

Saved by The Trinity!

Q. How are we made to take part in the redemption Christ bought?

A. We take part in the redemption Christ bought when the Holy spirit effectively applies it to us.
(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #29)

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”
(John 16:13)

If I were to ask a group of Christians the question, “*how is a person saved?*” or “*how does someone receive the gift of salvation?*”, my guess is that most would reply by saying something like, “*a person is saved by Jesus Christ*” or “*a person receives the gift of salvation when they place their faith and trust in Jesus*”. And while both of these answers are very true, today I want to focus on another important aspect of a person’s salvation that, for the most part, believers tend to overlook. That is, the role of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of sinners.

As we learned all the way back in Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #5-6, as Christians we believe that “*there is only one...living and true God*”¹ and that there are “*three persons in the one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*”². Here we are once again reminded of the great doctrine of the Trinity. We believe in one God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that “*these three are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory*”³. The God of the Bible is a triune God. And as such, Christians worship “*one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity*”⁴ as the Athanasian Creed so beautifully puts it. The doctrine of the Trinity is one that is central to the belief of all Christians past and present.

And since our God is Triune, all that He does is Triune. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all actively engaged in every aspect of God’s work. For example, each member of the Trinity was involved in God’s Work of creation. In Genesis 1:1-3 we read, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’*”. Immediately in the opening verses of the Bible we see that the Father (“*in the beginning God created...*”), the Holy Spirit (“*and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters...*”) and the Son (“*then God said...*”), all carry out specific and unique works in creation. Everything that God does is triune. That is true not only in God’s work of creation

¹ Westminster Shorter Catechism #5

² Westminster Shorter Catechism #6a

³ Westminster Shorter Catechism #6b

⁴ Athanasian Creed; 5th century

and providence, but in salvation as well. Just as everything else that God does, the work of salvation is a Trinitarian work.

The salvation of sinners was planned in eternity past by each person of the Godhead (Ephesians 1:3-5) and each person of the Trinity plays a unique role in that great salvific plan. If you are a Christian, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all actively at work when you came to saving faith. The Father *decreed* your salvation from eternity past, the Son *accomplished* salvation on your behalf, and at one point in your life God the Holy Spirit effectively *applied* salvation to you at the moment of your conversion. Our catechism tells us that, *"We take part in the redemption Christ bought when the Holy spirit effectively applies it to us."* Over the next two days we will be taking a closer look at exactly what the Holy Spirit does in a person's life at the moment of his or her conversion.

In the meantime, take a moment to meditate on the fact that your salvation was a Trinitarian work. As the puritan Thomas Adams wrote, *"In election we behold God the Father choosing; in vocation, God the Son teaching; in justification, God the Holy Spirit sealing; in salvation the whole Deity crowning⁵".*

Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Ephesians 1:3-14

Titus 3:4-7

⁵ "A Puritan Golden Treasury"; Thomas Adams; pg. 252; par. 5