**SERMON OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Christmas Tribute to the Trinity |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Luke 1:35 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2036 |
|  |  |
| We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline producedfrom a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving aspastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers’ messages,Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotationsin printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced,stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc. |

1. INTRODUCTION
	1. The great question of the ages is, “Who is this baby that Luke tells us about in the birth of the child?”
		1. Answer that question right and act on your answer, then all will be right.
		2. But answer that question wrongly, and all will be wrong.
	2. Luke 1:35
		1. In this verse, the angel Gabriel was speaking to the virgin Mary.
	3. Who is this child? Who is Jesus?
		1. Some say that Jesus was a great man.
			1. He is not Jesus Christ the Great; He is Jesus Christ the Only.
		2. Some say that Jesus was a moral teacher.
			1. C.S. Lewis said that simply calling Jesus a great, moral teacher without accepting His claim to be God is the one thing that people must not say.
				1. For a man who was merely a man and who said the things that Jesus said would not be a great, moral teacher but either a lunatic or else the devil himself.
				2. Either Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.
		3. In Islam, Jesus is called a prophet; only a messenger.
		4. The New Age religion speaks of Jesus as a mystic medium, a channel through which they can discover the inner god in themselves.
		5. There are demon spirits who take the name of Jesus.
	4. Who is this baby?
		1. He is God in the flesh.
		2. Not only is He the Son of God, but He is also God the Son.
	5. The great battle in the world today is over the doctrine of the Trinity.
		1. We worship one God in three Persons:
			1. God the Father
			2. God the Son
			3. God the Holy Spirit
		2. We see the Trinity in the Christmas story.
			1. Luke 1:35
		3. The Trinity is an absolute Christian distinctive.
			1. Much error and heresy come when we do not understand the Trinity.
			2. Other faiths do not accept the doctrine of the Trinity.
				1. They do not accept the fact that Jesus is God in the flesh.
	6. Jesus is God.
		1. In John 8, we read of an encounter that Jesus had with the Pharisees and religious leaders of His day.
			1. They did not believe in the virgin birth, and they sneered at Jesus.
				1. John 8:41

They implied that Jesus was born out of wedlock.

* + - * 1. They boasted that their father was Abraham.

John 8:39

* + - 1. Jesus answered them by saying, “*Before Abraham was, I AM*.”
				1. Not “I was,” but “I AM.”
				2. John 8:56-58
				3. Exodus 3:14

God showed Himself to Moses as the great “I AM”.

* 1. Not only is Jesus God, but the Holy Spirit is also God.
		1. Acts 5:3-4
			1. When you lie to the Holy Spirit, you lie to God.
	2. We worship one God who has revealed Himself as three Persons.
	3. In today’s message, we will look at the following:
		1. The sublime mystery of the Trinity.
		2. The sacred history of the Trinity.
		3. The saving ministry of the Trinity.
1. the sublime mystery of the trinity
	1. 1 Timothy 3:16
	2. The only way to know about the Trinity is by divine revelation.
		1. We will not understand the Trinity by human investigation, logic, philosophy, science, or mathematics.
	3. The Trinity is not contradictory to logic and reason; it is beyond logic and reason.
		1. There are certain things about God that will never be unfolded to our logic.
			1. For example, God never had a beginning.
			2. God is everywhere.
				1. The ancients used to say that God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.
		2. There are things that we may not understand about God, but would we have any confidence in a God whom we could understand?
		3. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity does not depend upon our logic or our reason.
			1. It depends upon divine revelation.
	4. Some people try to find something to compare God to in an effort to explain the Trinity.
		1. Isaiah 40:18
		2. What will you compare God to?
			1. You can compare one person to another person, one chair to another chair, and one building to another building.
			2. There is only one God.
				1. You cannot compare Him to anything.
	5. We see reflections of the Trinity in all that God has made.
		1. Space is height, width, and depth.
			1. Height is not width.
			2. Width is not depth.
			3. Depth is not height.
			4. All are part of the same.
			5. They cannot be separated, but they can be distinguished.
		2. Time is past, present, and future.
			1. The past is not the present.
			2. The present is not the future.
			3. The future is not the past.
			4. Each are distinguishable, and all are inseparable.
		3. Man is body, soul, and spirit.
			1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
			2. We are triune in nature.
				1. You are one person; but you are body, soul, and spirit.
	6. Modalism cannot define the Trinity.
		1. For instance, you may be a pastor, a husband, and a father.
			1. These are different modes, but you are one person.
		2. There are three distinct persons in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
			1. God is not acting in three different ways.
			2. There is the personality of the Father, the personality of the Son, and the personality of the Spirit.
				1. But these three are one.
			3. We worship one God who has revealed Himself in three persons.
				1. The only way to know this is to open the Bible.
	7. We find the Holy Trinity in the Old Testament.
		1. Genesis 1:1
			1. In this verse, the Hebrew word for God is the word “Elohim”.
				1. The word “Elohim” is plural.

The “im” ending is plural.

For example, a cherub is a single angel, but cherubim means many angels.

A seraph is one angel, but seraphim are many angels.

