

# Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

June 2000

*"Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."* (Titus 1:4) I pray you are doing well. The Lord has been very good to us. When you receive this letter my family and I will be on our way back from the camp meeting in Arizona. Next month we will let you know how the camp meeting went. Hopefully you will have been there and already know how it went. I pray this newsletter will be a great help to you in your Christian experience.

## Prepare To Meet Thy God

by Lynnford Beachy

The prophet Amos gave a most startling warning when he said, *"prepare to meet thy God."* (Amos 4:12) This indicates that there is some type of preparation that must take place before we are ready to meet our God. It is imperative, then, that we know what this preparation is and how to go about getting prepared.

The Old Testament gives us an account of king Rehoboam. We read, *"he did evil, because he prepared<sup>3559</sup> not his heart to seek<sup>1875</sup> the LORD."* (2 Chronicles 12:14)<sup>1</sup> Rehoboam did evil in the sight of the Lord, because He did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord. If you have not prepared your heart to seek the Lord you will do that which is evil. What does it mean to prepare your heart to seek the Lord?

The Hebrew word that was translated "prepared" means: "to be securely determined." (*Brown-Driver-Brigg's Hebrew Lexicon*) We must make ready and direct our hearts towards seeking God. The Hebrew word that was translated "seek" means: "to seek God in prayer and worship, to practice, to study, to follow, to seek with application, to seek with care." (*Ibid.*) We are to have our hearts securely determined to seek the Lord with care, study, prayer and worship.

<sup>1</sup> The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. The New Testament text is most commonly found in Greek. A man by the name of James Strong took all the Greek and Hebrew words used in the Bible, put them in alphabetical order, and applied a number to each word. The small Strong's numbers used after a word represent a Greek or Hebrew word that was translated into English. Whenever you see the number <sup>3559</sup> in this study, it represents the same Greek word no matter what English word was chosen by the translators. Please take special notice of the number <sup>3559</sup> as it will be used often in this study.

The prophet Samuel instructed the children of Israel *"saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare<sup>3559</sup> your hearts unto the LORD, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."* (1 Samuel 7:3) If we expect to prepare our hearts to seek God, we must seek Him with all our hearts, and serve Him only. Jesus said, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matthew 6:24)

Joshua spoke very strongly to the Israelites when he said, *"choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15) No man can serve two masters. You must choose either to serve God with your whole heart and serve Him only, or serve selfishness and Satan. I say, with Joshua, *"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

### Seek God With All Your Heart

We are exhorted to seek God with all our hearts. The Lord said, *"ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall*

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by Lynnford Beachy

*search for me with all your heart.”* (Jeremiah 29:13) If we seek God with all our hearts He will be found of us and He will make known to us His will. *“Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will He teach sinners in the way.”* (Psalm 25:8) **“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.”** (Psalm 143:10) If we sincerely seek God with all our hearts and ask Him to show us His will, He will make it known unto us.

Ezra had determined to do the will of God. Whatever it was that was revealed to Him, that is what He was determined to do. *“For Ezra had prepared<sup>3559</sup> his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”* (Ezra 7:10) This also was the attitude that Elihu had. He said, *“That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.”* (Job 34:32) The Bible tells us that we need to have the attitude that says, “No matter what it is, if the Lord shows me that it is wrong I will not do it, no matter what.” Can you and I say this today? Have we truly prepared our heart to seek the Lord?

### **A Lesson from Abraham**

Abraham had certainly made this decision. God asked him to do something that would require a great sacrifice on his part, the greatest example of selflessness that can be given. God said, *“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”* (Genesis 22:2)

Abraham did not question the will of God. When God’s will was presented before him he did not hesitate to do it. *“And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose*

*up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.”* (Genesis 22:3) Abraham’s attitude was, “No matter what the circumstances, no matter what the cost, I will give it to please God, because I know that whatever the Lord desires me to do, it is only for my benefit and the benefit of others, so that God’s wonderful plan may be carried out.” Fortunately for Abraham he was saved from completing the awful task that God had asked him to do. The angel of God cried out, *“Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”* (Genesis 22:12) God knew that if a man was willing to yield up his only begotten son to Him, that he loved Him with all his heart. Paul wrote concerning God’s love for us, *“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”* (Romans 8:32)

God delivered up His own Son, and we know that if He was willing to do that, then He will not withhold anything good from us. Abraham also was willing to yield up his only son so God knew that he would not withhold anything from Him.

