

## Chapter 2- God & The Holy Trinity

1. The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God.<sup>1</sup> He is self-existent<sup>2</sup> and infinite in being and perfection. His essence cannot be understood by anyone but him.<sup>3</sup>

He is a perfectly pure spirit.<sup>4</sup> He is invisible and has no body, parts, or changeable emotions.<sup>a</sup> He alone has immortality, dwelling in light that no one can approach.<sup>5</sup>

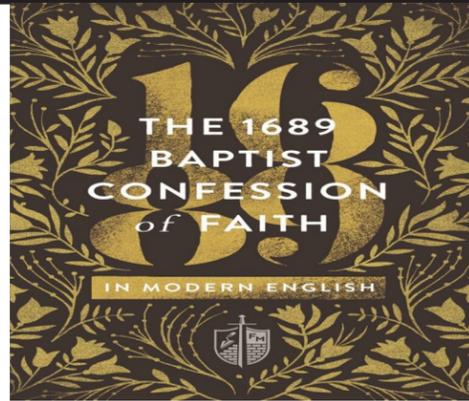
He is unchangeable,<sup>6</sup> immense,<sup>b,7</sup> eternal,<sup>8</sup> incomprehensible, almighty,<sup>9</sup> in every way infinite, absolutely holy,<sup>10</sup> perfectly wise, wholly free, completely absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of His own unchangeable and completely righteous will<sup>11</sup> for his own glory.<sup>12</sup>

He is most loving, gracious, merciful, and patient. He overflows with goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. He rewards those who seek him diligently.<sup>13</sup> At the same time, He is perfectly just and terrifying in His judgments.<sup>14</sup> He hates all sin<sup>15</sup> and will certainly not clear the guilty.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>a</sup>passions

<sup>b</sup>transcends all space

<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; Deuteronomy 6:4. <sup>2</sup>Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 48:12. <sup>3</sup>Exodus 3:14. <sup>4</sup>John 4:24. <sup>5</sup>1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 4:15, 16. <sup>6</sup>Malachi 3:6. <sup>7</sup>1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23. <sup>8</sup>Psalms 90:2. <sup>9</sup>Genesis 17:1. <sup>10</sup>Isaiah 6:3. <sup>11</sup>Psalms 115:3; Isaiah 46:10. <sup>12</sup>Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36. <sup>13</sup>Exodus 34:6, 7; Hebrews 11:6. <sup>14</sup>Nehemiah 9:32, 33. <sup>15</sup>Psalms 5:5, 6. <sup>16</sup>Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:2, 3.



2. God has all life,<sup>17</sup> glory,<sup>18</sup> goodness,<sup>19</sup> and blessedness in and of Himself; He alone is all-sufficient in Himself. He does not need any creature he has made nor does he derive any glory from them.<sup>20</sup> Instead, he demonstrates his own glory in them, by them, to them, and upon them. He alone is the source of all being, and everything is from him, through him, and to him.<sup>21</sup> He has absolute sovereign rule over all creatures, to act through them, for them, or upon them as he pleases.<sup>22</sup> In his sight everything is open and visible.<sup>23</sup> His knowledge is infinite and infallible. It does not depend upon any creature, so for him nothing is contingent or uncertain.<sup>24</sup> He is absolutely holy in all his plans, in all his works,<sup>25</sup> and in all his commands. Angels and men owe to him all the worship,<sup>26</sup> service, or obedience that creatures owe to the Creator and whatever else he is pleased to require of them.

<sup>17</sup>John 5:26. <sup>18</sup>Psalms 148:13.

<sup>19</sup>Psalms 119:68. <sup>20</sup>Job 22:2, 3.

<sup>21</sup>Romans 11:34-36.

<sup>22</sup>Daniel 4:25, 34, 35.

<sup>23</sup>Hebrews 4:13. <sup>24</sup>Ezekiel 11:5;

Acts 15:18. <sup>25</sup>Psalms 145:17.

<sup>26</sup>Revelation 5:12-14.

3. This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons,<sup>c</sup>

the Father,

the Word or Son,

and the Holy Spirit.<sup>27</sup>

These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.<sup>28</sup>

The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father.<sup>29</sup>

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.<sup>30</sup>

All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being.

Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations.

This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on Him.

<sup>c</sup>*subsistences*, or individual instances of a given essence  
<sup>27</sup>1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:19;  
<sup>2</sup>2 Corinthians 13:14.

<sup>28</sup>Exodus 3:14; John 14:11;

1 Corinthians 8:6.

<sup>29</sup>John 1:14, 18.

<sup>30</sup>John 15:26; Galatians 4:6.

