

Trinity Sunday
June 7, 2020

“The Triune God’s systemic solution of salvation includes you!”
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who sends forth His church with the Gospel of salvation. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Our text for this Trinity Sunday is from our Gospel reading in Matthew 28, the Great Commission.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

I. The Great Commission is a “Go”!

Last week we witnessed the launch of the Space-X Dragon 2 mission to the international space station. We heard the good news that they successfully docked. After the initial weather delay, all systems were a go last Saturday and the launch went flawlessly, thanks be to God!

In the words we just heard from Jesus in Matthew 28, He says all systems are a go for His mission. It is the greatest of all missions for the final docking doesn’t occur on a space station but at the gates of heaven itself. And Jesus’ mission crew isn’t limited to sitting in a two-seater capsule. No, Jesus sends all His church to make disciples of all nations, who also then make disciples of all nations. There is no fear of failure for Jesus says the mission is a “go”. All authority, all command and control, in heaven and earth are His! And Jesus promises to be with those He is sending to the end of the age!

Jesus says one little word to assure us that everything, yes everything, is a go for the launch of the great commission. Jesus says “Therefore”. That one word encompasses everything that Jesus accomplished while He walked the earth...His teaching, healing, suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus’ mission was complete. He defeated all the enemies of sin, death and the devil by His death on the cross and His resurrection proved it. And now, Jesus launches His church with the mission to go to all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Why? Because baptism is the

connector. Baptism is what unites a sinner to the cross of Christ. The fruits of Jesus mission, forgiveness, salvation and eternal life are tethered to the sinner through baptism! Baptism brings a lost sheep into the sheepfold of the church, to be taught all that Jesus commanded and launched to go and baptize others.

II. Jesus sends His church to the lost of this systemic sinful world

Oh, how desperately needed is this mission! Our Old Testament reading from Genesis 1 described the world pre-systems failure. When the Triune God created this world it was good...100% good. There was not a flaw in it. There was nothing to protest because it was perfect! God is a God of order, not chaos. The world He created was ordered perfectly. It was systemically perfect. The whole of creation was good including the crown of God's creation – man. He was made in God's holy image.

And yet the crown of God's creation desired to take the crown from His creator and be a god unto himself. The devil tempted him and he fell and disorder entered the world. Chaos filled the world. Prejudice, jealousy, and bias was seen as the first blood was spilled when Cain took Abel's life. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain responds to God when asked where Abel was. How uncaring, heartless and callous man had become even towards one's own brother. Hatred became systemic in this fallen world. And hatred, Jesus, said, makes one a murderer. The God of order punished Cain. The God of order gave His fallen creation laws to protect them from continuing violence... **"life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."** What is important to note in Leviticus 19 is that God metes out this punishment through a judge. **"And the judges shall make careful inquiry" (Leviticus 19:18).**

What we have seen this week throughout our country is the continuing inciting of disorder by the devil. There is still systemic sinfulness that hasn't improved since Cain murdered his brother. We saw the callous and heartless suffocating of a man on video in Minnesota by police officers who surely could have used less force and preserved George Floyd's life. Heartbreaking. But, we also saw the hatred of the rioters and looters against policemen and store owners. Unpeaceful rioters threw rocks, beat officers, burned police cars, and police stations.

We are told to believe that there is systemic racism among policemen against black people...that all officers are racist. "How do you spell racist? NYPD" chanted the protesters. Such are the lies of the devil to incite more chaos and more disorder. The devil tries to overthrow the governing representatives appointed by God to keep the peace and protect the people. The devil seeks to foment more chaos and disorder by causing people

to distrust the very servants that God has given to protect them. And the statistics of police killings of unarmed people don't support a bias against minorities.

Of course, there are sinful acts committed by police officers that should be swiftly punished. And those protesters who have injured and killed others should also be punished. Sin is systemic in the fallen human race including all of us. Law and order is what God desires because He has established it, not a particular race or people. All authority in heaven and earth belong to God and it is man's duty to carry out God's laws for the peace and protection of all.

III. The Triune God's systemic solution of salvation is only through Jesus

Yet, no matter how many laws or how big a police force, or how many cameras are used to curb chaos and disorder, there will never be perfect order in this world. All men are sinful from the robber, to the policeman, to the jury, to the judge. The law can never completely remove sin, or hate, or bias, or prejudice, or neglect of duty. It can at best only curb gross outbursts of sin, and provide checks and balances for internal corruption and bias within the judicial system.

Peaceful protesting is but another check and balance exercised by the governed if the people themselves are not satisfied with the laws or those executing the laws. At best, protesting can help execute laws more justly, but no amount of protesting is ever going to change or regulate man's sinful heart. And it is an entirely false idea to think that the law is going to provide healing. It is an entirely erroneous idea to think that by eradicating any and all "isms", there will be healing, peace and happiness in this world. That is an impossibility.

