

Mere Christianity

Wednesday Bible Study – Week 9
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, Lansing, MI

Book 4 – Beyond Personality: Or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity

Book 4 – Chapter 1 – Making and Begetting

Theology is _____

Looking at the Ocean lets you –

Looking at the Map lets you –

Don't settle for Theology – Don't discount Theology

Theology is practical! p. 155

What is the 'popular idea of Christianity today'? (moralistic therapeutic deism)

Are we 'Children of God' already? Yes and No. We are first like _____ that later come to life.

Book 4 – Chapter 2 – The Three Personal God

C.S. Lewis uses Three dimensions. Two people make two dimensions. God is three dimensions.

"It is something we could never have guessed, and yet, once we have been told, one almost feels one ought to have been able to guess it because it fits in so well with all the things we know already." p. 162.

How is the Trinity at work when we say our prayers?

1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Spirit

Who has the initiative here when we learn about something?

Rocks –

Animals –

People –

God –

Learning about God happens within Christian community, the life of the Church.

Note: C.S. Lewis is not saying that the Church can come up with something new.

“If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we could make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with Fact. Of course anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about.”

Chapter 3 – Time and Beyond Time

God is not bound by time, but He works in time.

Someone reading a story in a book can read the whole story, stop and think about it, go back, skip ahead – he or she is an outside observer. God can give all of us infinite attention. Past and Future are His present reality, His “now.” God has no history, because He has not lost anything, and He has no future, because He has nothing to gain. Everything is Present to him. If we drew a timeline on a sheet of paper, God is the piece of paper, encompassing the whole timeline. He doesn’t “foresee” your future actions, because every action is in the present for Him. He simply sees it all.

Chapter 4 – Good Infection

Even though the Father ‘begets the Son’ – they both exist from all eternity. One does not come before the other. The Son is like the thought or expression of the Father’s mind, so real it’s a person. As they love and enjoy each other, a spirit arises that becomes its own person – the Holy Spirit. These three persons exist together, in One being, in a sort of dance, a divine drama, loving and existing in One divine being.

“Naturally, God knows how to describe Himself much better than we know how to describe Him.”

How are we united with God? p. 176-177

Chapter 5 – The Obstinate Toy Soldiers

Our natural self is obstinate, self-centered, and resists God. It is a tin soldier that might be frightened or resist being turned into real flesh.

Jesus became a created man so that a created man could become a Begotten Son. One tin soldier – real tin, just like the rest – had come fully and splendidly alive.

This affects the whole human race. Humanity is already ‘saved’ in principle. We individuals appropriate that salvation. Simply be being close to Jesus, we become ‘infected.’ p. 181

For next week, read Book 4, chapters 6-11

Email questions or insights to Pastor Wangelin – pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org