

A HISTORY OF TRIADS

Before they were thus scattered, they had corrupted the religious doctrines they had received from their great progenitor, Noah; and his three sons, who they had come to regard as a reappearance of Adam and his three sons, Cain, Abel, and Seth. The singular coincidence of circumstances between Adam and Noah, forced this upon their imaginations. Adam the first man, and father of the first world, and Noah, the first man and father of the second world, had each three sons conspicuous in history; and of these three, one in each case was a bad one—Cain and Ham. Led by this, to consider the second family but an avatar of the first, they regarded them as immortal, and worshipped them. Hence we have in all pagan mythologies a triad of principle gods. In the Greek—Jupiter, Neptune, and Pluto; in the Hindoo—Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva; in the Egyptian—Osiris, Horus, and Typhon; one of whom, in each case, is a deity of a dark nature, like Cain and Ham. The Persians had their Ormuzd, Mithras, and Ahriman; the Syrians, their Monimas, Aziz, and Ares; the Canaanites, their Baal-Shalisha, or self-triplicated Baal; the Goths, their Odin, Vile, and Ve, who are described as the three sons

of the mysterious cow, a symbol of the ark; the Jakuthi Tartars, their Artugon, Schugo-teugon, and Tangara, the last, even in name, the Tanga-tanga of the Peruvians: for this singular fact stops not with the great primitive nations; it extends itself to all others, even to those discovered in modern times. Like China and Japan, the Peruvians were found on the discovery of America, to have their triads, Apomti, Churanti, and Intiquaqui; or the father-sun, the brother-sun, and the son-sun. The Mexicans had also Mexitli, Tlaloc, and Tezcalipuca; the last the god of repentance. The Virginians, Iroquois, and various nations of North American Indians, held similar notions. The New Zealanders believe that three gods made the first man, and the first woman from the man's rib, and their general term for bone is Eve.

With respect to their triads...the Peruvians supposed Viracocha to be the creator of the gods; subordinate to him, they believed two triads; connecting, like the natives of the eastern continent, the triple offspring of the great father with the sun; and, in the case of Jupiter, with the thunder. The first consisted of Chuquilla, Catuilla, and Intylapa; or the father-thunder, the son-thunder, and the brother-thunder; the second of Apomti,

Churunti, and Intiquaqui; as father-sun, the son-sun, and the brother-sun. Nor were they satisfied with these two principle triads. So strongly were they impressed with the notion of three deities inferior to that primeval god who sprung from the sea, that they had likewise three images of Chuquilla, himself a person of the first triad; as the Persian Mythras was not only one with Oromasdes and Ahriman, but was also said to have triplicated himself. They had also an idol Tangatanga, which they said was one-in-three and three-in-one. Added to these, they venerated, like the pagans of the eastern hemisphere, a great universal mother; and what shows further the genuine character of this great demiurgic man of the sea, Noah, the superior of their multiplied triad, the badge of the Inca was a rainbow and two snakes; the one allusive to the deluge, the other the symbols of the two great parents of both gods and men... Their worship was sufficiently diabolical, being debased with all the abominable impurities of the arkite superstitions.

*From the book—
"Howitt's History of Priestcraft,"
by William Howitt.
Published 1833*

ELDER WHEELER: A REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

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The persistent effort of the AV staff is reflected in this issue. Judging from reader-feed-back from previous issues, we believe many will benefit from their dedication to this important effort. The continuation of Brother Gregg's article on "Man in the Shadows" shows his unusual insight into the role of being a good subordinate. His work can be helpful to anyone in a secondary position or anyone involved in training others.

We are thankful to be able to announce that the Apostolic Voice will soon be published in Spanish. The Lord is opening doors in a very special way. We are thankful for the help and support of Brother Zeferino Chavez of Fresno, CA. in this important next step.

Here in the Philippines, we are busy preparing for a marathon of special meetings. Today, Sister Wheeler and I fly to Iloilo City to speak at Brother Garganza's anniversary service. We appreciate the

good work he is doing. Besides serving as pastor of a large and growing congregation in Iloilo City, Brother Garganza works closely with Brother Togli as he travels extensively throughout their rapidly growing fellowship of over thirty churches. We are so thankful to have these good men and their fellowship as a part of our Coalition.

Two days after returning to Manila, we will begin our own conference to worship, fellowship and celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of our arrival in the Philippines. The pastors of more than thirty congregations in our fellowship are already preparing to leave for Manila. We are thankful that Brother Garganza and Brother Togli along with others of their fellowship will be joining us for the Conference. We also expect ministers from other groups as well. For many, the few days in Manila each year is their only respite from the misery of interminable war and relentless hunger.