There is only one way to have healing in this world. Yes, it is possible!

Healing comes only from God. For God alone is love, and the origin of all love. He alone can remove the hatred from a heart. He alone can remove any racism, bias, or prejudice and replace it with His love.

How? In short, by suffering all hate, persecution, prejudice, unholiness, slander, disrespect, brutality, ungodliness and shame of every man, woman and child of this world. God became true man and bore it all. Every protest, every unjust condemnation He endured.

²⁸ And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Acts 13

No cause. No reason to kill Jesus, for He had done no wrong. He was innocent. He wasn't intoxicated. He didn't steal. He didn't rebel against the government. He told the people to give to Caesar what was Caesar's. And when they unjustly scourged Him and drained the life from Him so that He could not even carry His own cross, He did not protest.

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

**⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,**

Jesus had forewarned His disciples in John chapter 15.

23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Jesus entered our sinful world to heal it. And, He forgave all mankind by dying. Yes, God died at the hands of merciless, brutal, hateful and haughty man. And by doing so He erased all mankind's sins. He made peace for all where there was only sinful unrest.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:14-17)

This my friends in Christ, is the Triune God's systemic, all-inclusive solution for man's systemic sinfulness. It was the only solution!

So, Jesus can say, "Therefore" for it has been accomplished. And He can now send His church on the mission to heal the nations by baptizing them, forgiving them and replacing their hatred with His love.

And the solution of salvation is systemic because it includes "all nations". God is sending His church to all people. He wants all to be saved. God loves all people, all races. He has no bias towards race, gender, class, social standing or age.

God shows no partiality – Acts 10:34, 43

Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Impartiality. Jesus died for all nations, tribes, peoples, languages, races!!! He wants all men to know the healing of having their sins forgiven and righteousness restored. This is the Gospel. This alone can change the hearts of man. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that the gift of faith is given and a sinful man’s heart is made new.

IV. The Triune God’s mission includes you

And when a man’s heart is changed by Christ’s march to the cross, man’s march changes also. For it is a daily walk, not just on certain occasions when there is news of an injustice that has occurred. The Christian’s march of peace is a daily walk of showing love toward others - Christ’s sacrificial love. That can mean defending the defenseless widow, the orphan, the unborn child, the unjustly accused, the bullied, the down-trodden, the weak, the hurting.

It is a march with eyes wide open for those who don’t know Jesus and the healing that He alone brings. And when physical aid, comfort and protection is given to the down-trodden sinner, it is done with the goal of healing the unrest of the soul. The Christian is always looking for the opportunity to heal a soul with the Good News of the Gospel. For every person needs to hear that Jesus died and rose for them...that Jesus loves all people.

This is the simple proclamation of the Gospel. This is the great commission to go, march daily to all nations and lead them to the waters of baptism that give life, peace and eternal joy. This is the march of every Christian, protesting against sin, death and the devil...protesting against the world who would replace the eternal good that Jesus has won with temporal pleasures... protesting against the soul who would not repent and humble him or herself before God before it is too late!

The great commission is the DAILY march alongside sinners, convicting another of the need to repent and then chanting and proclaiming the name of the man who was unjustly

convicted of all the world's sin, Jesus Christ. This is the name above names that removes all sin and gives healing.

His name alone gives life when the breath of life leaves this mortal body. In the name of the Triune God, there is healing in this life of a conscience freed from sin and healing eternally of a body and soul freed of all sin.

Oh, listen to the eternal healing that is revealed to us in Revelation 22.

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name *shall be on* their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

This Gospel can alone bring healing to heavy and sad hearts so trampled by the sinfulness of this world. This Gospel is so great and so precious that it must be one's life's work to share it with others. It must be one's daily march to live the love of Jesus towards others, without bias, without prejudice, for all nations, all languages, all colors, all people. It must be one's daily march to live the love of Jesus and proclaim His love that others would know there is a God that loves them too.

Proclaim and teach all things that Jesus has commanded to others and that will alone remove the racism and hatred of this world. The Gospel alone will restore order. The Gospel alone restores order by opening heaven to sinful man and opening communication with God as a dear child talks to his dear father. Yes, we pray to our dear Father to restore this world, one life at a time and use me as His instrument of love to another.

So, we go, so we march, so we protest against sin, death, and the devil and we proclaim the one Triune God to the nations, and bring all people to know Him through baptism, and receive His healing! Continue the march! Continue steadfast! You possess the Gospel that alone can change a man's heart and bring about God's new order of forgiveness, peace and salvation. Amen

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Galatians 4:7)