

Chuck McDowell and Bob Ross

I AM THAT I AM

- I approach groups like Harvesters and Victors different than any group in this huge church, and in just about any church, because of the teaching that you have had, and have applied.

- I come before you humbly, yet boldly with wonderful **BELL RINGING TRUTH**. I have been studying and thinking about theology for 57 years, and this study today has insights that I had never thought of, for immediate application until this year...

- Today's subject is the deepest in all of scripture, religion, philosophy and theology. You can't be a Christian w/o believing this doctrine. I will only barely scratch the surface. We will never completely plumb it's depths for all eternity.

- My prayer today is that you also will be inspired to keep scratching deeper and deeper for the rest of your lives, then forever and ever in Heaven....This subject will never full be comprehended by any human mind , even in eternity, we will worship in this.

Today, I'm going to stick close to my written text- Time is short & I don't want to miss anything.

- If you were asked what is the Distinguishing Doctrine of Christianity, upon which all else was based, and without which all was false. Without hesitation you would say, 1. the Resurrection. 2. Christs' substitutionary Life/Death. 3. salvation by Grace through faith . However would you be shocked to realize that:

A. Mormons believe in Christ resurrection- (Back to Heaven as the ½ bro of Satan, & not God)

B. Jehovah Witnesses believe in Christ' sacrifice for sin- (a ransom for only obedient humans)

C. Yodo Shin-Shu, a sect of Buddhism, believe in Nirvana by faith in Buddhist Amida, whose works are credited to the believer by faith alone without works..

D. Islamist believe Christ was virgin born, did miracles, was the greatest prophet, but not God.

-Don't be disturbed by such similarities, **THERE IS A DOCTRINE**, before & even more than these major ones, which distinguishes Christianity from all other religions, philosophies, & ideologies. You may never have thought of it in this way before.

Rom 1:20 "since the creation of the world, God's invisible attributes (Pwrs & Characteristics) are clearly seen, understood by things that are made, even His eternal power and Deity."

Jas 2:19 – "Demons and Cult Religions believe in one God and tremble".
We get excited to think that someone believes in a God. But is it the true God or one changed to fit the person's ideas?

W/o God's Revelation, **humans with their** conscience w/in **and the** creation w/o, **have never thought of God as He is.**

No religion, philosophy, theology, ideology, or anthropology has ever come up with anything close to this revelation of Triune.

Their own God creation is like themselves/superheros (God created man in His own image, and man returned the favor.)

THE DOCTRINE OF OUR TRI-UNE GOD is the distinguishing Doctrine- Above/Before all.

Other God Views-are Singular- flawed- Human like- a Friend to be liked- or a Judge to be feared. 🌀

-Christians have **grappled with the Trinity revelation** from the beginning. The major opposition to Jesus, was that He taught His deity w/in the Trinity of God. Christians have said, "Reject belief in the trinity and lose your soul. Try to comprehend it, and lose your mind".

Deut 29:29 ""The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but things revealed belong to us and to our children forever." God does have secrets, but also God Reveals.

Rom 12:33 "How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out"

- But the things revealed belong to us. We are to study them and know them.
Trinity is revealed by God.

- I want you to think of a series of small circles, (1-4 God views) as we go along in this study

1. Mono-theistic God ●

Jews/Islam/Deist/Man's ideas- not the revealed God in Scripture
Jews -never understood the plurality of 'Let us Create"
Islam-Loving/Soveriegn-w/no one to love/nothing to rule over.
AA- (higher power or God as you choose to define Him)
Hitler -called God Almighty (∴ The source of evil/satan)
Soveriegn Ruler God-requires creating creation to rule
Loving God -requires relationship to define & show
Creation-is (mistake that spoiled oneness for God.)
Woman-is(mistake that spoiled oneness for man)
-If a mono God, then why creation? (if had to create for service and love, then that God is needy and incomplete)

2. Duetero-theistic God ●● -Doesn't believe H.S. is a person or Deity.(an It, not He)

(Ch of Christ/Cambelights, Jehovah Wit, Mormons, seemingly many Christians for centuries)
(an Exclusive God, like human or mythological lovers = Two and needing no more)-selfish.

