

- A justification for this study – series on _____ God; series on portraits of Jesus Christ (Revelation) and the Supremacy of Christ (Hebrews) - the biblical doctrine of the Trinity includes 3 persons as one God; the 3rd person has been called "the forgotten person of the Trinity"
- Some of this may be a response to perceived extremes of certain Christian movements – yet must not err on the side of God's transcendence that we become Deists
- Various possible approaches
 - o Topical – a summary head with Scripture proofs
 - o Selected expositions of texts
 - o Biblical/redemptive – exposition of texts to see the unfolding revelation of the Holy Spirit
 - o As a "head's up", there is an explosion of interest and explanation of the person and work of the Spirit under the New Covenant - still, there is a rich expression of the work of the Spirit even under the Old Covenant
- Pentateuch = the books of Moses, the first 5 books; from creation until the preparation to enter into the promised land
- Heb. ruach = (1.) God's Spirit (2.) man's spirit, life, breath, or vigor (3.) natural wind/breeze – connection of image

I. CREATION

- Gen 1:2 – various explanations; essentially, that in the creation and preparation of the world the Spirit of God is active
- In the subsequent narrative, God speaks; where He speaks there is breath; so His breath or Spirit is instrument for creating and organizing the world; here is the source of all life
- Gen 2:7 – creation of the first man by God's breath (in Heb, same as spirit); not only creation, but in a special way the life of man created in God's image – this continues
- Ps33:6 – connection between the Spirit/breath creation

Application: When we look at creation and other human beings, we should marvel; one of the effects of modern scientific materialism is that there are attempts to explain everything in terms of natural causes, and we have *lost the ability to wonder* – part of the inward work of the Spirit in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to restore this to us, as human beings

II. MORALITY

- Gen 6:3 – God's spirit is contending or striving with fallen humanity; God is a moral being, and is not indifferent to the sinful actions of the people; the following narrative shows that God has a limit to His striving before there is judgment; this is what makes His Spirit *Holy*

Application: While it is true there is much evil in the world, there is also the constraining work of the Spirit; if not, our world would be a virtual Hell on earth; even now the Spirit works in the consciences of unbelievers, striving against them; thank God that it is so in them, and in us; this is a result of God's grace and mercy in Christ

III. WISDOM IN CREATIVITY

- Ex 31:2-11 - artisan's filled with the Spirit of wisdom
- There is not indication that these were necessarily faith filled men, but it is clear that their ability to create beautiful, functional, and creative works was from God

Application: In almost all of human history, creativity of things beautiful have been attributed to the gods; in one sense they are right; all that is beautiful comes from the Spirit, whether among the redeemed or the lost; He is worthy of our praise for this, and it is given for our enjoyment – a benefit of the Cross

IV. LEADERSHIP

- Num 11:16-30 – the Spirit of wisdom to rule and judge the people righteously given to leaders; the would prophecy, or proclaim the will of the Lord
- Moses' prayer for all the Lord's people to have this Spirit (which would be fulfilled in the New Covenant)
- Num 27:16-20 – the equipping and ordaining of Joshua for leadership

Application: God works in the hearts of all the leaders of the earth, and where there is good and beneficial rule for people it is a gift of the Spirit; this is especially true within the church

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- In all 4 of these areas, there is the "common work" of the Spirit among all people and the "redemptive work" of the Spirit especially among His people- all that is True, Good, and Beautiful comes from His Hand
 - At this point, the Spirit is not revealed as a separate person, but all that we enjoy rightly is from Him

What does this have to do with the Gospel?

- In Jesus Christ is the full and perfect measure of the Spirit - under the New Covenant, the Spirit still does these works
- The difference is that one is explicitly for the glory of Jesus Christ and the good of His church, and the other is not (but yet it is)