Immediately after the conference we will be

conducting a coalition rally for the pastors of the many churches of other groups who will be joining with our own pastors for fellowship. Preachers and families are invited. We are especially thankful that Brother Gary Howard of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Brother Randall Bowling of Brookhaven, Mississippi will be preaching at the Conference and at the Coalition Rally. We appreciate Sister Howard and Sister Bowling for coming and agreeing to help also. We are expecting God to do some very special things in these meetings.

Graduation ceremonies for the seventeen students of ACTS Bible School are scheduled to be conducted shortly after the Coalition Rally. These students are dedicated, eager to learn, and anxious to be a blessing in their local churches. We count it a great privilege to be a part of so many wonderful things God is doing in so many places.

In His Service,
E. W. Wheeler

**THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLE IS FROM THE BOOKLET:
"Man in the Shadows" by Galen Gregg - Part II**

THE ERRORS OF THE TRINITY BY SERVETUS

“I said that this proposition is true: CHRIST is God, for He is said to be God in appearance, because, as the Apostle says, He was *in the form of God*. And, according to Tertullian, He was found to be God through His power, just as He was man through His flesh. For CHRIST after the inward man (to speak in the manner of Paul) means something divine, resulting from an inward anointing divinely done. According to the flesh, He is man; and in the spirit He is God, because *that which is born of the Spirit is spirit, and, God is a spirit*. And, *Unto us a child is born...His name shall be called...Mighty God*. See clearly that both the name and the might of God are attributed to a child that is born, unto whom *hath been given authority in heaven and on earth*. And Thomas calls Him, *My God, my Lord*. And, CHRIST is called, God in all things to be praised and blessed. And in many other passages is his divinity shown, because He was exalted that He might receive divinity, and the name above every name. Let those therefore beware who endeavor to disparage Him so much that they would have His human nature called only, as it were, a sort of inferior being, and make Him out so much the more imperfect because they not only deny that He is their Lord, but deny that He was anointed by God King of the Jews, deny that He is reconciler, a mediator, why, even rob him of what belongs to His nature, denying that He is the son of Mary, and finally deny that He is a man. Who can but weep at so great an injury to Christ, because the man Moses was called an earthly mediator between the people and God, while it is denied that the second man from heaven is a heavenly mediator.”

From the Book—“The Two Treatises Of Servetus On The Errors Of The Trinity,” by Michael Serveto

Mission Statement

Since our first publication in the early eighties, our mission has been to provide “doctrine and instruction in righteousness” to the churches in the Philippines. (II Timothy 3:16) By request, we are expanding our circulation, trusting that God will bless and use it for the benefit of His Kingdom.



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HERMENEUTICAL PRINCIPLES BY DENNIS GARZA

The Apostle Peter wrote the following in his second epistle to the Church: *Knowing this first, (above all else,) that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.* (2 Peter 1:20 KJV) In other words, the principle thing is to get the correct meaning. Another translation says...*no prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation.*

A good rule to remember is—“Scripture interprets Scripture!” Interpretation should not be based on subjective feelings or by a “God revealed to me” attitude, because this often leads to an arbitrary interpretation of Scripture. These are dangerous and self-serving approaches.

We cannot ignore hermeneutical rules and principles lest we “*wrest*” the Scriptures to our own destruction. The Bible says that, *precept must be upon precept; line upon line.* What we believe and teach must be

based on Scripture alone. The Book of Acts records that the Bereans... *received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* They searched the Scripture, to prove *whether those things were so!* So, regardless of the genre or the type of literature we are dealing with, we need to let the Bible define and interpret it. Even parables, types, poetry, allegories, prophecy, figurative or symbolic language, should never be exempt from hermeneutical laws. In fact the more difficult the passage, the greater the need to be careful.

In our quest to find a Scripture’s “meaning,” we need to keep in mind the intentional meaning of the author and we must understand its historical setting rather than trying to make it “fit” our current circumstances.

Having a healthy command of words is always a benefit. We are

the people of the Word. Words have meaning. In a time when people are trying to redefine everything that is sacred, we should make sure that our generation has an appreciation for the meaning of words.

