

 “All one in Christ’’

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**TRINITY SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**UCZ THEME: “ALL ONE IN CHRIST’’ - JOHN 17:21**

**SUB-THEME: GOD IN THREE PERSONS**

**TEXT: MATTHEW 28:19-20**

**Introduction**

The United Church of Zambia recognizes and celebrates the Christian calendar events, among the celebrated events, is the one we are celebrating today, the Trinity Sunday. As such the UCZ believes and holds its faith in God the Father as the creator of everything, in Jesus Christ as redeemer of the world, and the Holy Spirit as the sustainer of life. It worships one God Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. This entails that, it recognizes the existence of one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the three are one God equal in power and glory. Therefore, our theme for this year’s Trinity Sunday is; ***“God in three Persons”***

**BIBLE EXPLAINATION**

The text of consideration presents us with the final conversation that Jesus Christ had with His disciples, as He was finalizing His ministry after His resurrection.

This marks the new era in the ministry and lives of the disciples who were used to being with Him daily.

Just after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Disciples for the final and last conversation, as He was bidding farewell to His beloved disciples, after which He commissioned them for ministry. Upon commissioning them, He gave them a mandate to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all that He had commanded them. It should be noted that, in Jesus’ great commission to his disciples, He gave them this instruction, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). Notice that those that believed were to be baptized in the **Name** (singular) of God and not **Names**, yet the name of this God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This means that bringing the believers into the family of God the Father, already qualifies them to be part of the mystical body of Jesus Christ the Son, and also taking part in the communion of the Saints and the Holy people of God through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, the commissioning of the disciples in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, simply entails and explains that; the Lord our God is one God, with the permanent and eternal unity among the three persons in the Trinity. It means we see the Fatherhood of God, the Divinity and saving power of Christ, and the influences of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

***As we celebrate this year’s Trinity Sunday, lets us look at how God works in three persons:***

1. **GOD IN THE PERSON OF THE FATHER**

Brothers and Sisters, the God we worship is one God, but manifesting and working in three different persons. As such, when Jesus told His disciples to go and baptize those who believed in the name of the Father, in other words He was saying when you preach and baptize, remind the people that the God who is calling them is the creator who created all things visible and invisible.

When in needy, He is the provider and always meets our needs, He is the most trusted Father that provides for his children and He will meet their needs. He is the protector who fights and protects His children from anything that can be of harm to them.

Brothers and Sisters, God the Father, is closer to us and not far away from His creation, as the Father He cares for His own, His love is eternal and has no end. In other words, He is the faithful father who will never leave His children to suffer as some other fathers do. Therefore, in the person of a father God is the protector, provider, source of life and a faithful Father.

1. **GOD IN THE PERSON OF THE SON**

Through Christ the Son, God incarnated and directly manifests himself to humanity to fulfill His salvific agenda. Here we see God, doing the work of redemption, reconciliation and of healing. As the Son, God is directly involved in the redemption process of human race in order to redeem humanity back to Him.

Through the works of the flesh, Sin caused humanity to be separated from God, the relationship was broken, and our sins brought us under the wrath and judgment of the Almighty God. Through God himself ( the Son), we have escaped judgment and now we are partakers of God’s Magnitude act of love through which the Son’s sacrifice made this possible.

Brothers and sisters God through the Son has not only brought about atonement for the penalty of our sins, He has also redeemed us from consequences of sin, as a liberator redeems a slave from a slave-owner, so God in the person of the Son (Jesus Christ) has redeemed us.

It is worth noting that, Salvation and redemption originates with God; God alone can save and He alone saves. Hence, we can easily attest and affirm to say, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved” Ephesians 2:4-5. Therefore, in the person of the Son, God fulfills the salvific agenda and has fully accomplished our Salvation.

1. **GOD IN THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Dear beloved, in this world full of confusion, we truly need proper guidance and God promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

He is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in our daily walk. This is made possible by the Holy Spirit and as believers, we are guided.

Brothers and sisters, through the Holy Spirit God takes the role of leading us to the knowledge of truth. In the world full of false teachings, we can safely stand upon His promise to say, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth”.

Brothers and sisters, God in the person of the Holy Spirit, has the duty of comforting His broken hearted children as He has promised. God is ever present to comfort the mourning, knowing that we live in the world which has fallen victim to death, we are comforted through God the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that God cares even for the lost, and so through the Holy Spirit, He convinces and convicts the lost that they need to repent and turn away from sin. Further, believers being human sometimes get tired and fail to pray, but God through the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and He makes intercession on our behalf, renews our strength and quickens our mortal bodies. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the work of God fully by giving us strength daily.

**CONCLUSION**

In Jesus’ great commission we see the fact that, He uses the singular “name” rather than the plural “names” it truly indicates that God is one.

It further entails that, His nature, signified by His name, is divine unity of the three distinct persons in the God head. Suffice to say this, God is the Creator (Father), Redeemer (Son) and Sustainer of our lives (Holy Spirit).

Thus, it means there is only one God and whatever the Holy Spirit does, it is God doing it, whatever the Son does, it is God doing it and whatever the father does, it is God doing it. Each person in the Godhead is God, each is eternally God, and each is fully God in whose name we are baptized.

AMEN!

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK REV. BLESSINGS KALUNGA MINISTER-IN-CHARGE- UCZ NJASE CONGREGATION, KANCHINDU CONSISTORY- SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY FOR PREPARING THE 2022 TRINITY SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

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