Do you have the kind of love for God that withholds nothing from Him, or do you like to retain certain things for your own pleasure? Paul wrote, *“she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”* (1 Timothy 5:6) If you are living to serve yourself, the Bible says that you are dead while you live. If you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, then you will be willing to forsake all for the glory of God.

### **The Rich Ruler**

The eighteenth chapter of Luke gives us a startling account of a man who had not yet come to the point of total surrender. Luke wrote, *“a certain ruler asked him [Jesus], saying, Good*

*Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.”* Jesus told this man that if he wanted to inherit eternal life he needed to keep the Ten Commandments. In Matthew’s account of this conversation Jesus said, *“if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”* Notice how the ruler responded to this information. He said, *“All these have I kept from my youth up.”* Was this the truth? He obviously thought so. He was claiming that he had never transgressed God’s commandments. Yet the Bible says that *“all have sinned...”* (Romans 3:23)

*“Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.”* (Luke 18:18-23) The rich ruler claimed to have kept the commandments of God all of his life, but when Christ tested him, to see whether or not he would withhold anything from God, it was shown that he lacked that pure, unselfish love for God.

The rich ruler thought that he was keeping the commandments, but He had neglected the first and greatest commandment, which is to love God with all your heart. He was not keeping the commandments of God, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”* (James 2:10)

If God revealed to you, right now, that He wanted you to sell all that you have and give to the poor, would you be willing to do it? If God revealed to you that He wanted you to sacrifice your only begotten son, would you do it? This is the kind of unselfish love that God is looking for in His people,

especially in these last days. God is preparing a people who will “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth...” (Revelation 14:4)

### Make a Total Surrender to God

In the first few years of Rehoboam’s reign as king, some “out of all the tribes of Israel such as **set** <sup>5414</sup> their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.” (2 Chronicles 11:16) The Hebrew word that was translated “set” means this: “to devote, to dedicate, to consecrate, to give over, to commit.” (*Ibid.*) It is time to completely dedicate ourselves to seek the Lord, and to do those things that He reveals to us. While Asa was king he and the children of Israel “entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;... And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought Him with their **whole desire** <sup>7522</sup> [“will, pleasure” (*Ibid.*)]; and He was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.” (2 Chronicles 15:12-15) Seek the Lord with your whole being, give yourself to prayer and dedicate your whole life to God, and He will give you rest. There is no rest that can compare with the rest of knowing that you are in God’s will and that you have committed yourself to Him wholeheartedly.

The Bible speaks of those who have dedicated themselves completely to serving God when it says, “He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is **fixed** <sup>3559</sup> [“prepared” (*Ibid.*)], trusting in the LORD. His heart is established <sup>5564</sup> [“rest upon, lean against, sustain” (*Ibid.*)], he shall not be afraid...” (Psalm 112:7,8) Prepare your heart and trust in the Lord, and He will sustain you. “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall **sustain** <sup>3557</sup> [“to support, to nourish” (*Ibid.*)] thee: He shall

never suffer the righteous to be moved.” (Psalm 55:22)

Solomon gave us some excellent counsel when he wrote, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6) In everything that we do, we must acknowledge Him. Let all of our thoughts, words, and actions be determined by the knowledge we have of God. Let us always remember that our every decision is being watched and weighed. “Walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.” (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

### Do Not Follow the Example of the Israelites

The history of the Israelites was given so that we would not follow after their example of unbelief. God gave the Israelites counsel to teach their children about what God had done so that they “might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that **set** <sup>3559</sup> [“prepared”] not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.” (Psalms 78:8) The Jews who came out of Egypt and died in the wilderness did not prepare their heart aright. They did not make the firm decision to follow the Lord no matter what. Their spirit was not steadfast with God.