3. Multitheistic God ●●●●● ●●●●● -adding humans & idols to deity.

Greek/Roman Mythology- many super hereos with human faults
Luthur couldn't love a God of wrath, so chose Mary & saints, for human sympathy)
Rom Cath-(Marycalled co-redeemer/co-mediaator(Mediatrix) with Christ)
Pantheist, Indians -Nature & Powers, Mysteries & Magic.
Isolated Tribes -Ancestors/Demons/Idols

4. ★-Tri-une, Trinity God ●●●- (One God , 3 persons, - not three Gods.) - Unity in Trinity)

(Inclusive w/each other eternally, and then outgoing with creation & persons in Time.)

Gnosticism, the influence of all cults & religions, says God and all creation are one. $1+1=1$

Islam says "God is eternally love, but since God is one alone, He only loved Himself"

Trinity added math to religion: $1+1=2$ (2 matters). $1+1+1=3$, yet in 1 unity as 1 Deity.

Christ'Church- Many mbrs, yet One body; Many Gifts yet one Giver. Marriage= 2 become 1

Uni- versity- Versity of ideas, brought together in reasoning for Unity in truth – (not Berkley University- only propaganda there)

-Title -"THE NECESSITY OF TRINITY" The absolute necessity of trinity "**I AM**" (this is not something bored theologians thought up)

★ [**Think what God is being & doing, before the beginning of everything else:**] ★

1. **First of all**, God has always been, and always is, **FATHER**.

(if we only grasp this 1st point today, it will have been worthwhile and profitable)

Jn 17:24 "You loved me before the creation of the world". Before God Created & Ruled, Jesus revealed that He was a Father loving His Son and Their Spirit between them.

Ps 90:2 "Before You formed the earth, Even from everlasting to everlasting, **You are God**".

Being a Father, God is **Relational**. A father

Begets=Loves/Generates/Gives/Nurtures.

Called "Everlasting Father" in **Isa 9:6**. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending" **Rev 1:8**. God has always been and always will be the Everlasting Father that Isaiah speaks of.

God creates as father. He sovereignly rules as father. He loves as Father. He elects as Father.

He Judges in wrath as father (protecting family from evil & harm) He does all as father!

-What about **Bad Fathers?** Jesus said we are evil fathers, even, when we give good gifts to our children. To some father is not a good thought or description. A man can be a biological father w/o being a personal loving giving father. Most people have not had a father who nurtured, Loved, and blessed them. A father to these folks is more the description of the Devil, the father of lies and religious hypocrites. However, God is not some pumped up version of our dads. To transfer the failings of earthly fathers to God is a misstep. It is the other way around. Father God is the good pattern for all earthly fathers to seek to reflect. Project that standard on to earthly fathers, not the reverse. ☒ -Bill Bright & Bradley-grounded No.

A Good Earthly Father prepares a child for relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.

A good father begets children, giving them life, loving them, nurturing them, delighting in them, and blessing them. Everything about a good father is not selfish and alone, but outgoing to others, being giving, and loving. All that God does is **Beautifully Fatherly**. He creates as father. He rules as father. He gives as father. He disciplines as father. He instructs as father. He gifts as father. He guides a father. And someday takes us to his home as Father.

Jesus said in Jn 14 "In my father's house/many rooms to stay. I go now to My & your father."

☒ -(as new believer babies, quick discipline; now as more mature parents, God after hearts)

Ps 103:10-14 "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities, for as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, that far He has removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. for He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust"

The Ps 27:9-10 " You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me".

Ez. 16:4-6 "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live.' I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew and matured".

