

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 13th September 2020

One true sovereign eternal triune God

Prayer.

Almighty God, as we come to worship you this morning, we just stand in awe at your greatness, the wonder of your creation, we marvel at your love for us flawed people, love which you lavish on us regardless of the fact we do not deserve it, cannot earn it, and yet in your grace you still love us.

We pray that as we come to praise you, you will presence yourself with each one of us through your Holy Spirit, so that our hearts may respond to your love, our spirits may sense your presence, and our minds will be able to learn from you.

Lord we bless and magnify your Holy name, Amen.

So through the power of God's Holy Spirit, let's start our worship time as we bring our praise to our God who as a verse in this song reminds us is, The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son, the lion and the Lamb, as we sing:-

Song The splendour of the King
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVedvvlXcwk>

Introduction.

This morning we start a new series of studies entitled "Back to basics - We believe in..." and over the next few weeks we will be exploring the fundamentals of our beliefs. If we have been Christians for many years, we may take our beliefs as a given, or if we are new to the faith, perhaps we still have things to learn.

I hope as we explore these topics, we not only learn **about** our Heavenly Father God, His Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and all the truths they reveal, but that equally importantly, we will come to **know** these persons who make up our Almighty God, in a new and living way. So let's continue to worship as we sing and affirm:-

Song I believe in God our Father
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-aSmurqrzA>

Prayer Time

Thank you Lord that we can come to you as a living person, who longs to have a personal conversation with us, and at the outset, we just want to praise and thank you for all the times you have been close to us in the past week, and for the answers to prayer that you have given us.

We praise you that as Isaiah 49:16 reminds us, we know “You have engraved us on the palms of Your hands”, that You will not forget or ignore us when we turn to you, and so in faith we bring to You the issues which are on our hearts.

Prayer for:-

Protection for us and our loved ones from the virus which is around us.

Wisdom for our countries’ leaders as they try to guide us through these times.

Leading for us as a local Church as we move forward in the “New Normal”, that we may take advantage of the changing situation to make our witness to others more effective.

For those who have contacted our prayer line.

For those experiencing hardship, and loss.

For our personal issues.

Amen.

Song We believe in God the Father
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D82vhTvGJko>

Readings Mat 3:16-17

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Mat 28:19

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor 13:14

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Song

I believe in Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5HbddjrTU>

Some thoughts.

This morning we look at the first aspect of what we believe in, our one, true, sovereign, eternal God, who reveals Himself to us in three persons.

As we look at each aspect, let's see how we can apply these truths to our lives.

Firstly, Scripture tells us that there is only one God, the almighty creator of all things, who is the only true God, and is sovereign and above all things.

In Exodus 20 we are told, "And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. ..."

Basic stuff, but what does it mean for you and me? The key word is "LORD", which means our God is supreme, is sovereign and we must be subject to Him in all things.

So can we test ourselves against this standard, do we put God first in respect to our time, our resources, the things we value, our decision making, in fact in every facet of life. Challenging isn't it!

Our God is eternal, He always was, and always will be.

Right at the beginning of the revelation which was given to John by God, he was told in Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

We can apply this truth to our everyday lives, confident in the knowledge that whatever is going on which may concern us, God knew us before we were born, He is with us now, and if we trust in Him we will be with us for eternity after this life.

Next, God reveals Himself to us in three persons.

Our scripture verses this morning remind us that God shows Himself to us in three ways, as Almighty God our heavenly Father, as Jesus his Son who came to earth to save us from our sins, and as The Holy Spirit to be with us day to day.

Isn't our God wonderful, He knows that we simple beings could not easily grasp the concept of an unseen God, so He shows us different facets of himself, so that we can understand, and more importantly, sense, know, and feel Him day to day.

God may have three persons or aspects but he is still one God.

Think of an everyday object, it has three dimensions and if viewed from three direct perspectives, it will give us three totally different images of that object, each is real, but there is still only one object, yet when we view the object from the three angles we have the advantage of fully understanding what it is.

Putting aside the theological meaning for one moment, isn't it wonderful that because of the "Trinity" we can appreciate a better picture of our God.

We can wonder in awe at God the almighty creator, we can rely on Him as our heavenly Father, we can see what God is like through the physical image of Jesus his Son, who came to earth, and can therefore understand first hand all that we experience, and we can know the indwelling of God in us by His Holy Spirit.

So our challenge this morning is not just to understand, but to fully and personally experience, each facet of God which we have just looked at, and we can face the coming week in the assurance that our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness, that throughout the storm he is Lord and we look ahead to the promise of being in His presence for eternity.

Song

My hope is built on nothing less

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH_-1Zbs

A prayer of benediction

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last.

(Cardinal Newman)