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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

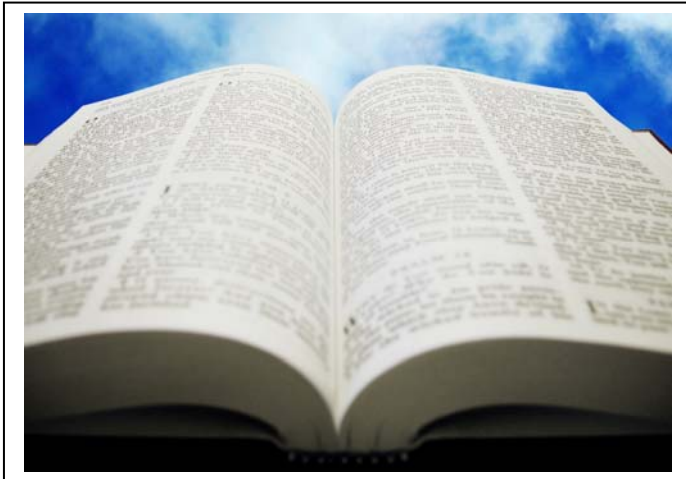
1) *Matthew 28: 16-20* 

❖ **God's Mission**

- ▶ Jesus' Mission
- ▶ our mission
- ▶ made ministers of God

❖ **Discipleship**

- ▶ goal
- ▶ baptising
- ▶ teaching Jesus' teaching



Notes

❖ **Baptising**

- part of faith
- trusting in Jesus
- forming disciples
- start of a life-long process



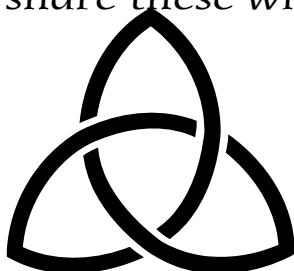
❖ **Teaching**

- Baptism and
- living a Christian life
- ongoing



❖ **Community/Trinity**

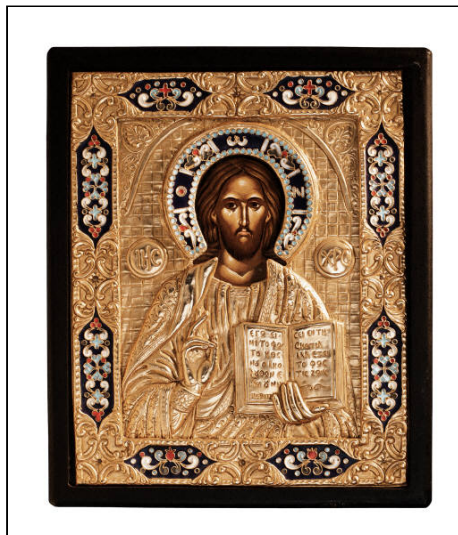
- God the Trinity is a Community
- models community for us
- done in a community
- take Jesus seriously
- live out His teachings
- share these with others



Notes

❖ **Jesus**

- at the centre
- God has empowered Him
- Jesus' authority
- not just an opinion
- the disciples came to **Jesus**
- we need to come to Him
- there is real power
- Jesus' promise to be with them always
- we don't live on our own
- not done in our own strength
- God **never** leaves us
- we are accompanied by Jesus
- even if we don't "feel" Him near



Notes

2) *Romans 6: 3-11* 

Notes

❖ **“Death” & “Resurrection”**

- dying to former way of life
- no longer trapped by sin
- no longer self-centred
- no longer live for self
- sharing in Jesus’ resurrection
- power to live a new life
- with Jesus’ obedience

❖ **New relationship**

- new relationship with Jesus
- only God can bring it about
- living in a new reality
 with God

❖ **New community**

- one by one
- shared experience
- creates a new humanity
- the “Body of Christ”
- “in Christ”
- renewed in the Eucharist
- joining with community of
 faith
- we rise to new life with Jesus
- a resurrection community

Notes section with horizontal lines for writing:

- ❖ **“Dead to sin/Alive to God in Jesus”**
 - life which shows faith
 - obedience to God
 - noticed by others
 - (compare this with Romans 1:5; John 3: 36; Romans 16:19; 2 Corinthians 9: 13; 1 Peter 1: 2; and all of Romans chapters 6 and 7)*
- ❖ **God achieved through Jesus**
 - obedient life
 - initiative lies with Jesus
 - results of completed work
 - ➔ people back to God
 - ➔ rescues the world
 - ➔ restores the world
 - ➔ sin's hold broken
 - ➔ free to choose to serve Jesus

3) John 3: 1-8

- ❖ **Holy Spirit**
 - initiative not ours
 - baby's role is passive
 - doesn't take charge
- ❖ **New Life**
 - not ours to bring about
 - “being born again”
 - the power lies with God
 - Nicodemus sees us in charge
 - the whole process is God's

Notes

❖ **New Birth**

➤ **Parents' ongoing responsibilities**

- ↔ physical / material
- ↔ spiritual
- ↔ do not baptise children back **into** the world

➤ **Godparents' ongoing responsibilities**

- ↔ sponsors
- ↔ guarantors
- ↔ intercessors

➤ much care and guidance

➤ without this it is devalued and wasted

❖ **Parents/Godparents**

➤ role of parents and godparents is key

➤ attention and guidance over many years

➤ if these are missing, it is better to delay

➤ instruction & demonstration

➤ faith is more *caught* than *taught*

Notes

❖ **Jesus accepted Nicodemus**

- not playing games with God
- Jesus starts where we are
- we relate to a God who is in charge

❖ **God is beyond comprehension**

- we trust God as we follow

Notes

“Jesus tells Nicodemus the reason behind this all in John 3:16. **God really loves the world so much that God initiated this rescue operation!** God’s clear intention is that all people should accept this free offer and live! But the choice to do so or not, is our choice. God has given us freedom to choose and will not force even good things onto us if we don’t want them.

Allowing Jesus to die for our guilt was an enormous cost to God – when we follow Jesus faithfully in our lives, we may find that it will cost us as well – not surprisingly! We will all one day have to give account for how we have used the many gifts and abilities that God has given us, including the power to choose.

The ultimate goal of Baptism for the parents and godparents is to see their child take on these responsibilities personally in Confirmation (a signing on for full adult responsibility in God’s church).”