Hosea 11:1-10 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt, I called My son... but they sacrificed to the Baals, and burned incense to carved images. I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them. "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred. I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; For I am God, and not man, The Holy One in your midst; and I will not come with terror. God will roar like a lion. When He roars, then His children will come trembling...."

(Have you read that OT recently?(New is in Old contained. Old is in New explained -all Bible)

★You will always find God to be the Heavenly Father, the good father, the loving father★

(☒Dr Ch.Stanley & national Preachers- Father God's lap,-wept for hrs)
-You may never have experienced anything like this, in an earthly father, one who was always loving and fatherly at all times and in all ways. -It is taking a lifetime to get over it. Some may discover Fatherhood for the 1st time, from Father God

☒**Father to Son-** " Son, you have not had a good example of God or of fathers in your growing up years"

Many are afraid to come before God's judgement seat in Heaven. 1 Jn 4:17-18" Love has been matured in us, so we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because there is no fear in love; but mature love casts out fear".1 Pet 1:13 " Fully count on the grace to be brought to you at the coming of Jesus Christ"

☒-**The prodigal son**, lived immoral, rebellious, selfish completely.-Then deep repentance and coming home. Loving father had been waiting and saw him far off. **S**" "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **F** "Bring out the best Robe of family identity". **S** "I'm not worthy to be your son". **F** " Put the family ring of authority on his hand and sandals of dignity on his feet" **S** "Make me like one of your hired servants." **F** "Let's have a steak dinner, you sit with me at the head table. Oh, you are alive from a dead life. You're finally found, from your wandering lostness". ALL GRACE.....(you are in a new family now. Your safe now. Be at peace)

song from Africa: CHUCK sings 1st

- 🎵"Everything's alright in my Fathers house ●
In my Father's house ●
In my father's house ●
Everything's alright in my Father's house ●
Where there's Love/ Joy /Peace ●

- 🎵Where the Spirit of the lord is , there is Love. ●
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Joy ●
There is peace and long suffering ●
Kindness, goodness, faith. ●
There is gentleness, self control in the Lord ●

(Audience sings final chorus)

- 🎵Everything's alright in my Fathers house ● In my Father's house ● In my father's house. Everything's alright in my Father's house ● where there's Love/ Joy / Peace".

★(If this is all you heard today, it will be alright, -Loving and trusting Father God more and more)★

II. Secondly, God has always been and always is **GOD THE SON.**

God didn't began to be a Son, as the "beginning" of the creation of God" Rev 3:14 (Gk-Arke, Beginning= origin source) John 1:1 "in beginning with God/was God" Col 1:16-17 by/thru/for.

God didn't become a father when he created Adam as a son of God; Neither did the Son and Spirit become God at creation. Father/Son/Spirit have always been everlastingly unified together as God. Each person of trinity, loving and loving back. (Beautiful).

God could not be an everlasting father without Lord Jesus being an everlasting Son as well.

So God has been the Father for only as long as Jesus has been the Son, the everlastingly/only continually generated Son of the Father. This is why Jesus is called the ONLY Begotten Son. All believers, were begotten again by the Word, 1 Pet 1:23, thru H.S. regeneration. Jn 3:6.

Jesus is called the first born, eldest brother in the family, generated (1st born) of many siblings.

His Body was the first born or 1st resurrected from the dead; But His Person is eternal,

the only (always being) begotten, Son, receiving life and love from the Father.

John 1 & Gen 1 tells us that "in the beginning (of everything but God) was the Word (Logos/logic), and the word was with God and ...was God". From eternity past and forward with no beginning or ending, God the Father and God the Son and God the Spirit have been in **Holy, loving relationship**; and the everlasting Love that the trinity has always loved and lived in together, is the same love that God has loved us with and can produce is us.

