



A Renewed Mind Pt 2: A Review of Basic Christian Doctrine

August 9, 2020

Primary Text: Romans 12:1-2

Secondary Text: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

- Last week, we prayerfully established the need for a comprehensive biblical worldview, which views everything in the light of God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit through Paul commanded the saints at Rome (and through them, us) to not be conformed to the world but rather be transformed.
- "World" might be defined as "a satanically inspired **system** of ideologies, philosophies, governments, and jurisdictions that fights against our LORD," and would include but not be limited to:
 - Atheism (There is no god)
 - Humanism (The idea that man is good or that man is his own god)
 - Feminism (In modern terms, the idea that there should be NO distinctions between male and female)
 - Transgenderism (and other forms of sexual deviancy like homosexuality)
 - Pragmatism (Whatever "works," do it. The end justifies the means.)
 - Intellectualism (Knowledge and truth can only be derived from reason...from what man can prove)
 - Consumerism (The preoccupation with the acquisition of goods; an obvious form of idolatry)
 - Racism (One "race"—wrong word—is superior to another)
 - Exhibitionism (the desire to attract attention to oneself)
 - Socialism/Marxism/Communism/Fascism (In simple terms, the deification of the State)
- Instead of believing in these things, we learned the believer is called to the mind of Christ: to be transformed (metamorphoō) **by the renewing of their minds!**
- An essential part of this renewal is learning and becoming grounded in the essential doctrines, or teachings of the Bible.
- Paul admonished Timothy to "give attention reading, to exhortation, to doctrine," and to "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Tim 4:13, 16)
- The word for "doctrine" in both verses is *didaskalia* in Greek. It means, "instruction; a teaching."
- It's hard to stress how important it is for the LORD's church to understand what that same LORD has revealed about Himself! This understanding is the basis for:
 - Our very Faith!
 - Our unity!
 - Our joy!
 - Our spiritual stability (foundations)!
 - Our mission!
 - Our hope!

- Indeed, the “great doctrines” of the Faith enable us to continue in “the Way” (Acts 9:2, 18:26, 19:23, 22:4). They are the very paths we walk on. Without them, we are lost! It’s hard to have a renewed mind while thinking unbiblically about the God you serve! 😊
- So let us give some attention today to doctrine, and let us continue in them!

A Review of Basic Christian Doctrine:

1. Who is God?

- The Creator of all things

Genesis 1:1 (KJV) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Exodus 20:11 (KJV) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Psalms 102:25 (KJV) *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*

- The Self-existent, Eternal, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent One!

John 5:26 (KJV) *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

Psalms 90:2 (KJV) *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

Jeremiah 32:17 (KJV) *Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*

Hebrews 4:13 (KJV) *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

Jeremiah 23:24 (KJV) *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

Psalms 139:7-8 (KJV) *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

- The Sovereign One!

Isaiah 45:7-9 (KJV) *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil (or calamity, ESV): I the LORD do all these things. 8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. 9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?*

Romans 8:28-30 (KJV) *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he*

did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

- A Triune Godhead

Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV) *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

The word "trinity" is a term used to denote the Christian doctrine that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of the persons is distinct from the other, yet one in essence. Each is divine in nature, but each is not the totality of the Godhead. Each has a will, loves, and says "I", and "You" when speaking to the other members of the Godhead. The Father is not the same person as the Son who is not the same person as the Holy Spirit who is not the same person as the Father. Each is divine, yet there are not three gods, but one God. Each "person" is fully God and possesses all the attributes of deity.

Scripture teaches that the Father is God (1 Co 8:6; 2 Co 1:3; Php 1:2), the Son is God (Jn 1:1-3), and the Holy Spirit is God (Ac 5:3-4), but that there is one only God, hence the doctrine.

2. Who is Jesus Christ?

- God the Son, fully divine

John 1:1-3 (KJV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 8:58 (KJV) *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

- The Son of God, fully human

Jesus has two natures in one person (called the Hypostatic Union). He is not half God, half man. He is fully God and fully man at the same time. At the incarnation, He added a human nature to His divine nature for our sakes. His natures are not mixed together; they are separate, yet act as a unit. He was born of a woman (Isa 7:14; Lk 1:31; Rom 1:3; Gal 4:4), had a human genealogy (Mt 1:1; Lk 3:23-37) and body (Matt 26:12; Lk 24:39; Jn 1:14), and he had common experiences of humanity, including sorrow (Matt 26:37), natural growth (Lk 2:40), hunger (Lk 4:2), and sleep (Lk 8:23).

- The only Savior from sin

Acts 4:10-12 (KJV) *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the*

dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. **11** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. **12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- The Gospel

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

3. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The third member of the Godhead

Acts 5:3-4 (KJV) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **4** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. He is fully God. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive. He is a person. He is not particularly visible in the Bible because His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus (John 5:26).

- Our comforter, our sanctifier, and our powerful enabler for the LORD's service

John 14:26 (KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Acts 1:8 (KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

4. What is the Bible?

<https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2020/1/revived-relationships-pt-1-embracing-the-sufficiency-of-scripture-in-a-confused-age>

- The completed, special revelation of God to man
- The only Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant writings
- Sufficient for life and godliness!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

5. How is man saved?

- Man's creation

Genesis 1:26a-27 (KJV) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

- Man's fall

Genesis 3:1 (KJV) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:6-7 (KJV) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:24 (KJV) So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Remember that Adam is man's "federal head;" **1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

MacDonald: Adam and Christ are presented as federal heads. This means that they acted for other people. And all who are related to them are affected by their actions. All who are descended from Adam die. So in Christ all shall be made alive.

- Man vs the Law

Psalms 19:7 (KJV) The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Romans 7:7-9 (KJV) What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. **8** But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. **9** For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

James 2:10-11 (KJV) For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. **11** For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

- Man's redemption in Christ's work alone

Galatians 3:24-26 (KJV) *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

- Repentance and Belief!

Mark 1:15 (KJV) *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Acts 2:38 (KJV) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

6. What is the Church?

- What Christ is building!

Matthew 16:18 (KJV) *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

- The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 (KJV) *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

- A called out assembly with a mission
 - To obey the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

- To worship God (Jn 4:23)
- To learn from preaching, pray, and fellowship (Acts 2:42)
- To administer the ordinances (Matt 28:19; Lk 22:19-20)

- To serve the widow and the orphan (1 Tim 5:9; Jam 1:27)

7. What happens at the end of things?

- The LORD returns to gather His people

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

- The LORD returns to judge His enemies

2 Timothy 4:1 (KJV) *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*
2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

- The LORD makes all things new!

Revelation 21:5-8 (KJV) *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

In closing:

- There is so much more we could have said, but here is the point again: a part of having a renewed mind is thinking rightly about God! Doctrine should strengthen, comfort, and create perseverance!
- For those times you are wearied, sound doctrine is an anchor in the midst of the storm!
- Be encouraged like Paul. He said:

2 Timothy 4:3-8 (KJV) *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist,*

make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

CRC, may we fight the good fight as well. Let us finish our course. Let us keep the faith. Remember that just like Paul, a crown of righteousness is laid up for us! Let us love His appearing!

Amen!