

### **The Triune God Created and Repairs Us!**

***“The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.”***

Dads. Let's say you get a brand new grill for Father's Day. Things like brand new grills come with warranties. If something should break or not work, they would fix it or replace it for free. Let's say you are so proud of your grill, you want to take it down to your family in Mankato to grill up a fancy dinner for them. You notice your grill has wheels on it so you tie it to the back of your truck and drive the hour to Mankato. By the time you get there, your grill is a mangled mess. You pull out your warranty and ask the company to replace it for free. They will not. They may even laugh at you. Warranties are promises they would fix something if it is their fault. Destroying your grill by dragging it behind your truck is your fault.

Today, we celebrate the fact that the one and only God is Triune, Father Son and Holy Spirit, three persons, but one God. Our texts today show us that fact. Even our Old Testament reading shows he is Triune. In our text in Proverbs, we have Jesus speaking. Yes, Jesus before he was born of the Virgin Mary. We know this because of the phrase, ***“I was the craftsman at his side.”*** This reminds us of other parts of Scripture which show us that the craftsman in God's creation was the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ: ***“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made;”*** (John 1:3); ***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created.”***

So what light does our text shed on our understanding of the Triune God? When God created the world, it was perfect. Nothing was going to go wrong with it for eternity. But man ruined God's creation when he brought sin into this world. Normally, something like that is not covered by a warranty. It is our fault, not God's. But God has decided to repair us free of charge.

#### *I. The Triune God created us.*

Charles Lindbergh was the first to fly across the Atlantic solo. The plane he flew was made special for him, the *Spirit of St. Louis*. The workers were proud of their plane. They signed their names on the inside of a metal plate that was fastened to the nose of the plane. When we look all around us we see the signature of the one who designed and created our world.

Look at the compost pile for a moment. You take garbage, grass clippings, leaves, pulled weeds and put them in a pile. Bacteria begin to attack the nitrogen rich material in the pile which generates heat as high as 170 degrees. When the pile cools down, many things happen at once. Fungus starts to form, breaking down the plant material. Millions and millions of tiny insects called springtails feed upon the fungi. Mites, millipedes, centipedes and sow bugs join in the effort. When they are done, in comes the earthworms who aerate the compost, increase its nitrogen level, and neutralize its acid. What is left is rich soil capable of producing abundant life from seed. No man can even come close to it in the laboratory.

A compost pile shows us there is a God in heaven because it shows design and purpose. It is actually a miniature, efficient corporation that runs smoothly because God designed it that way. Compare a compost pile to something like Congress or the United Nations. Now you would think that man, who is far superior to bacteria, who can think and rationalize, would be able to operate more efficiently. But usually he can't. In congress or the United Nations everyone has his own agenda and purpose. Unless there is one leader who can rally all of them together, they work against each other. But you do not find this in a compost pile. All those creatures actually work together. A compost pile screams to the world that there is a creator. The interdependence in the compost pile requires design and not chance. It tells us God put all those creatures there, gave them their abilities and functions, and has designed them to work together.

As it says in Psalm 14:1, ***“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”*** And that is the point of our text. ***“I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.”*** Even though cursed and tainted by sin, creation still is awesome. Only God, the Triune God, could make the oceans with waters so deep and keep them within bounds. Consider the mountains and earth, the heavens and the clouds. Even the pagans know about God's creation. Romans 1: 20 states, ***“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are WITHOUT EXCUSE.”***

Our world is the product of creation. God has his fingerprints all over it. You have to be a fool to say it isn't. And this one and only God is the Triune God where each person is involved. God created everything. Jesus is the instrument or the Word he used to create everything. Even the Holy Spirit is involved as we are told he hovered over the waters.

Let us do more than marvel at this creation. If God is so meticulous that he designed and plans out the functions of insects in a compost pile, what do you think he is going to do and plan for you and me who are greater than dirt? It's not Mother Nature that rules the powerful forces of nature. It's your Father, who controls everything for the ultimate eternal good of his people. We are not fat or skinny, dumpy or ugly; we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

## *II. He repaired us.*

The Triune God created our world. But something went terribly wrong with creation and especially with man.

Jesus Christ as the Word was God's craftsman in making the world. Listen to how he felt about the work in our text. ***"I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind."*** "Delighting in mankind?" That sounds strange. Was God delighted when Adam and Eve sinned and he had to tell them that they and their descendants must die and return to dust? Read the newspapers. There is not much to delight in. Students take guns to school to shoot and kill people. Nations are developing nuclear weapons in order to bomb their neighbors. Scandal and corruption are all around us. Civil wars and ethnic wars have been going on for centuries. Battered spouses, abused children, newborns cast into dumpsters and babies aborted. There are obscenity and pornography, rudeness, vile and gross wickedness. Something happened after Jesus spoke these words after creation. It is called sin. And sinful man boasts of the depths to which he can fall.

Our Holy God in heaven is far from delighted with mankind. His anger burns as hot as when he scorched Sodom and Gomorrah off the face of the earth. His justice should be as swift as when Ananias and Sapphira fell dead because they lied to God. ***"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity,"*** he says in Isaiah. ***"I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,"*** he says in Malachi. It is not that God is cranky; he is only fair. We destroyed his perfect creation and his anger is just.

Yes, God's anger against sin remains the same, but so does his love for the world. We learn from our text and other passages that before he created the world, the Lord already made a plan to repair us. Jesus confesses, ***"I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world."*** You call me up and ask to make an appointment with you next week. I open my calendar and offer you different days and times. You tell me which works out best, I write it down and we have an appointment. God appointed Christ for something from the beginning, before the world began. What could that be?

Paul tells us in Galatians, ***"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."***

Do you see the Triune God in these words? God decreed that man should be saved and sent his Son. Christ, true God, equal with the Father, begotten, not made, was born of a woman, born under the law, so that he could live that holy life which we could not, and to offer his life as the payment for our sin. He redeemed us from the curse of sin. To us God sends us the Holy Spirit so that we may believe and call God our Father and not our angry Judge! We are repaired. And soon, very soon, we will return to our factory condition when the Lord calls us to heaven.

The Trinity is not some topic for theological discussion. The Trinity is our God. God created the universe and everything in it. Sadly, worms speak more about God's creative activity than man! That is because man ruined God's world. There is no warranty to cover what we have done. God was not bound to fix what we broke. But he does repair us through God the Son only because he loves us. May God the Holy Spirit move us to marvel at what he has done. INJ Amen.