If God had not always been a Son, then our God would be a completely different being; alone, with no one to love or give life unto, hugging only himself. **Love is always defined in relationship**. So it has always been Father God's nature to shine out upon and through His son, w/His love and glory. Likewise the nature of the Son has always been to shine out love & glory from the Father, as (Allah had no one to love). Heb 1:3 says "Jesus is the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person". Jesus prayed in Jn 17:5 "Father glorify Me together with Yourself, with **the glory** which I had with You before the world was". Vs23 "I have loved them as You have loved Me". Vs26 "that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." (think of it- God's love in us)

Jn 3:35 "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. Jn 5:20" the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He does". Jn 14:31 Jesus says, "I love the Father, and do as the Father gave Me commandment." Jn.8:26 "I Speak only what I hear from Father"

The Father is the lover and the Son is the loved one.(the eternal responses) **God's Father love is giving and outgoing, personal, and reproducing life.** you see Father and son unselfishly loving one another through the person of the Holy Spirit of God.

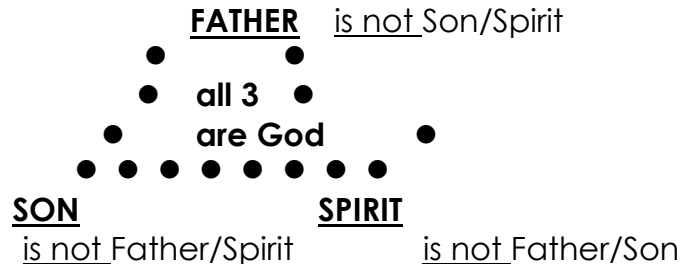
John 20:30-31 "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus (Man) is the Christ(Messiah), the Son of God"(Master of all creation). **The invitation & call** to believe on Jesus is an **INTRODUCTION TO TRINITY**. Jesus as **God the Son**, **requires that there be God the Father**. When you start with a solitary monotheistic god concept only, you end up with a totally different view of God. We start with God the Son, but we don't end there. When you start with Jesus the Son, you find His Father, and His Holy Spirit personal inner presence person between them. [the Father and Son relate through the H.S., and God the trinity makes Himself known to believers through the H.S. , making their home in our hearts] - Jn 14:23

To study the triune Trinity God is to cover the entire Bible teaching revelation. He is everywhere. Don't look for **single proof texts**, but in every book implied and taught.

Example : Jn 20:21-2 " As **the Father** has sent **Me**, so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit."

Example : Eph 2:18 "Through **Christ**, we have access by **one Spirit**, to **the Father**. ★As you study God the Trinity together in the Unity of Equality, and in the Individuality and Diversity of roles, -you will begin to understand scripture and spiritual things.

CH Spurgeon called the study of the trinity, **"The Marrow of Divinity"** (rich-deepest part)



The **TRIANGLE SHIELD OF THE TRINITY** =Each of 3 is God, but each is not each other.

We don't pray to the Holy Spirit in Jesus name, or to Jesus in the Fathers' name. There is **HEADSHIP** in trinity, yet **EQUALITY**, like marriage. (If Trinity is not equal, man might think woman or other races or classes of people, less equal.)- This is not Modalism of a one person God appearing in different modes; but 3 distinct persons in perfect unity and harmony.

-Earthly examples of 3 in One: 3 parts of an **Egg**, or 3 forms of **Water**, or a 3 leaf clover, or 3 roles of humans as mate/parent/child are definitions of an impersonal God.

These are not anything that we would want to worship. This is so different than :

"Let **us** create humans (eternal persons) in our own image, male and female, the 2 becoming one; like God :

who is personal, relatable, loving, giving, sharing.

-Someday the heavens and earth will pass away! Mt 24:35, Believers have everlasting life.

