

IS THE TRINITY A SCRIPTURAL TEACHING?

Note to the speaker:

Show what the Scriptures reveal about the true identity of Jehovah, Jesus, and the holy spirit. Do not ridicule those who believe in the Trinity. Appeal to their sense of reason and love for truth

WHY ONE SHOULD EXAMINE THE TRINITY TEACHING (6 min.)

The Trinity has long been a subject of controversy; supporters say it is founded on the Bible, critics say it is not

Doctrine states that there are three divine persons—the Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost

Each is said to be eternal, to be almighty, to be God, and yet together being but one God (*w91 11/1 21; rs 405*)

Is central doctrine of many religions of Christendom (*w91 11/1 19*)

Some non-Christian religions teach a similar doctrine (*sh 115*)

In the past, people were even put to death for denying the Trinity doctrine (*w87 6/15 4; w84 2/1 3*)

Important for us to know whether teaching is Scriptural or not

God requires worship with truth (Read John 4:24)

Need to know whether Trinity doctrine meets this requirement

Can determine this by comparing the doctrine with God's Word of truth (Read John 17:17)

Bible reveals truth about God, Jesus, and the holy spirit

ONLY JEHOVAH GOD IS ALMIGHTY (12 min.)

Bible states that God is almighty and has a personal name (Ge 17:1; Ex 18:11; Isa 42:8; Re 16:7)

Nowhere in Bible is anyone but Jehovah called Almighty (*it-1 970*)

As Creator of all things, Jehovah is uncreated, without beginning (Re 4:11; 10:6; *it-2 13*)

Bible describes him as being "from time indefinite" (Ps 90:2; 93:2)

Only Jehovah is both without beginning and without end (Ps 90:2; 1Ti 1:17)

Both Hebrew and Greek Scriptures state that God is one, a unique Being (*g78 11/22 28*)

"There is no other besides him" (De 4:35; Isa 45:5; *ti 13; it-2 511*)

Even after Jesus' ascension into heaven, apostles continued to present same picture (1Co 8:4-6; 1Pe 1:3; 1Jo 2:1)

Accordingly, L. L. Paine, professor of ecclesiastical history, notes: "The Old Testament is strictly monotheistic. God is a single personal being. The idea that a trinity is to be found there . . . is utterly without foundation. . . . There is no break between the Old Testament and the New. The monotheistic tradition is continued." (*ti 12-13*)

What the Bible says about God—is alone almighty, is alone without beginning, is one God—contrasts with Trinity teaching

JESUS—EXALTED BUT NOT EQUAL (12 min.)

Jesus occupies an exalted position (Php 2:9-11)

Is described as "Mighty God" but never as Almighty (Isa 9:6)

Throughout Greek Scriptures, Jesus is referred to as God's Son but not once as God the Son (*w88 6/1 11-12*)

God himself testified that Jesus is His Son (Mr 1:11; Lu 9:35)

Jesus also stated that he is God's Son (Joh 3:16, 18; 10:36)

Others gave the same testimony (Mt 14:33; 27:54; Joh 1:34)

Jesus called his Father "the *only* true God" (Joh 17:3)

Jesus had prehuman existence but had "origin," or beginning (Mic 5:2; Joh 3:13; *w98 6/15 24; it-2 52*)

Was 'beginning of creation' by God (Re 3:14; *ti 14*)

Is referred to as "firstborn" and "only-begotten Son" (Col 1:15, 16; 1Jo 4:9; *ti 15-16; rs 408*)

Unlike Father, who 'does not die,' Jesus was put to death (Hab 1:12)

Jesus said: "I and the Father are one" (Joh 10:30)

Oneness as to purpose and action (Joh 17:20-23; *ti 24; rs 424*)

Just as Christians belong to Jesus, so he belongs to God (1Co 3:23)

Father and Son not equal parts in one Godhead (Joh 14:28; 1Co 11:3)

In his vision of heavens, Stephen did not see Jesus as being part of triune God but as "at God's right hand" (Ac 7:55, 56)

Two separate individuals were seen (*w88 6/1 14*)

Thus, Jesus is not part of one God (1Co 8:6)

Trinity doctrine conflicts with what Scriptures teach about Jesus—is not almighty, had a beginning, is separate from Jehovah God

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS, NOT A PERSON, BUT A FORCE (8 min.)

Nowhere in the Bible is the holy spirit described as a person

Daniel in vision sees Father, Son, angels, but not holy spirit as a person (Da 7:9, 10, 13; *w87 6/15 5*)

Stephen saw God's glory and the resurrected Christ, but no holy spirit is mentioned (Ac 7:55; *w88 6/1 14*)

Apostle John describes heavenly vision, depicting Jehovah and Jesus as persons but not holy spirit as a person (Re 4:2; 5:5, 6; *re 76, 83-5; w87 6/15 5*)

The holy spirit has no personal name (*w91 1/15 4*)

Scriptures list holy spirit with other impersonal things (Ac 6:5; 2Co 6:4-6; *w91 1/15 4*)

Bible describes holy spirit as God's active force

When baptized, Jesus received holy spirit (Mr 1:10)

It was the spirit and power of Jehovah that enabled Jesus to do miraculous healing, raise the dead, and control the forces of nature (Lu 5:17; 8:22-25, 49-56; *g99 1/8 27; it-1 1056; it-2 1020*)

Holy spirit is called "God's finger" because it is God's instrument for accomplishing his will (Ex 31:18; compare Matthew 12:28 with Luke 11:20) (*w87 6/15 5; si 10; it-1 832*)

Active force used by God for a variety of purposes (Ps 33:6; 143:10; Isa 30:27, 28; 2Pe 1:20, 21)

Trinity doctrine is irreconcilable with what the Scriptures reveal about the holy spirit

MANY BIBLE TEXTS REFUTE THE TRINITY (4 min.)

At Mark 13:32, Jesus said concerning day and hour of the great tribulation, "nobody knows . . . but the Father"

The Father and Son cannot be equal, the Son not knowing all that the Father knows

Although Trinitarians claim that the Son was limited by his humanity from knowing, they still cannot explain why the holy spirit does not know

Jesus stated at Luke 10:22: "Who the Son is no one knows but the Father; and who the Father is, no one knows but the Son"

Again, since the holy spirit is not a person, it does not know

To say that the Trinity doctrine was later received by tradition, although not taught in the Scriptures, contradicts Paul's words (Read Galatians 1:8)

Clearly, the Bible refutes all facets of the Trinity doctrine

ETERNAL BLESSINGS AWAIT THOSE WORSHIPING GOD WITH TRUTH (3 min.)

We should hate falsehood and love truth (Ps 119:163)

Reject, therefore, falsehood of Trinity doctrine and embrace truth about Jehovah's unique Godship (Ps 86:11)

Through his Word, Jehovah, our "Grand Instructor," shows us the true way ("this is the way") of worshiping him (Isa 30:20, 21)

By adding "walk in it," he urges us to act

Doing God's will by following this admonition, worshiping him with truth, leads to eternal blessings (1Jo 2:17)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)