Day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
United Pentecostals (Steve Morrison)
Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Michael Horton)
Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Michael Horton)
Mormonism (John McKay)
Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
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THE FORGOTTEN TRINITY

by James R. White

The Trinity is a basic teaching of the Christian faith. It defines God's essence and describes how He relates to us. *The Forgotten Trinity* is a concise, understandable explanation of what the Trinity is and why it matters. It refutes cultic distortions of God. It shows how a grasp of this significant teaching leads to renewed worship and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian. *The Forgotten Trinity* is a balanced look at all three persons of the Trinity.

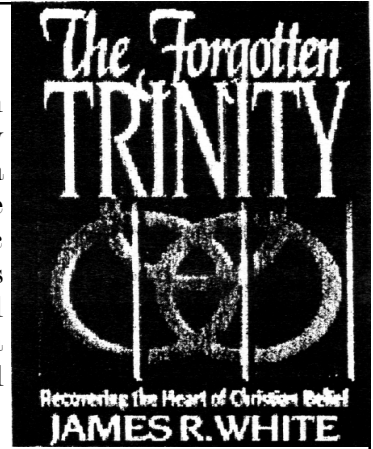
"James White has a remarkable ability to say important and complex things in readable ways. He has done it again in *The Forgotten Trinity*, a vital look at a doctrine "forgotten" in evangelical churches".

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LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Dear Mr. Wessels,

Thank you for sending me the information on Oneness/Apostolic Pentecostal beliefs and on Arnold Murray's "Shepherd's Chapel." My brother who is involved in the Oneness belief is beginning to question the "Hooy" that the Apostolic pastor was teaching him. Praise God!

I can't say the same for the brother who is being deceived by Arnold Murray. Please pray for him, he needs prayer.

I don't have a computer with internet access but when I visited my sister I got some info from a website connected to Murray's "Shepherd's Chapel." They use the Mormon tactic of presenting themselves as believing "true Christian basic doctrine" and then later on they will teach that their doctrine is the "Real Truth." I hope that the enclosed information on Murray's "Shepherd's Chapel" helps you in your work. And once again thank you.

Your Brother in Christ (Acts 17:26),
C.N., Pahump, NV

Christian Answers,

Thank you so much to Larry Wessels for sending me information on Roman Catholicism. I really appreciate the work you are doing for the Lord. I was a practicing Roman Catholic for 53 years until the

Lord reached my heart.

Now I am learning so much and am praying my Catholic family members including an 80-year-old mother who believes in her "Church", receive Jesus. I trust that the Lord will show her His Light.

Thank you again for the light you're giving to others. I would like to order: 5 copies of *Salvation by Grace or Merit* and one copy of the video *The Idolatry of Mary Worship* by Rob Zins.

May God bless you and your ministry.

V.R., Austin, TX

Larry,

Thank you so much for your ministry! Contending for the faith is so important in this day of theological relativism. Please put me on your mailing list- I also intend to share your materials with the teaching staff where we worship- Baytown Community Church. Thanks again, Larry.

Blessings to you and your family!

B.H., Baytown, TX

Dear Bro. Wessels,

Thank you so kindly for the copies of the two booklets that you made. We will make copies and give them out to Mr. Farrakhan's guys who hawk papers at stop lights. Your work is excellent! Thank you. In Him, W.B., Koinonia Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

BEWARE OF T.D. JAKES

As far back as 1997, the *Personal Freedom Outreach Quarterly Journal* (April-June) published a 6-page article with 41 footnotes entitled, "Get Ready for T.D. Jakes, the Velero Bishop with Another Gospel" pointing out his many doctrinal deviations (Word-Faith, health and wealth heresy, etc.) and his peculiar ministry quirks (such as purchasing subscriptions to the secular, sexually charged *GQ Magazine* for all the men in his organization).

More recently a *Minnesota Christian Chronicle* article reported that the *Christian Research Journal* had accused the prominent and very wealthy (\$1.7 million Dallas home, etc.) black preacher T.D. Jakes of heresy for his views on the Trinity. The article accused Jakes of promoting modalism, an ancient heresy which states that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are MERELY different "manifestations" or "modes" of God, rather than the three distinct persons of the historic Christian faith.

Jerry Buckner, an African-American radio host and pastor who wrote the critique, said, "Do you really want a non-Trinitarian to be a spiritual leader of our country?" Buckner accused Jakes of deceiving followers by promoting Oneness Pentecostal views. Jakes acknowledges he is a first assistant to the general bishop of Higher Ground Always Abounding Assemblies, a Oneness Pentecostal network, and that he baptizes converts in "Jesus' name only" (a Oneness doctrine) rather than by Matt. 28:19. An Information package on T.D. Jakes is available: (Pack-25, \$3+S&H). The Heresy of the Health & Wealth Gospel is also available: ES-7, 6 hrs. \$24.00+S&H.

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page 4: Three Divine Persons
page 5: Seven Simple Facts
page 8: Beware of T.D. Jakes

"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus1:9)