Question of scientists. "How could an immense and infinite God care about the speck of the milky Way Galaxy, and a speck of a speck of a human in a blink of time?" ★ **Because a personal God cares more about persons and eternal relationship, than all of- Matter, Space, and time.**

-Even more it was **our very rejection and rebellion, Sin** against God, that drew forth the extreme depths of God's love. Rom 5:8-10 "God showed His love to us, in that

while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... When we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son". (Without the cross of Christ, we would never have known the depth and seriousness of what it means to say, "God is Love".) 1 Jn 4:9 "The love of God was shown to us, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent His only begotten Son into the world, to be the propitiation (substitute) for our sins, that we might live through Him".

III. THIRDLY- God has always been and always is **GOD THE SPIRIT**. God must of necessity be trinity, and we must start with God the Son to begin to understand Him. The Spirit of God is so behind the scenes in His powerful working, and is so sparsely defined, about His person as Thinking/Speaking/Deciding/Doing, that we have trouble understanding Him in comparison with the Father & the Son,. We don't usually pray to the Holy spirit directly, but we pray by the Holy spirit, to the Father through the Son. We are regenerated (born) by the spirit. We are sealed by the spirit. We are told to Walk by the Spirit and to be regularly Filled with the Spirit, Led by the Spirit, Sanctified by the Spirit, Gifted by the Spirit, and Empowered for everything by the Spirit.!! But for years the church referred to His person as an (IT, or a Power) not thinking of Him as **a person**. (Like AA's "Higher Power, or God as you understand God to be".)

☒ **My son's example**, w/ JW bus partner for a year. Just now beginning to recover. Confusion began with understanding the Holy Spirit as God, then The Son as God.

If we start with a general, singular God, we will never understand, until we see Trinity...

Is Holy Spirit like a: Mother ,another son, brother, power? What relationship is HS in trinity???

Just as **the Spirit of God is in everything** of our-Salvation/Sanctification/and final Glorification;

So the Spirit of God is **in everything that the triune God is and does**. Heb 9:14

"Christ, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to God. **Rom. 8:9**

"if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ". **1 Jn**

3:24 "We know that He lives in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us". **1 Jn 2:23**

"Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father".

★ (**You can't have one member of the trinity w/o having all three**) ★

-Gen 1 says God created the heavens and earth by His Word (Son) and His Spirit. The Father spoke the Word, The Son worked, and the Spirit empowered & completed.

Ps.33:6 "By the Word of the Lord were the Heavens made, their starry host by the breath(spirit) of His mouth". *The Spirit not only empowers the Word, but He completes, perfects, and Beautifies the work of creation.* The 1st view we have of the Spirit is

Gen 1:2 " The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering (brooding- incubating) over the face of the waters". *Like a mothering dove over the earth, bringing a giant egg into life.* (Completing/Perfecting/Beautifying-Creation)

Job 33:4 puts it beautifully, "By His breath, the skies became fair".

Isaiah 32:15 says, "When the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest."

Isa 31:6 "I have filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship, and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans". (*The Spirit makes His creation alive with beauty.*) When God made the starry host of Heaven by the Breath(Spirit) of His mouth. He didn't just place a star here and there, but filled the heavens with Billions of starry hosts to shine every night until Heaven.

-**The fruit of the Spirit** in a Christian is the most beautiful, glorious display of what God the Spirit is like.

We are to be in the Spirit, and do all things by the Spirit. **Zech 4:6** "'Not by might nor by power (earthly or human), but by My Spirit, says the Lord". To think that the same Spirit that anointed Jesus at His baptism has also anointed us and indwells us. As Christians, we are persons, spirit beings, unified as Christians, like our Triune God is unified, by the Holy Spirit.

Gain perspective on **the person and work of God the Spirit** as you have for **God the Son** and **God the Father**.

