

One God in Three Persons By W. Frank Walton

“For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him” (1Cor. 8:5-6).

How many “Gods” do you believe in? Muslims and Jews renounce Christians as “tri-theists.” Yet we believe the Bible progressively reveals that the infinite, eternal God who created and rules over all is a triune God.

“Trinity” is an English term meaning “three in one.” It’s used to describe the Bible concept of the triune God or “Godhead” (Gr. theiotes, Deity; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9).

The “Godhead” is a composite unity revealed in the Bible. It may be scripturally defined as one God subsisting in three co-equal, co-eternal persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The Biblical revelation emphasizes both the unity and diversity in the Godhead.

The nature of the infinite God is hard for limited humans to understand, yet this is the Bible’s revelation of God’s eternal nature. Matthew 28:18-20 reveals that the one “Name” or divine family of God consists of three (a trinity): “the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” There is one divine nature (substance, family) but 3 distinct Divine Persons with 3 distinct roles (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) (1Cor. 8:5-6; 2Cor. 13:14).

It’s like there is “one human race” but many individuals that share the traits of being human. A husband and wife are two, yet God sees them also as “one flesh” (Matt. 19:4-6). This is a composite unity.

Someone said understanding the concept of the “trinity” is like the one element of “water” that exists in three different states: ice, liquid and gas. It’s the same substance but it subsists in a different expression of it. When the Bible talks about “one” God (Deut. 6:4), it is stressing His unrivaled uniqueness as Deity over all so-called gods or idols. When the Bible talks about God existing in three persons, the Father as God (Eph. 4:6), Jesus as God (John 1:1, 20:28) and the Holy Spirit as God (Acts 5:3-4), it is stressing the distinct personalities within the one Godhead.

The practical lesson for us is the three members of the one Godhead family loved one another from eternity (1John 4:7-8), and this love can be ours in uniting our spirit with theirs in spiritual unity (John 17:20-24, 16:13-15). Are we “partakers of the divine nature” in love and spiritual unity (2Peter 1:4)?

It Was Esther’s Time By Kent Heaton

The story of Esther is filled with daring courage, humble dependence upon God and a view toward the providence of the place we all find ourselves throughout our lives. This Jewish maiden rose to become Queen of ancient Persia when Ahasuerus became displeased with Vashti (Esther 1). Through Haman’s conspiracy against the Jewish people Esther would save her people from certain death. Haman was one of the rulers under Ahasuerus that despised the uncle of Esther, Mordecai. Because of his intense

hatred of Mordecai (Esther 3:1-5) Haman planned to “destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus” (Esther 3:6).

A decree was made through the treachery of Haman that Ahasuerus would allow the extermination of a “certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces” (Esther 3:8) of the kingdom - referring to the Jews held captive in the land. Mordecai learned of the plot and pled with Esther to intercede for the Jewish people to the king. However, going before the king was not an easy task. It was, in fact, a very dangerous thing to do. Esther explained, “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days” (Esther 4:11). So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

The key message of the book of Esther comes in the answer Mordecai gives to Esther. "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14) Esther would go before the king trusting in God and be delivered from death and save her people (Esther 5-8).

How often in scripture do we find individuals in a particular place at a particular time and the work of God needing that person to act? Joseph came to understand his role in saving his people though he had been sold into slavery (Gen. 50:20). Moses was not ready to lead the people at the age of 40 but after spending time in Midian was brought back to Egypt to guide the people to Canaan (Ex. 3). The maiden of Israel was in the house of Naaman and told her mistress of the prophet who could heal the leprosy (2Kings 5). The Spirit would guide Philip to the treasurer of Ethiopia and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing – no doubt telling others of Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)

We have innumerable opportunities to influence people for good and to share the gospel of salvation. How often we squander golden moments to be in a particular place at a particular time to be the salt of the earth (Matt. 6:13) or a light set on a hill (Matt. 6:14-16). What we learn from Esther is that we all have those moments time and time again where we have come to such an opportunity - “for such a time as this.”

We should always be looking for those times that we can say a kind word, extend a hand of friendship, lift a burden, begin a Bible study, comfort a broken heart; a myriad of little pieces of life that will impact others. It takes just a moment to create a lifetime of worth and to set the path of life more clearly for someone “for such a time as this.”

A Moments Wisdom

It is not wise to tell every thing you know, but it is best to know every thing you tell.
Some people think they are good cooks merely because they roast their neighbors.
If you stretch the truth, don't be surprised if it snaps.
The end never justifies meanness.
He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.
No amount of riches can atone for poverty of character.

The man who is rowing the boat has no time to rock it.
Truth loses some battles, but it never loses a war.