This may be found in its entirety  
[at founders.org](http://founders.org)



## From The Pastor's Desk

We find traditions to be very important, and some are. When we look at the past, many who have gone before us have established a heritage that we often follow. There are many such examples in the church of beneficial traditions that serve the church well. Consider Sunday School, Wednesday evening prayer and worship, and Vacation Bible School. Such things have been handed down to us across centuries of church history. It doesn't make them infallible, but it could make them valuable. Regardless of where a tradition came from, it is important to regularly evaluate each one to make certain it is still Bible-based, Christ-centered, God-glorifying, fruitful and beneficial. We should never hold on to tradition simply because it has always been something we have always done. Manmade institutions often run their course of usefulness or become warped over time by men's ideas to improve, expand or make them more relevant. At times, these exercises prove to be profitable updates. At other times, the actions remove what was beneficial to the church and leave it a hollow program that has become a monument that seemingly cannot be removed without weeping and gnashing of teeth. The reformers of the 16th century understood this truth. As they looked at the church through the lens of Scripture, they realized that many of the things the

church did and stood for did not align with God's Word. They dutifully took the mantle of rejecting what did not honor God and removed it expeditiously. They would not allow anything that did not fit with God's commands in Scripture for how the church was to exist and function. What was ejected were ministries and programs that honored men rather than God and sought to advance mankind's agenda rather than God's kingdom. Why the history lesson? Easter will soon be upon us. It is the commemoration of the greatest thing to ever happen in the history of creation – namely, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! It was the moment that our sins were atoned for and a propitiation for our sins was made possible through His sinless life, horrific death and ultimate resurrection that brought for us eternal life. It was marked as a wonderful time of celebration by the early church and the reason we meet each week on Sunday. To bring all this together, we must look backward and forward at Easter regarding how it was celebrated and how we celebrate it now. For the 1st century church, each Sunday was sort of Easter, and a day filled with joy. Each year, there was the annual commemoration of resurrection day, the greatest of Christian celebrations. Leading up to Easter was a time of fasting and penance to prepare for the greatest day of the year.

The focus was on Jesus and His triumphal victory over death that set us free. Today, when we consider Easter, what does it look like? Does it reflect anything like the 1st century church? Certainly, the world has commercialized Easter as it does most things. Now, Easter is about Springtime, pastel colors, bunnies and eggs. A far cry from how the early church celebrated and held as its focus. Unfortunately, much of this commercialization has crept into the church, leading our minds to consider lots of things associated with Easter that have nothing to do with the resurrection of our King. Ruminating with me about Easter this year and what it truly means to observe the greatest of all days versus how we have in the past. Question each part for its God-honoring ability to rightly recognize the greatest even in history and its ability to rightly celebrate what has been done for us all. Think about your focus this Easter and, as the reformers did, oust anything that does not support our biblical precedence. By God's grace, may we glorify Him above all things!

May God bless you all  
this Easter Holy-day,

*Bro. Jim Tenney*

FBC Family, What are a few things that have caused fear in your life? Personally, I've had my fair share of dreadful fear in life. At times, death, flying, and judgement have caused great fear in my life. But I want to share a word that has created fear or even hostility within the Church throughout history. Doctrine. What is doctrine and why is doctrine important? Paul tells Timothy this in 1 Timothy 1:3-5

*"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculation rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*

- 1 Timothy 1:3-5

Paul is urging Timothy to remain in Ephesus so that he may lead and instruct teachers within the Church not to teach any different doctrine. But what is doctrine and why is it so important? The word doctrine simply means teaching. Sound doctrine literally means healthy teaching. Doctrine is a certain teaching that is founded in Scripture. All sound doctrine is God given and found in His Word alone. Paul will tell Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:10-11 that all sound doctrine is in accordance or agreement with one thing, the Gospel. We should love sound doctrine within the Church. When doctrine is correctly taught within a church, it will protect against mysticism or legalism. This is what Paul is telling Timothy, that when teachers within the Church begin teaching doctrines that are contrary to what God has given, it will always result in one or two things. On one hand, when one strays away from correct doctrine, they will turn to myths and speculations that will