Let your attention and affections be focused on God and His wonderful love for you. Let your love and service to God be out of a pure heart. “Now the **end** <sup>5056</sup> [“the point aimed at” (*Strong’s Greek Lexicon*)] of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.” (1 Timothy 1:5)


Our duty to God should not be unpleasant to us, but a joy and a delight. “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:8) Let us always have an appreciation for God’s character, and show that appreciation in praise. “Let

us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name [character].” (Hebrews 13:15)

May we always have a joyful heart when following the Lord, for everything that is asked of us to do is for our greatest benefit. “I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart **I have willingly offered all these things**: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, **to offer willingly** unto thee. O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and **prepare their heart unto thee**.” (1 Chronicles 29:17, 18)

Let us make the firm decision to do the Lord’s will, not out of fear of punishment, but knowing always that His instructions are the best possible thing that we can do. God knows the end from the beginning and He alone can rightly direct our lives for our highest benefit, and the benefit of others.

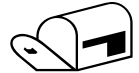
“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.” (Isaiah 55:6) There is a time coming soon when we may seek Him and He will not be found. Therefore it is imperative to seek Him now while He may be found. God is pleading with us to awake out of sleep and prepare our hearts, for the day of the Lord is at hand. The prophet Amos wrote, “**prepare** <sup>3559</sup> to meet thy God.” (Amos 4:12)

Make that decision right now and settle this issue forever. God’s last-day people will have decided to do His will whatever the cost. God is pleading with us right now to be a part of that number who do God’s will at all times. “**The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.**” (Zephaniah 3:13) 





# Letters from our Readers



"Could you please send me and my husband a free copy of the Biblical study paper and please tell me about *Present Truth*, like price and when to expect it in the mail, etc. God bless you."

West Virginia

"Your work continues to be a great blessing me, which is gratefully passed on to family a friends to the best of my ability. You have been greatly blessed with a tremendous gift for clearly articulating truths of our faith that have been greatly misunderstood or distorted throughout much of the history and extent of the visible church. It would be a real privilege to meet with you anywhere, and the Arizona camp meeting would have been a great opportunity. ...We will be gone from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, so if we manage to meet with you in this life, it will have to be some other time or place. Perhaps West Virginia in August, or next year in Arizona. Thanks again for doing a great work. If you find yourself in need of anything we could supply, please let me know."

Texas

"Please send me your present list of Bible subjects and 'The Law of God.' Thank you for your cooperation."

Virginia

"I'm writing to you today because I would like the free book on last day events and Bible studies."

Indiana

"Thank you for your gracious correspondence. I am always grateful when I receive the most recent *Present Truth*."

Montana

"I am glad to write you this letter to inform you that [we received] your book called 'Shelter in the Storm' and tracts, which I and my Ministry read. And beloved man of God called \_\_\_\_\_ gave us freely. Then we went back to him to collect more books and tracts. He told us that it has finished. Then, we request you to send us many copies of your books and tracts. We are in great need of them. Help us in this great task. Since we have been looking for a way to get this life changing Words of God, but God has directed us through your books. We are waiting from you. May God richly bless you all."

Nigeria

"Send me any other literature you may have regarding 'Where are the dead when they die' or any other literature you may have."

New Jersey

"I would like to have one book of 'Last day events' if they are available for people out of the USA and Canada."

Holland

"Could you send some information regarding your ministry?"

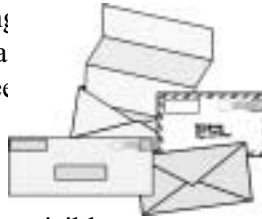
California

"Friends sent me one of your leaflets, 'The Importance of Knowing the Truth About God.' I am surely impressed with your diagram on page 10; so much so, that I am asking for permission to reproduce it for use in our ministry. A copy is enclosed so you will know exactly what portion I am speaking of. We enclose a donation for your ministries. Thank you."

Texas

(You are more than welcome to use any of our literature in your ministry work. Below is a copy of the diagram he was referring to.)

