

Sermon for Trinity Sunday 2025

Paul told the Philippians not only to have the mindset of Christ but to...

continue to work out their salvation

with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act

in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Phil 2:12-13).

To me Paul views our salvation as both a destination and a journey. Do not misunderstand me.

By journey **I DO NOT** mean to imply any kind of personal works salvation.

We are guaranteed our place in heaven as God's children by the work of Christ and no other way.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom we have obtained access

to this grace in which we stand;

and we boast in our hope

of sharing the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)

Richard J Foster puts it this way

Salvation is not just the goal but also the destination

If we indeed have Heaven as a destination... it becomes a glorious byproduct of something far more wonderful.

In Scripture the words translated as life come from two very different sources.

Firstly, there is BIOS, the physical created, mortal life given once to us by God.

Secondly there is $ZO\ddot{E}$, the spiritual uncreated, eternal life that constantly flows from God.

- The Salvation that we receive from God is $ZO\ddot{E}$ life,
- when we have this $ZO\ddot{E}$, physical death becomes a transition from this life to a greater life.

What has this to do with Trinity Sunday?

- Good question...
- and since I asked it...
- I will attempt to answer it.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the triune God.

Using the destination and journey themes we might see

God the Father as the starting point.

- The creator of all that is, seen and unseen.
- A creation intended and purposed by our Father in heaven to be a place where we could live (both BIOS and $ZO\ddot{E}$ - *physical and spiritual*) in his eternal presence.
- Remember there was no death until there was sin.

God the Son is the response of the triune God

- to our failure to accept the world created for that eternal purpose.
- Our death while ultimately expressed in physical terms of illness and a finite lifespan,
- was a spiritual failure which need a spiritual response in a physical world.

Part way along our journey, when the world seemed without hope,

- the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ,
- was the proof that the eternal grace of God was still available to us.

The gift of the **HOLY SPIRIT**

- is the person of God who will accompany us from now until we arrive at our destination.
- The Holy Spirit is a wise companion, advocate and encourager as the journey of this physical life unfolds.
- A presence which once again confirms that Gods eternal grace is still available to us all.

The triune God is therefore

- our Creator,
- our Redeemer and
- our Companion.

That is how it is possible to be both saved and be continuing to work out our salvation.

God's presence with us in the Holy Spirit enables us to have

- the ENDURANCE,
- the CHARACTER and
- the HOPE
- that we will not be disappointed in our faith.

The gospel continues to demonstrate that the issue is not about us getting into heaven;

- it is getting heaven into us.

The daring goal of the Christian life is an ever-deeper reformation of our inner being

So that being transformed we reflect more and more the glory and goodness of our God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The ZOË life that comes from God,

- is the salvation that is in Jesus Christ,
- it is a character-transforming life,
- which makes our BIOS life shine with the light and salt of God.

Each and every one of us are a tangled mass of motives;

- hope and fear,
- faith and doubt,
- simplicity and duplicity,
- honesty and falsity,
- openness and guile...
- that only God can redeem and correct.

While many people have simply given up on their lives, of any hope of moving forward in their lives.

I want to encourage you all with the fact that there is real hope for genuine progress in both BIOS and ZOË life.

Grace is the action of God bringing to pass in our lives good things that we neither deserve nor can accomplish on our own.

And the transforming results are from God, all the work of grace. We know that we have done nothing more than to receive a gift.

But, do not misunderstand; Grace never means inaction or passivity.

The ZOË life is what propels our BIOS life forward, never backward and never still.

As Jesus says, we are to strive to enter through the narrow door (Luke 13:24).

And Peter urges us to

make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love” (2 Pet 1:5 – 7).

God takes our little offering of faith in him and produces changes within that we can hardly imagine or hope for.

Little by little, we become, with time and experience, the kinds of people whose lives naturally and freely express

“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal 5:22 – 3).

This, too, is the salvation of the Lord.

While we can and should make allowances for infusions of God’s grace in our spiritual journey which produce great gains, seemingly overnight.

We must also choose to constantly “work in cooperation” with the Holy Spirit by means of our own personal disciplines.

What does all this mean for us today?

It means that the **Fathers’** plan is still in motion.

The Son has opened the way and advocates for all who believe.

The Holy Spirit who is alive and active continues to speak and teach and encourage.

God is calling you and I to band together as his disciples, learning from him how to live and being formed by God, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, into the kinds of people capable of this transformed life.

This is the salvation that is in Jesus Christ through the triune God who loves us.

Perhaps you might like to join me in this prayer...

Glory be to the Father, who
by His almighty power and love created me,
making me in the image and likeness of God.

Glory be to the Son, who
by His Precious Blood delivered me from death,
and opened for me the gates of heaven.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit, who has sanctified me
in the sacrament of Baptism, and continues to sanctify me by the daily
graces I receive.

Amen