ultimately lead them away from Christ. Think about spiritual warfare. How many countless books have been written on spiritual warfare that are based on superstition and ritualistic methods that are completely contrary to Scripture? It simply leads people away from Christ and places all the focus on self-effort. On the other hand, straying away from the basic teachings of the Gospel will lead many into legalism. It will cause men and women to place an unhealthy emphasis on striving to keep commandments in order to be in right standing with God. We need correct teaching to help us find and rest in the freedom Christ gives us from the law. Sound doctrine will expose false teachings, false beliefs, and false agendas within a church. It keeps men and women from having unrightful power within the Church, and gives Jesus all the glory, honor, and praise that He rightfully deserves! This is a good thing. Even more than this, sound doctrine leads us to something greater. It leads us to correctly worshiping God and enjoying fellowship with Him. Sound doctrine leads us to worshiping in spirit and truth. The Christian life is not lifeless and empty but should be full of fellowship and communion with God through Christ Jesus. Over the next few months, I will lay out the basic doctrines of our faith that are always in agreement with the Gospel. These doctrines are the teaching of who God is, who mankind is, what is sin, who is Christ Jesus, death, and eternity. First Baptist family, our children need to be taught sound doctrine. Our students and young adults need sound doctrine. We need sound doctrine in our lives! I hope we find a passion for teaching doctrine here at First Baptist!

-Jeremy Martinez

**First Baptist Church**



**VBS ROME 2026**

June 7th-11th, 6-8p

**Building Foundations:**  
Using legos to teach the Word of God.

SAVE THE DATE!

Begins May 27<sup>th</sup> 2026 from 5PM-7PM

5:00-5:30 Dinner  
5:30-6:00 Games  
6:00-7:00 Legos/Lesson

For grades 1st-6th completed

*It's That Time Again!*



*Submit Questions to the office for Bro. Jim's Ask Me Anything by May 2nd*

*Then come enjoy hearing the answers at the Annual Ladies Tea, May 9th*

*Samuel Efird & Emily Wagner*

*Are Tying the Knot*



*Let's Shower Them With Love & Blessings*

*April 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-12:00pm*

www.FiveDayBibleReading.com  
2026 Edition

**Week Fifteen: April 5-11**  
**Day 1: Judges 7-8; Luke 22**  
**Day 2: Judges 9-11; Psalm 17; Luke 23**  
**Day 3: Judges 12-16; Psalm 146; Luke 24**  
**Day 4: Judges 17-18; Psalm 21; Acts 1**  
**Day 5: Judges 19-21; Acts 2**

**Week Sixteen: April 12-18**  
**Day 1: Ruth 1-2; Acts 3**  
**Day 2: Ruth 3-4; Psalm 37; Acts 4**  
**Day 3: 1 Samuel 1-2; Psalm 120; Acts 5**  
**Day 4: 1 Samuel 3-5; Psalm 23; Acts 6**  
**Day 5: 1 Samuel 6-8; Acts 7**

**Week Seventeen: April 19-25**  
**Day 1: 1 Samuel 9-10; Acts 8**  
**Day 2: 1 Samuel 11-13; Psalm 38; Acts 9**  
**Day 3: 1 Samuel 14; Psalm 124; Acts 10**  
**Day 4: 1 Sam 15-16; 1 Chr 1; Ps 39; Acts 11**  
**Day 5: 1 Sam 17; 1 Chr 2; Acts 12**

**Week Eighteen: April 26- May 2**  
**Day 1: 1 Sam 18-19; 1 Chr 3; Ps 59; Acts 13**  
**Day 2: 1 Sa 20; 1 Chr 4; Ps 56,57,149; Acts 14**  
**Day 3: 1 Sam 21-22; 1 Chr 5; Ps 52; Acts 15**  
**Day 4: 1 Sam 23-24; 1 Chr 6; Ps 54; Acts 16**  
**Day 5: 1 Sam 25; 1 Chr 7; Acts 17**

We all are aware that we are living in a very confusing time in our nation and world. With conflicting political views causing division, and conflict between nations, what are we to do in a time like this? How can we maintain hope and peace? Don't look around you and worry, but Instead, look up! God is your defender, supplier, physician and healer. He is our anchor when our faith is challenged and tested. We should learn from the Psalmist who repeatedly expressed confidence and grateful trust in God in the midst of difficult circumstances. Here are just a few of his expressions of hope and trust:

*When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. Ps. 56:3, 4*

*Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in Thee; and in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by. Ps. 57:1*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea. ...The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Ps. 46:1, 2, 11*

*How blessed is he who considers the helpless; the Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble. The Lord will protect him and keep him alive. ...The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness Thou dost restore him to health. Ps. 41:1-3*

*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him – the help of my countenance, and my God. Ps. 42:11*

I am reminded of the song titled, "In Times Like These": In times like these you need a Savior, In time like these you need anchor; Be very sure, be very sure Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One; This Rock is Jesus, The only One! Be very sure, be very sure Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock

Blessed to Serve

Bro. Vernon

