

Scripture: John 14 Belgic Confession: Art 8-9 (1)
Singing: 290:1-5 – 32:1-4 – 427:5, 7 -- 120:3-4

Intro: Our Christian faith is a religion of *mystery!*

A. Jesus introduced this term in Mark 4:11 (1 Cor. 2:7; 1 Tim. 3:16)

1. Scripture's mystery is only known by *revelation* (Eph. 3:3, 9; Col. 1:26)

B. Bible introduces us to various *mysteries*

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Romans 16:26; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

2. Creation of material/physical universe out of *nothing* defies: Heb. 11:3

3. Union of Jews & Greeks into one body: Eph. 1:9; Eph. 3:3

4. Future restoration of Israel: Rom 11:25

5. The instant transformation of the saints' body at Jesus' return: 1 Cor. 15:51

C. Yet the greatest mystery of the Bible is **God Himself**

1. We naturally inquire: *Where did God come from? Who is God?*

a. He is the God *Who is, was, and is to come* (Rev. 1:4)

b. He is the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God (1 Tim. 6)

2. Knowing God's attributes (Con. Art 1) does not explain all about God

D. The Biblical Testimony of the Trinity

1. God began His revelation of Himself as the Triune God in Old Testament

a. examples: Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Ps. 110:1; Is. 63:20; Hos. 1:7

2. God continued revealing Himself more in the New Testament

a. examples: Matt. 3:13-17; John 14-16; Jude 20-21; Rev. 1:4-5

3. Yet after all this, God's Triune Being still remains a mystery

a. in glory God's saints will 'enjoy and benefit' fully of His glory:

● Ps. 17:15 – 31:19 – 73:23-24 ... Rev. 7:15-17

e. For now, be content with *not understanding* God in His infinite Being

E. The Trinity and Christian Experience

1. God's church experience the operations of each Person *towards us* (Art. 9)

a. Each Person's office and operations (activity) is personally experienced

b. This corresponds with knowing our *misery, deliverance, and gratitude*

Reflection: The Triune God reveals Himself for our encouragement and comfort!

A. All three Persons are engaged to save sinners (John 3:17; Luke 9:56)

1. This revelation of Himself is to stir us to worship

2. This revelation directs us **how to seek** the work of each Person

a. the Father:

● Ps. 65:4 *Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causeth to approach unto thee, that He may dwell in thy courts*

● Ps. 106:4-5 *Remember me, O LORD, with the favor that thou*

bearest unto Thy people: O visit me with Thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation; that I may glory with thine inheritance.

b. the Son:

- Ps. 43:3 *O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me and bring me ... into thy holy presence/communion.*

c. Spirit:

- Ps. 51:11-12 *restore to me joy of thy salvation & uphold me w/ Thy free Spirit*
- Ps. 143:10 *Teach me to do Thy will ... thy **Spirit** is good: lead me in the land of uprightness*

The Godhead

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that is not this or that. (Augustine)

No wonder that the doctrine of the Trinity is explicable, seeing that the nature of God is incomprehensible. Our faith must assent to what our reason cannot comprehend, otherwise we can never be Christians. (F Burkitt)

Our narrow thoughts can no more comprehend the Trinity in Unity than a nutshell will hold all the water in the oceans.
(T. Watson)