Editor)



THE BIBLE	TRINITARIANS
<u>"God, the Father"</u> John 6:27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 1:1,3; Ephesians 6:23; Philippians 2:11; 1 Thes- salonians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:17; 2 John 3; Jude 1 (13 verses in all)	<u>"God, the Father"</u> John 6:27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 1:1,3; Ephesians 6:23; Philippians 2:11; 1 Thes- salonians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:17; 2 John 3; Jude 1 (13 verses in all)
<u>"The Son of God"</u> Daniel 3:25; Matthew 4:3,6; 14:33; 26:63; 27:40,43,54; Mark 1:1; 3:11; 15:39; Luke 1:35; 3:38; 4:3,9,41; 22:70; John 1:34,49; 5:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4; 11:27; 19:7; 20:31; Acts 8:37; 9:20; Romans 1:4; 2 Corin- thians 1:19; Galatians 2:20; Epe- sians 4:13; Hebrews 4:14; 6:6; 7:3; 10:29; 1 John 3:8; 4:15; 5:5,10,12,13,20; Revelation 2:18 (44 verses in all)	<u>"God, the Son"</u> (No verses found)
<u>"The Holy Spirit of God"</u> (Eph. 4:30) (One verse found)	<u>"God, the Holy Spirit"</u> (No verses found)
<u>"The Spirit of God"</u> (25 verses in all)	

"Please send 100 of all 7 types of tracts. Thanks."

Montana

"Please send me 50 each of the tracts 'What the Bible Says About Hell,' 'The Holy Spirit,' 'The Reward of the Wicked,' 'The Love of God.' Thank you."

West Virginia

"May I respond to your salutation with an 'Amen', and once again thank God for your ministry. Oh that these truths may engulf planet earth and I pray that may the Lord help us to respectively brighten our corners.... I say again that the vague sound of the trumpet given by most leaders leaves me together with my friends really challenged that we can not be silent."

Zimbabwe

# Answers to Verses Trinitarians Often Use

by Lynnford Beachy



Many Trinitarians really think that the following verses actually support a Trinity doctrine. We will examine them in detail. Please pray that the Lord will give you discernment to *“be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”* (1 Peter 3:15)

## Matthew 28:19

Jesus said, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus commissioned us to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Greek *pneuma*). Was Jesus, by making this commission, trying to teach the idea of the Trinity? I think not, or He would have been contradicting other statements He made, and many statements by other Bible writers. There is nothing in the verse that says there are three persons in the Godhead. There is nothing in the verse that says who is God. We learn elsewhere in the Bible that the “one God” of the Bible is the Father. *“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”* (1 Corinthians 8:6) The Bible uses the phrase, “God the Father” thirteen times but never uses the terms “God the Son,” or “God the Holy Spirit.”

Notice also that the verse says we are to baptize in the name of... Why is it singular if there are supposed to be three persons? The word “name” in the Bible often refers to a person’s character. As an example, Jacob’s name was changed from *Jacob* (“supplanter” or “deceiver”) to *Israel* (“God prevails”) because his character had changed. If we believe this verse to be referring to actual names of three individuals it would be impossible for us to fulfill this commission because we only know the names of two of the individuals. The proper name of God the Father is YHWH or, as some understand it, Jehovah. The proper name of God’s Son is Jesus or, as some understand it, Yahshua. Yet the Bible nowhere gives us any indication that the Holy Spirit has a name, and if the Holy Spirit does have a name, there is no mention of it in the Bible. Besides this, every record of a baptism in the Bible, after Jesus gave this commission, has the disciples baptizing “in the name of Jesus Christ,” “in the name of the Lord,” or “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” *“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”* (Acts 19:5) There is no record anywhere in the Bible of anyone baptizing “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus was saying that we are to baptize in the character of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Father anointed His Son with His own Spirit. Therefore they have the same Spirit. The Father said to His Son, *“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”* (Hebrews 1:9) *“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”* (John 3:34) As is plainly shown, the Father and the Son share a Spirit. What type of Spirit do they share? Surely, it is a Holy Spirit. The Bible mentions several different types of spirit. We read in the Bible about “foul spirit,” “evil spirit,” “unclean spirit,” “dumb spirit,” “excellent spirit,” “humble spirit,” “wounded spirit,” “broken spirit,” “haughty spirit,” “faithful spirit,” “good spirit,” etc. All these “spirits” are distinguishable by the adjective that describes them. We know that God the Father has a Spirit, and can that Spirit be anything else, or anything less, than Holy? The word “holy” is an adjective in every case, whether in English or in Greek. “Holy Spirit” is not a name, but a description of the Spirit of God.