God is always **HOLY** eternally in His relationship in Trinity. There has never been anything but **holy/love fellowship within the Trinity**. Often we hear it said, God is Love but remember God is Holy also. As if holiness were on one side and love on the other. NO ! Love and holiness are never apart. God does everything in holy love. Love is the motive behind holiness and wrath and judgement. If one of our little children was captured and abused, we would not want God to idly sit by and twiddle His thumbs. Earth tragedies, Joy & Pain, Judgement, Heaven and Hell are all God's sovereign wisdom and plan. We enter His fellowship of Holy/Love- not by our obedience, faith, and love, but only by the holiness Christ lived for us on earth, to give us His position in the holy fellowship. **Titus 3:5** "not

by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

-Well there is THE PORTRAIT OF THE TRINITY, only a little bit. There is more to worship forever.

★Most Chns live in relationship w/God & not much fellowship with God ★

APPLICATIONS OF TRINITY

1.-Since God has always been who He is as: **HOLY, LOVING**, Giving, Inclusive, choosing us by grace, Generating, Outgoing, Nurturing, Training, Finishing all He begins.....You and I can come to God and find him just the same always.. Behind every grieving frown is a smile of God. Behind every sorrowful discipline of God is the grief for us, not against us, and for our good in love. God is always father, not a divine policeman trying to catch us and punish us.☒ (**Bunny Graham**) Let's Come back. Come back, to Father God. By Jesus credit card, by H.S. power.

2.-Since there is **HEADSHIP** in trinity, and also **EQUALITY**. The Father can plan it, can send the Son to do it; the Son can send the Spirit in His place to indwell His church. The sending and the going are all voluntary.– Therefore in the home, church, govt, employment, in all life roles, there must be headship and following, yet equality. (Anything with 2 heads is a monster). At the same time there is equality of persons before God.

3. –The **UNITY** of the Trinity is our model. **Jn 17:20-21** “ I pray...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that the Father sent the Son”.

Eph 4:2-3 “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to maintain(not attain) the unity of the Holy Spirit in the union of peace”.

Ps 133:1 “Look how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. There God commands the blessing”. This is the model and empowerment for Christians in all the world.

4. **ATONEMENT**-If God were singular, only hugging Himself, Why would He create, and why would he ever atone for our sins ? What a different picture of First a compassionate Father, choosing and adopting children, then sending His eldest only begotten Son to rescue them from their fall into evil and it's results and destiny. Then Secondly the willingness of the Son to leave Heavens Glory and Love, to become lowly and obedient as human, to become sin offering for God's chosen children. Thirdly The Holy Spirit empowered His birth , His maturing, His every miracle, His temptation testings, His agony in the Garden, His offering Himself through the Eternal Spirit on the Cross, then finally the Resurrection by the power of the Spirit. If no Trinity, none of this would have happened.

Because God is “I AM, all times, all spaces. God is changeless. Ethel waters, "God don't sponser no flops He finishes what He starts." **Phil 1:6** “God who began a good work within you. Will also perform it until the day of Christ”. **Rom**

8:28-39 “ Loved, Chosen ,Predestined to be like Christ, Justified, Glorified.... I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor enemies nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”.(When we were 1st saved and lived by feelings. We felt that God loved us. When we sinned we doubted God's affection, & When we obeyed we felt God loved us again. –Since God is changeless, He knew all about us before He began a good work in us. At our worst and best performance, God's attitude never changes. This truth is as hard for a Christian to believe, as for a non Christian to believe the Gospel.

How can you get God to love you again, like at the 1st? For you ,who have stumbled and fallen, I'm sorry, **it is too late**, to get God to love you again; ☺
because He already does love you with an everlasting love!

(I AM- Is in all places/all times. Your birth, Your life, your death. God chose to set his love on you. God never changes.)

-Study each member of the Trinity separately, individually, yet always in Unity. In time, the entire Bible and theology will become Connected and Clearer to you, with Meaning and Power.

We close w/ a little chorus that puts it so well, of each member of the Trinity in our salvation:

CHUCK (teaches tune then leads audience)

♪His very own, His very own- ●
Wonderful grace in God's word is made known●
Chosen by **the Father**●
Purchased by **the Son**●
Sealed by **the Spirit**●
I'm His very own.♪