

# The Reality of God

Wayne Waibel – 06/12/2022

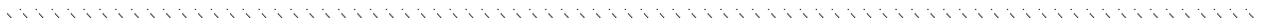
As Jesus wraps up His Farewell Discourse in John, the disciples are left to ponder the notion that after all they have seen and heard and been through, Christ still has many things to say to them. When He tells them it is more than they can now bear, they must have thought, "Are we missing something? We have absorbed foundation shifting concepts, how much more can there be?"

The Spirit of capital T-Truth that Christ is talking about is the same capital W-Wisdom that we read in the first Scripture lesson from Proverbs. On this Trinity Sunday, we acknowledge and examine the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit for what they mean in our life.

A little more than two thousand years ago, wisdom was something thought to be pre-ordained for the privileged and the learned. Everyday citizens could not be endowed with such things, as they were simply not a requirement of their daily routine. Of what use is wisdom to one who herds sheep, is enslaved by Imperial Rome, or awaits charity at the city gates?

The disciples were in a unique position in that they were promised the Spirit of Truth before they fully comprehended the significance and enormity of such a gift. In a sense – they had the minds of little children, and therein lay their advantage.

They had the benefit of intelligent ignorance. They had no idea what was about to fall upon them, so they had neither worry nor expectation. They were without understanding, which is why Jesus told them they could not bear it.



Our understanding of the heavens confronts us with two important thoughts: the incomprehensible greatness of our Creator and our own very small stature in the universe. This is a confrontation we all must face, and if we're lucky – we learn quickly so we don't have to experience it over and over and over again until we get it.

I was one of the lucky ones. I was whopped upside the head with this reality every time I stepped out on deck while we were underway. I defy anyone to witness the expanse of the open sea at night, while being a tiny little bobber on it and not be immediately impressed with the vastness of the universe contrasted with the teensy little speck of humanity that we represent.

The good news is that the more we cooperate with the reality of God in our lives, especially during times of trouble, the stronger our hope and faith become.

It's at times of trouble that we do well to remember that hope is not something we work out but something we take in.

In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he had a much easier time conveying his message of hope, then he did to the church in Corinth. His letters in Romans take a far less intense track then Corinthians for that very reason. He doesn't have to fight them. They are considerably more receptive.

It's entirely appropriate that the message of love expressed in Corinthians is set-aside on Trinity Sunday for a more Triune eloquence as expressed in Romans. "Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Paul reminds us that "we rejoice not only in hope of the glory of God, but in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not disappoint." The love and beauty of the Divine Trinity is embedded in every moment of our lives. All we have to do is see it, and in order to see it – all we have to do is look.

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This is what David was trying to capture in his song of praise from our Call to Worship. The immensity and the majesty of a Creator who could generate the whole of the universe on the one hand, and be mindful of humanity on the other.

The subject of the text, and our praise - should not be the creation, but the Creator. The Creator who bestows upon us tiny little humans – dominion over the work of His hands.

Jesus communicates in such a way as to point people to God. It's what He does. It's who He is. His entire purpose is to bring people to God. Whatever it takes to get us there is what He does, and did. God is more faithful than we can ever imagine.

It's not complicated. "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. When the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth."

Wisdom is the Holy Spirit personified. It is an intuitive posture of truthfulness. It is the tiny ember that burns deep within us and causes us to live not by anxiety, but by wonder. And that sense of wonder that enshrouds us in our youth needs to find a way to resurface as we gain wisdom and experience and faith and hope.

As the disciples struggled mightily with the Imperial forces at odds with their faith, we too face the same dynamics in our own. I think that's why Jesus felt compelled to tell them, one – He had much more to impart, and two – they could not possibly bear to hear it until they were on their own.

The triumph of Jesus is made manifest in the lives we lead. His way, and His Father's delight are all part of the magnificent plan that we get to be a part of, if we so choose.

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When we think of wisdom and when we talk about wisdom, we talk in terms of sage advice and clear understanding, and that is certainly part of it. But if we examine it deep enough, another picture emerges. In the context of creation, Wisdom is at the foundation. When it comes to truth and justice – Wisdom is the lynchpin. And when we understand the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune Godhead – it is wisdom.

When you are feeling lost and alone, remember that your wisdom is connected with a Wisdom that has been here since the beginning of creation. It urges you forward. It calls you to claim your own true self. It sets you free to become the child of God you were called to be.

We are – each of us – well versed in how Jesus directs our lives and cares for us, just as we are well aware of the love of God the Father. All glory and praise are directed heavenward, and we are at once overcome with peace and overwhelmed by love.

But there is another presence at work in our life. A particularly divine force driving and directing each step - correcting and protecting every misstep.

The work of the Spirit of Truth as embodied in Jesus Christ while emanating from Almighty God is our link to all that is good and right in a world filled with violence, danger, and evil.

To be in touch with that Spirit is our Father's command, His Son's most fervent prayer, and our own salvation. This is the reality of God. Amen.