## John 14

Let’s look at the words of Jesus. *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* [Jesus said that His disciples knew the Spirit because He dwelt with them at that time, and would soon be in them. Who was dwelling with them?] ***I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*** (John 14:16-18)

Paul wrote, *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* (Colossians 1:27) The hope of glory is that *Christ* is in you. Not someone else, but Christ Himself. He said He would come to us. Peter said, *“Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”* (Acts 3:26) After God raised up His Son from the dead, He sent Him into your hearts to turn you from your iniquity. *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* (Galatians 4:6) It is the Spirit of Jesus that is in us, not a third God, not one who is unfamiliar with the trials and temptations we go through.

Please notice a very interesting verse in regard to the Holy Spirit. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”* (Romans 8:26) Why does the Bible refer to the Holy Spirit as “it”? If this were

speaking of an actual third being it would be an insult. We wouldn't even refer to our friends as "it" let alone the great God of the universe. Yet the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as "it." Why? Paul wrote, "*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*" (Ephesians 4:30) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. They are the same. "*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*" (1 Corinthians 3:16) "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

It is interesting that when we think of the spirit of Lynnford, or the spirit of John, we never assume we are referring to a separate individual, but as soon as we speak of the Spirit of God we assume that it has reference to a separate individual. Suppose I were to tell you that I would like you to meet my mother. She is very pleasant to be around; she has an excellent spirit. If you would reply, "Well I know your mother is pleasant to be around, but I have never met her spirit" it would be evident that you had no idea what a spirit is. 1 Corinthians chapter two compares the spirit of man with the Spirit of God. Why would one suppose that the Spirit of God was a separate being, while the spirit of man is the internal person of a man.

Let me make something clear here. I am not saying "the Holy Spirit does not exist." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, which can be abundantly proven from Scripture. The working of the Holy Spirit is crucial in our Christian experience, but let us not suppose that God's Spirit must be a separate being to perform that work in us.

Fifteen out of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament start out with a greeting similar to this one. "*Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*" (2 John 3) Out of all these greetings, none of them mentions a third being. Just two are mentioned—the Father and His Son. Surely if there were a third being who is to be equally worshipped and adored, the writers of the New Testament would have included him in these greetings, but alas, there is not one to be found.

John explains to us with whom we are to have fellowship. He says, "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*" (1 John 1:3) Surely if John were acquainted with a third God, he would want us to have fellowship with him as well, but there is no mention of another being. John further states, "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*" (2 John 9) "Both" means two, and only two.

Reasoning with the Jews, Jesus said, "*It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one*

*that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*" (John 8:17, 18) If an additional being could testify in His behalf, Jesus would not have hesitated to mention him here.

Paul declared, "*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels.*" (1 Timothy 5:21) Paul called the heavenly agencies to witness this charge given to Timothy. Notice whom Paul called as witnesses for him. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are naturally the first Ones to be mentioned, but Paul did not stop here. He called all the angels of God to be his witnesses also. Certainly if Paul knew of a third being who is coequal with the Father and His Son, he would have mentioned him in this verse. Yet there is no hint of another being, which is plain evidence that Paul knew nothing about a third God.

### John 8:58

Jesus said, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*" (John 8:58) Many Trinitarians use this as conclusive evidence that Christ is the Most High God because He used the term "I AM" in reference to Himself. Is this the case? Jesus is the "*Son of the most high God,*" (Mark 5:7) not the Most High God Himself. Let's look at Exodus, the only place that the term "I AM" is used in the Old Testament. Moses saw a strange phenomenon as he beheld a bush burning but not being consumed. The Bible says, "*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*" (Exodus 3:2) Who was it that appeared to Moses? "The angel of the LORD." Who is that? As Moses drew near to the bush the angel of the LORD said, "*Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*" (Exodus 3:5) This is quite interesting. We read of a similar occurrence with Joshua when he was about to surround Jericho.

"*And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*" (Joshua 5:13-15)

Here the Captain of the LORD's host appeared to Joshua and told him to loose the shoes from off his feet, because the ground where he was standing was holy. We know this was not an angel because an angel would not accept worship. John began to worship an angel and the angel said, "*See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy*



brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10) We know that the Captain of the LORD's host who appeared to Joshua was not God the Father for, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." (John 1:18) The only One left who this could possibly be is Christ.

