

Session 3 The Trinity: The Realm of the Fire of God's Love.

I. TRINITARIAN FELLOWSHIP: DWELLING IN EVERLASTING BURNING

¹⁴“... who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire (God's glory, presence, and love)? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings (God's glory, presence, and love)?” (Isa. 33:14)

A. Jesus prophesied that there is coming a time of great pressure on the earth. In those days many will be gripped with four predominant negative emotions¹ due to a **disconnect** with Jesus through prayer (Mt. 26:41) and a **disconnect** (Rom. 11:25) from the plan and storyline of heaven – the gospel.

B. Isaiah said that because of the intensity of the end-time crisis youthful resilience will not stand. 2020 showed initial, emerging signs of deteriorating youthful resilience. In the year 2020, because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger-than-average amount of young adults (ages 18-24) reported signs of anxiety and depressive disorder (56%). Compared to all adults, young adults are more likely to report substance use (25% vs.13%) and suicidal thoughts (26% vs.11%).

³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall ...” (Isa. 40:30)

C. The answer Isaiah gives to the end-time church is to live lives of “**waiting**” on the Lord, the experience of entering into the Trinitarian conversation. The Spirit calls the Church to her **inheritance** of experiencing God's love in the context of engaging with the Trinity in fellowship.

³“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isa. 40:31)

D. The negative emotions Jesus warned about can be summed as “the love of many growing cold.” We are called to *dwell with* and *experience* the realm of fire of God's love as the **only** safe place to be.

¹²“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matt. 24:12)

⁶“Set Me (Jesus) as a seal...for love (the love of God) is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel (demanding) as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. ⁷Many waters (fear, offense, lust, deception) cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.” (Song 8:6-7)

E. The Father's answer is an end-time witness anointed with a seal of fire, the spirit of burning (Isa. 4:4) The glory of the Trinity is expressed as fire which Isaiah calls *His everlasting burnings*. We are invited to **dwell** in God's fire by **interacting**² with the Trinity, **receiving** God's love from Them and one another as well as **release** of the fire of His love back **to God**, to one another, and to the world.

F. Jesus' desire is for the Church to be brought into the everlasting burnings, into the Trinitarian fellowship.

⁵“...glorify Me...with the glory which I had with You before the world...”²²“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them...”²⁴“Father, I desire that they...Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me;” (Jn. 17:5, 22, 24)

¹ Mike Bickle uses the acronym F.O.L.D for Fear (Lk 21:26), Offense (Mt 24:10), Lust (Lk 21:34) and Deception (Lk 21:8).

² Speaking words – Hos. 14:2

II. THE NAME OF GOD AND THE REALM OF FIRE

²⁴*For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. (Deut. 4:24)*

⁶ *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. (Jn. 17:6)*

- A. Moses was the first to encounter the realm of God's fire in the context of the revealing of the divine Name YHWH as Moses experienced the transcendence of God's glory in the Name. When God revealed the divine Name, He also revealed Himself consumed with fire in God's zealous love.

¹³*Then Moses said to God, "...and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"* ¹⁴*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." ... "Thus you shall say ... 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex. 3:13-14)*

- B. The divine name of YHWH is filled with awe and mystery. There is the realm of fire associated with the revealing of His Name. I AM THAT I AM (*YHWH, Ex. 6:2*) speaks of the Godhead as the Source, Creator, Sustainer and the Completer of all things related to human affairs or creation which have their motion, development, and existence in Him (Gen. 1:1-3; Jn 1:1-3; Heb. 1:1-3).

²*And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush ... behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed" (Ex. 3:2)*

¹⁷*Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "What is Your name..."* ¹⁸*And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful (filled with wonder)?" ...* ²⁰*...the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar!... (Jdg. 13:17-20)*

- C. In John 17, Jesus, the greater Moses, declared that He came to *manifest to us (17:6)*, *keep us in (17:12)*, and *declare to us the Name (17:26)*. In the Old Testament, God was revealed as YHWH which means the Source, Sustainer of all, and the Spirit (Isa 11:2). In the NT, Jesus shows the Name is revealed as intensely personal and familial—revealed as Father and Son (Jn. 8:58, Jn. 17:26).

1. The Father is "I AM" (Jn. 17:26, Ex. 3:14).
2. The Son is "I AM" (Jn. 8:58, Ex. 3:14).
3. The Spirit of God is "I AM" (Isa. 11:2, Ex. 3:14).

- D. The Father, Son, and the Spirit are the *everlasting burnings* and the *Fellowship of Eternal Flame*.

1. The Father is consumed with fire (Rev. 4:3).
2. The Son is consumed with fire (Eze. 1:27).
3. The Spirit is consumed with fire (Rev. 4:5).

- E. The primary onramp into the realm of fire is by dialoguing with God through the Word (Jer. 23:29).

³²*And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:32)*

²*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Ps. 1:2)*

III. THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE REALM OF FIRE

- A. The primary theme that Jesus speaks to His disciples about, in *Jn. 13-17*, is the subject of God's love and glory. Jesus' main objective is to lead us into the revelation of God's divine love and the experience of the glory that He possessed with His Father before the foundations of the earth. Our destiny is to be swallowed up into the eternal fellowship of the Godhead forever.

⁹*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor. 1:9)*

⁴*...and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 Jn. 1:4)*

²²*“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one...” (Jn. 17:22)*

- B. As love in the culture and the world continues to grow cold, *understanding* the Trinity as our **model** and *intimately engaging* with the Divine Community, the *everlasting burning*, as our **source** will equip the heart of the Church the in the fullness of the love of God in times of great pressure.
- C. In John 13-17 Jesus envisions, calls, and equips the Church to engage with God in order to walk fully in five components of the love of God He wants to us to experience and express.

1. *God's love for God* (Jn. 13:3; 14:31; 15:9; 15:12; 17:23-24, 26)

2. *God's love for us* (Jn. 13:1, 23, 34-35; 14:21, 23; 15:9, 12; 16:27; 17:23)

3. *God's love in us towards Him* (Jn. 14:15, 21, 24, 28; 15:12, 17; 16:27; 17:26)

4. *God's love in us towards another* (Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12, 17)

5. *God's love in us for hostile world through the apostolic witness* (13:35; 14:12; 15:18-27; 16:8-9)

- D. God's love for the world through apostolic witness is expressed by the *fellowship* sufferings. Peter wanted to lay down his life; however, Jesus told him that when it comes to accessing the Godhead only Jesus' blood could accomplish this. Yet He prophesied to Peter that he would follow Jesus' path of suffering later. The end-time Church will enter in the divine fellowship of suffering to reach a hostile world and call them to enter into the Divine Community through the born-again experience.

³⁶*Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.” (Jn. 13:36)*

¹⁰*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...” (Phil. 3:10)*

¹*...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon... concerning the Word of life—²... we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 Jn. 1:1-3)*