

Grace, mercy, and peace be your in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. The title for today’s sermon is “Wisdom’s Call” and is based on the Old Testament reading, Proverbs 8. Let us pray... . Amen.

Today, on the Church calendar, is Trinity Sunday. On this day we have the opportunity to look at the working of the entire Godhead in Trinity and Trinity in unity. It is not a easy subject, but at the same time God is clear in His Word as He explains Himself.

This wisdom is important to know, partially because it describes Who God is and how He has revealed Himself to us in Scripture, and because many, MANY of the heresies in the first few centuries of Christianity were over this very topic—describing the Godhead—and unfortunately many of those same early heresies continue today.

But how does God describe Himself? The name into which Jesus commands us to be baptized into is “**the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit**”(Matthew 28:19). A further brief look through the Bible and the our confession also clearly tells us that God the Father has:

“created me and all that exists; that He has given me and still sustains my body and soul, all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with food and clothing, house and home, family and property; that He provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me from all evil. All this He does out of His pure, Fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on my part. For all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.”(SC 1st Article)

But that is not all for which Scripture tells about God. God the Son,
“Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,” as the Old Testament reveals, “and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, delivered me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death, in order that I may be His, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity.” (SC 2nd Article)

And one can never forget the Holy Spirit, main after last week, Pentecost. That is because Scripture also clearly reveals that:

“by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ.” (SC 3rd Article)

Yet despite the clarity, there were, and continue to be many who just don’t see Scripture the same way. As a result of those ancient, and now modern, heresies the Church developed our creeds to defend against false teaching. The church condensed Scripture to confess what it believes according to the revealed Word of God. The result we still have today in three creeds: the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creed.

But why? Why was, and is, it necessary to have a formal confession of faith?

Well a good part of that can be explained in that there are two kinds of wisdom: **Worldly**: what is taught in school, in life, from parents, friends, and basically from the world around us. In worldly matters this wisdom is fantastic and absolutely necessary in order to survive. Without it we would be broke, starve, and not function. But, at the same time, in no way, shape, or form does worldly wisdom bring eternal life or salvation. In spiritual matters this wisdom does nothing at best, eternally condemns a person at worst.

Yet, there is a second kind of wisdom; **Godly or spiritual wisdom**. This one is different. It is Spiritually discerned, meaning one needs the Holy Spirit to really understand it. While in some very minor ways it can be discerned physically and through the world around us, the only way to really understand it is through the working of the Holy Spirit. The only place where Godly wisdom really comes—the only place you can be absolutely sure of it—is when it comes directly from God revealed in His Word of Scripture.

Unfortunately worldly wisdom rejects and attacks the wisdom of God. This is a huge problem. The world and many worldly scholars love to tell of their great wisdom and firm grasp on ‘reality’. This same group challenges and ridicules those who do not share their wisdom. Jesus faced it with Pilate, so did the disciples with the Jewish religious leaders, Paul faced it with the Greeks, and we continue to be bombarded with it. Christians are being constantly attacked and challenged, sometimes **directly** – open mocking and ridicule, persecution, arrest, or even execution in some countries, but more often it is done **indirectly** – Satan challenging God’s Word with his original devious question: ‘Did God, or the Bible, really say...?’ and ‘do you really believe it?’ because everyone knows that is wrong, corrupted, just so out of touch with the ‘real world’ today.

This indirect attack on the Wisdom and Word of God can be seen in the biological and anthropological sciences through the teaching of billions of years of evolution (forgetting about the Wisdom); God’s Wisdom is attacked when society promotes ‘lifestyle choices’ and personal freedom to do as they please even if it hurts those around them; God’s Wisdom is attacked when the question is asked, ‘when does a child really become a child and not just a bunch of cells’; or when we are told to remember, life, your life is sacred, at least as long as you are productive and not a burden to anyone else.

What’s worse is people believe this false teaching of wisdom, they teach it to others, and in so doing encourage the rejection of God and His clear Word of wisdom found only in Scripture.

But how can one discern the forked tongue lies from Divine Wisdom? Well let’s go back to the Old Testament reading from Proverbs 8. Wisdom stands at the crossroads, takes a stand, voice raised and proclaims understanding. Wisdom cried aloud to us reminding us of Who God is and What He has done, continues to do, and will do in the future. Solomon writes some beautiful poetry describing Wisdom within the context of the Trinity/Godhead, in history, today, and in eternity.

Solomon’s inspired words have been the center of many heretical firestorms looking at the Second member of the Trinity and the Person of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately many early Christians had a poor translation of Proverbs 8 in the Greek which suggested Jesus was made. That is not what Solomon said as is clear in the Hebrew text of Proverbs 8. Instead Solomon tells how the Wisdom of God, how Christ was present with God before the foundations of the world, before anything was made, before creation He was with, and was God. This reading gives a slight glimpse into the events before Genesis 1:1 when “**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth**” enlightening what and Who God was even before the beginning. John shares the same wisdom at the beginning of his Gospel; “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**”² **He was in the beginning with God.**”(John 1:1-2)

But Solomon doesn’t just describe the scene before creation, he continue to tell how through Wisdom all things were created. Wisdom was present through all of creation, and not just watching, but was the master builder. Again, Solomon’s words are reflected by Paul in the New Testament; **“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”**(Colossians 1:16-17)

The climax of Proverbs 8 is in verses 30 and 31. There Solomon transitions from telling of the joy in the Godhead to the pre-incarnate Christ’s joy in humanity. Here God uses Solomon to express the love of the Father and the Son. God loved His creation. On the 6th Day **“God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”**(Genesis 1:31)

Unfortunately creation didn’t stay very good for long. Too quickly the forked tongue of deceit encouraged Eve to chase after a different wisdom, not from God but from herself, and she and her husband did just that. That sin, that rejection of God and His Wisdom separated us from God. Each and every sin is a great and severe offense against God and His Wisdom. Sin rejects God and puts shame on the one committing the sin. Sin separates us from God, in this life and in death.

Fortunately God did not abandon His creation. Despite the world’s failings and rejection of Him, He was not content to let His creation be condemned. God’s full love for His fallen creation would not be fully recognized until a few millennia after the Fall. Now God’s love was seen throughout the Old Testament, it was there repeatedly to provide, deliver, and sustain God’s chosen people. But in Christ Wisdom was fully revealed in the redemption of humanity through the unblemished life, vicarious suffering, atoning death, and glorious bodily resurrection of the Son made flesh. He came for you and me. He came in spite of our foolishness and gives us His Word to make us wise to eternal life.

The Wisdom of God is this: Christ has come for you, carried your sins in His flesh, He bled and died for your sins and the sins of the world, on the 3rd Day He rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven and is interceding for you with God. As a result of Jesus work in your place you have the forgiveness of sins, faith, and eternal life in His name.

As for earthy wisdom, it is fantastic and wonderful. We need earthly wisdom to survive in this world and it should be encouraged, yet never at the expense of or in against Godly wisdom.

The good news is God continues to proclaim His message of salvation to the world including you and me; Wisdom is still calling out through the people of Christ and members of His church on earth. Wisdom is still shared in the words of eternal life, namely Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins and to deliver all who believe to eternal life. The Holy Spirit continues to work forgiveness and faith in the heart of those who hear His Word and receive His Sacraments. God continues to richly provide everything we daily need; food, shelter, family, your senses and every physical Need. Along with that He continues to strengthen your faith through His Word and there also helps secure your eternal life in Christ. God continues to bring His wisdom, only found in His Word and Sacrament, to us to make us wise to eternal life. Amen.

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