Christ is often referred to as "the Angel of the LORD." God told Moses, "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him, and obey His voice, provoke Him not; for He will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in Him." (Exodus 23:20, 21) "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them." (Exodus 14:9) Christ was the One who went before the children of Israel. Paul wrote about Israel that they "did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)

So we see that the only time the term "I AM" is used in the Old Testament, it refers to Christ. How then can one say that because He used the same term in the New Testament He all of a sudden was claiming to be the Most High God?

#### Acts 5:3, 4

"Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**" (Acts 5:3, 4)

Many Trinitarians use this as conclusive evidence that the Holy Spirit is God, therefore being a third separate being, God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30) The word holy is an adjective in every instance. God has a Spirit, and His Spirit is holy. To lie to God's Spirit is to lie to God. That is because His Spirit is Himself. If I were to lie to your spirit, you would not suppose that I lied to someone other than yourself.

#### Colossians 2:9

"For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9) In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead. Notice Colossians 1:19. "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell." (Colossians 1:19) God the Father was pleased to have His Son filled with all the fulness of the Godhead. How did this take place? "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the

words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." (John 3:34) God gave His Spirit to His Son without measure. Jesus was filled with all the fullness of God.

Does Colossians 2:9 say that Christ is the Godhead? No, it says that Christ was filled with all the fullness of the Godhead. How? "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:19) God the Father was in His Son, filling Him with all the fullness of the Godhead.

The word Godhead is used three times in the Bible. Here is the first time it is used, "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." (Acts 17:29) We are the offspring of the Godhead. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26) Who is the Godhead? "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (1 Corinthians 11:3) The ultimate Godhead is God the Father, who is head over all.

Just because Jesus is said to be filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, does not mean that He is the Godhead. In fact, the Bible tells us that we can be filled with all the fullness of God. "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (Ephesians 3:19)

#### John 1:1

What about John 1:1? Isn't Christ spoken of here as being God? This is possibly the most widely quoted verse by trinitarians. Let's take a look at it in the original Greek.

1722	746	2258	3588	3056	2532
In	beginning	was	the	Word	and
3588	3056	2258	4314	3588	2316
the	Word	was	with	the	God
2532	2316	2258	3588	3056	3778
and	God	was	the	Word	The same
2258	1722	746	4314	3588	2316
was	in	beginning	with	the	God

"In the beginning was the Word [the Son of God], and the Word was with [the] God, and the Word was God [Notice: He is not "the God" whom He was with]. The same was in the beginning with [the] God." (John 1:1, 2) Notice the distinction that is made when the word *the* is inserted in the proper places. The definite article *the* is in the original Greek, but was left out of most English translations.


There is no question that this verse refers to Christ as God, but it does not refer to Him as the Most High God, or the Almighty God. Jesus is God, but He has a God. "That

*the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.*” (Ephesians 1:17) Jesus Himself says, *“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”* (Revelation 3:12) After His resurrection Jesus said to Mary, *“Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”* (John 20:17)

Jesus is God, but not the Most High God, whom He is the Son of. A devil-possessed man said to Jesus, *“What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.”* (Mark 5:7) Jesus is not *“the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...”* (Ephesians 1:3)

Jesus Christ has a God, God the Father does not. Jesus Christ worships God the Father. Jesus said to the woman at the well, *“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”* (John 4:22) God the Father never worships His Son. God the Father is greater

than Jesus Christ for Jesus said, *“my Father is greater than I.”* (John 14:28) Jesus Christ is not greater than God the Father. Jesus Christ has a head over Him, God the Father does not. *“I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”* (1 Corinthians 11:3)

John 1:1 says that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God. The Word was in the beginning. The beginning of what? It has to be the beginning of something. Was it the beginning of this world? Was it the beginning of the creation of the angels? Whichever beginning you place it at, it has to be the beginning of something. Many Trinitarians use this to say that Christ always was, and had no beginning. That is not what the verse says. Also, the word *with* has to mean something. The Word was with God. They cannot be the same being, or one could not be with the other. You cannot walk to the corner with yourself. 

**Present Truth** is published monthly by *Smyrna Gospel Ministries*. It is sent free upon request. Duplication of these papers is not only permitted but strongly encouraged. *Present Truth* is available online at <http://www.present-truth.net>.

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