* + - 1. This is a plural noun but a singular verb.
				1. It may be translated, “*In the beginning, GODS created*…”
		1. Genesis 1:26
			1. This verse says, “*Let Us make man in Our image*”, not “Let Me make man in My image”.
				1. The Triune God was taking counsel together.
		2. The Trinity of God is shown in the Great Commandment that God gave to the Jewish people called the Shema.
			1. The Jewish people took the name Jehovah (I AM) as the most sacred name.
			2. Deuteronomy 6:4-5
				1. This passage speaks of the Trinity.
				2. The Bible says, “*The Lord our Elohim* (our Gods) *is one Lord*.”

The word “echad” is used for the word “one”.

Echad does not mean a singular one, but a compound one.

* + - * 1. This word “one” (echad) is found in other passages:

Genesis 2:24

“One flesh” is a compound unity.

Genesis 11:6

“One people” is a group of people.

Numbers 13:23

“One cluster of grapes” is a bunch of grapes.

1 Samuel 13:17

“One company” is an army.

1 Chronicles 17:21

“One nation”.

* + 1. The Old Testament teaches that the great eternal God has a Son.
			1. Daniel 3:25
			2. Proverbs 30:4
			3. Psalm 2:6-7
				1. God is talking about the wicked machinations of the kings of this Earth who do not want the Lord and His Christ.
				2. God will send His Son, the Lord Jesus, upon His holy hill of Zion, and He will be crowned.
			4. Isaiah 9:6
				1. The Son is the Mighty God and the Everlasting Father.
				2. “Mighty God” (El Gibbor) literally mean “God-Man”.

The same term “Mighty God” is used in Isaiah 10:21.

It speaks unequivocally of Almighty God.

* 1. Isaiah 55:8-9
	2. Someone once said that if you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind; deny the Trinity, and you will lose your soul.
1. the sacred history of the trinity
	1. While we cannot understand the Trinity, we can see the Trinity at work.
	2. We see the Trinity in the creation of the world.
		1. Genesis 1:1
			1. In this passage, we see God the Father.
		2. John 1:1-3
			1. What is a word but an expression and articulation of an idea?
				1. Jesus is the expression, an articulation, of the unseen idea of God.
			2. In this passage, we see God the Son.
		3. Job 26:13
			1. In this passage, we see God the Holy Spirit.
		4. Who created the world?
			1. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
	3. We see the Trinity in the composition of the Scriptures.
		1. 2 Timothy 3:16
			1. The Bible is inspired by God the Father.
		2. 1 Peter 1:10-11
			1. The Spirit of Christ wrote the Bible.
		3. 2 Peter 1:21
			1. The Bible was inspired by God the Holy Spirit.
		4. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible.
			1. One God in three Persons inspired the Bible.
	4. We see the Trinity in the conception of the Christ.
		1. Luke 1:35
	5. We see the Trinity in the commissioning of the church.
		1. Matthew 28:19-20
			1. It would be blasphemy to put the name Jesus and the Holy Spirit on the same level as God the Father if they were not one in three and three in one.
2. the saving ministry of the trinity
	1. Matthew 1:21
	2. Ephesians 1:3-6
		1. In this passage, Paul gives the history of salvation.
			1. He talks about the Holy Trinity.
	3. God thought it.
		1. Before you were ever born, salvation was in the heart and mind of God.
		2. God sees you today.
		3. God knows the past, the present, and the future all together.
		4. God has chosen and selected you to be His child.
			1. Ephesians 1:4
			2. The only reason we can choose Him is because He first chose us.
			3. Why did He choose us?
				1. He can take a vile sinner and make him holy and blameless.
		5. Ephesians 1:5-6
			1. In Bible times, a man may have fathered a child, but this child might have been the offspring of a slave.
				1. In order to make it legal, he would have an adoption ceremony.

The child would become an heir and a joint-heir with the other children.

* + - 1. We are predestinated unto this adoption.
				1. Not only are we spiritually the children of Jesus Christ, but we are also legally the children of Jesus Christ.
			2. We were chosen in the past, we are predestined for the future, and we are accepted in the present.
	1. Jesus bought it.
		1. Ephesians 1:6-7
			1. The “beloved” in this passage refers to Jesus.
		2. Jesus bought it.
			1. Jesus bought our salvation on the cross with His blood.
			2. We have forgiveness of sins.
				1. The word “forgiveness” means to bear away or to carry away.
				2. Leviticus 16

In the ritual of the scapegoat, the high priest would take two goats.

One goat would be slain, and the blood would be presented at the altar.

The priest would lay his hands on the head of the other goat, called the scape goat, and confess the sins of the people.

That goat would be led out into the wilderness, never to return again.

* + - * 1. Through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are taken away as far as the east is from the west and buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness.

Psalm 103:12

* 1. The Holy Spirit brought it.
		1. Ephesians 1:13
			1. In Bible times, a “seal” meant a finished transaction, ownership, and protection.
				1. This is what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, and through the Holy Spirit.
	2. The saving ministry of the Holy Trinity is why Jesus came to Earth.
		1. You are selected by the Father, saved by the Son, and sealed by the Spirit.
1. CONCLUSION
	1. The Trinity is seen in the Christmas story when the little baby was born.
		1. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary.
		2. The little baby, the Son of God, was the Son of the Highest.
		3. God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.
		4. Luke 1:35
	2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16