



June 3, 2007

This I Believe

Its not often that you get back-to-back holidays much less back-to-back to back ones. But that's exactly what you get today with the church year. Two weeks ago we celebrated Ascension Sunday, when Jesus ascended into heaven. Last week it was Pentecost where we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit, today, Trinity Sunday, a Sunday where we celebrate our God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In fact, the word trinity comes from two Latin words "tri" which means three and "unity" which means one. It is also one of the major doctrines that separate Christianity from other religions. Even the Apostle's Creed, which we use on the first Sunday of the month, is broken into three articles or sections one for each person of the Godhead. Several years ago I was at a church that used the Apostle's Creed too. However, I cringed when the pastor said we will now recite the Apostle's Creed, now, I don't know about you but to me there is a big difference between reciting and professing. When you recite something it just means I memorized this but when you profess something you are literally saying this I believe which takes me to that haunting question from the Truth Project, "do you really believe that what you believe is really real?"

When you look at the Apostle's Creed do you really believe it? After all the first word is I; I believe. What do you believe? I believe in God the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth. Four major statements jump out right away. Number one, "I believe". When we say, "I believe" we're saying, "I know and accept a true." What do you believe? I believe that God is Father. Think about that God is Father? Why? Malachi 2:10 says, "Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?" You see, you come from a father God is the one who created us at the very beginning mankind came from Him therefore He is Father. But is it really appropriate for us to call God Father? John 20:17 Jesus says, "I am returning to my Father and your Father." Jesus says it He is our Father in the one prayer Jesus

gave us as an example He says we are to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven." Yes, God is Father but He is more than that. We continue when we profess, "I believe in God the Father almighty." Almighty what a word it says that God possesses all power. Four time the prophet Isaiah calls God the Lord Almighty is His name. I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth now that's almighty. He has made all from nothing and I'm not just talking about the elements I'm talking about all the properties that govern them. Even more than that how all of the laws, properties and elements within the entire universe interact with each other to maintain balance throughout that entire universe. To make something you need a plan.

I did something with the Truth Project a couple of weeks ago to try to put this into perspective the next day I got an e-mail from a member that said, "Pastor Matt your presentation on the eye was astounding it really made me think about how great God is. I think you should do it in a sermon. Ok, here it goes.

Remember we're talking about God the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth. To make means he had a plan think of the plan of the eye a remarkable structure. Yet, have you ever really thought of its complexity? The outermost layer is called the Cornea, a unique tissue that is not connected to your blood supply. It literally breathes on its own pulling oxygen out of the air and using it to maintain its life. Do any of you remember those wonderful things from long ago called hard contact lenses? Miserable weren't they? Yet I'm wearing them right now and they're not miserable, why not? Well I wish I could say its because I'm so manly and I feel no pain but no its because they're gas permeable. The reason old contact lenses hurt and were uncomfortable is that they didn't allow oxygen to pass through them and get to the Cornea. These are gas permeable they allow oxygen to pass through to get to the Cornea so the Cornea can use it and it allows the carbon dioxide that the Cornea gives off to pass through the contact lens and go out into the air. Now this self breathing and healing tissue called the Cornea is also transparent so that light can pass right through it and it is also curved just so, so that light is refracted or bent so that it can pass through the pupil.

The pupil is the small opening in your eye that allows light into the inner eye. It is an opening that is surrounded by colorful muscle tissue called the Iris. The Iris is sensitive to light, when light is present the muscles relax and the pupil get small when there's no

light the pupil retracts and the pupil gets larger so that more light can pass through whereupon the light hits the lens which focuses the light inside the eye. It focuses it to a point right in front of the Retina so that an image, upside down, is displayed on the Retina.

Now we must remember that the whole time light is traveling through your eye through the Cornea, through the pupil, through the lens and into the middle of the eye its traveling through a thick liquid substance that just so happens to perfectly transmit light. The light that goes through the liquid is not absorbed nor is it reflected it is not scattered or bent it has all the properties of a fiber-optic the light perfectly passes through so that this image is displayed on the Retina which is a layer of tissue that is composed of light and color sensitive cells called rods and cones. This Retina decodes the light and color and turns it into an electrical impulse which it sends down the optic nerve where it changes form an electrical message to a chemical message and back to an electrical message every time it passes from one neuron to another neuron or form one nerve cell to the next nerve cell on its way to the brain. This is a little path made up over a million neurons so this message is decoded over a million times on its way to the brain.

Once it gets to the brain the neurons compare it to every other image that had ever been seen and somehow are stored inside your brain until it finds a match. When it finds a match your brain interprets it you see it and you know that is a tree and by the way in the process it puts it right side up even though it was upside down on your Retina. And how fast does it do that? All of that happens at the speed of light because that's how fast the light is coming in. It's not like one of these LCD TVs. If you've watched one of them and you've watched a sporting event as the images move there's always a blur on the edge of the image because our electronics cannot keep up with the speed of a person running but your eye can. Now remember some scientists will tell us that this all just happened to come about by random chance and I'm telling you no that is almighty God He who designed and made it.

Now get this He designed and made it simply by speaking His word. This I believe. Do you? It is my hope that as we prepare for Communion today we will not recite the Apostle's Creed but we will really look at it. That as we say I believe in God the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth we are saying that's right I believe in His Son Jesus Christ who is the Lord and Savior and I believe in His Holy

Spirit that lives and breathes within me, creates in faith in me and gives me the power to live my life for Him.

In our Savior's name, Amen.