I heard one preacher jokingly say, “If the King James Version was good enough for the Apostle Paul, then it’s good enough for me!” Unfortunately, the Bible was not originally written in the King’s English. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic, the New Testament in Greek. These languages are far more comprehensive than our English language and a good student of the Word of God will not hesitate to search out what God originally told the holy men of old.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:21 KJV)

WORDS OF WISDOM

It is necessary to one’s personal happiness, to exercise control over one’s words as well as acts: for there are words that strike even harder than blows; and men may “speak daggers,” though they use none. The stinging repartee that rises to the lips, and which, if uttered, might cover an adversary with confusion, how difficult it sometimes is to resist saying it! “Heaven keep us,” say’s Miss Bremer, in her “Home,” from the destroying power of words! There are words which sever hearts more than sharp swords do; there are words the point of which sting the heart through the course of a whole life.”

Thus character exhibits itself in self-control of speech as much as in anything else. The wise and forbearant man will restrain his desire to say a smart or severe thing at the expense of another’s feelings; while the fool blurts out what he thinks, and will sacrifice his friend rather than his joke. Even statesmen might be named, who have failed through their inability to resist the temptation of saying clever and spiteful things at their adversary’s expense. “The turn of a sentence,” say’s Bentham, “has decided the fate of many a friendship, and, for ought that we know, the fate of many a kingdom.” So, when one is tempted to write a clever but harsh thing, though it may be difficult to restrain it, it is always better to leave it in the inkstand. “A goose’s quill,” says the Spanish proverb, “often hurts more than the lion’s claw.”

The courage of self-control exhibits itself in many ways, but in none more clearly than in honest living. Men without the virtue of self-denial are not only subject to their own selfish desires, but they are usually in bondage to others who are like-minded with themselves. What others do, they do. They must live according to the artificial standard of their class, spending like their neighbors, regardless of the consequences, at the same time that all are, perhaps, aspiring after a style of living higher than their means. Each carries the others along with him, and they have not the moral courage to stop. They cannot resist the temptation of living high, though it may be at the expense of others; and they gradually become reckless of debt, until it enthralls them. In all this there is great moral cowardice, and want of manly independence of character.

— From the book—“Happy Homes,” by Samuel Smiles. Published in 1889

that effectiveness with a poor image. You are meeting the public, you are working with people; they will respond to you much better if you are clean, neat, and well dressed.

While you may not be able to buy a lot of expensive clothes, you should buy good quality. In the long run you are better off to buy good quality clothing, it will last longer and look much better. Watch for sales. You do not have to spend a lot of money.

Good grooming starts with cleanliness. You are never too busy to shower and shave. Nothing will hurt your image more than a three-day's growth of beard and body odor. Pay attention to yourself! Next, a neat haircut is in order; (I said neat! Do not try to be a prima donna!) Your clothes should be pressed and neat, shirt cuffs clean, tie straight, shirt tucked in, shoes shined, etc. Buy yourself a full-length mirror and examine yourself each morning before you leave the house.

Remember that you represent God and your local church. When you hand someone your card and tell them, "I am an assistant pastor at First Pentecostal Church," they should have a good impression of you. If they feel good about you, then they feel good about the church. You will, in time, build a reputation with those you deal with. In addition,

you will have more confidence in yourself. As you walk down the hospital hall, you will be mistaken for a doctor. When you walk into a business you will be greeted promptly and respectfully. Work on your image, a good one will make you far more effective in the kingdom of God. Work on developing a lifestyle, a modus operandi that will be pleasing to God and build a good reputation.

Your Education

I know two men, very close to the same age, from the same area, with similar educational backgrounds, who ended up in vastly different situations. The first man took a position and did fine for the first year or two. After two years, things began to go downhill. He no longer was respected as before. His operation began to come apart, and finally it ended with a sad collapse. The second man found only success. He always had something fresh and new. He is respected as a man of wisdom, perception, and good judgment. The only difference between the styles of these two men, that I was able to see, is that the first man spent a lot of time working on his house, working at hobbies. Always working. The other man is observed studying, reading, always well informed. The first man became stagnant. The second man always worked at putting some-

thing in so that he had something new to give. You can never expect to give out anything if you never take anything in. Do not become stagnant. It is extremely important that the young man who is an assistant pastor always seeks to improve his mind.

First and foremost, no book or course of study can take the place of reading and studying the Bible. It must, more than any other book, be read, studied, and consumed voraciously on a constant, consistent basis. Daily reading and meditation is very important. Any reading or study done outside the Bible should be done inside the guideline and direction of God's word. After the Bible, it is my firm opinion that a minister must have several courses of reading and study. There used to be a day when men were proud of their ignorant, backwoods ways. While we do not need pride and the "wisdom of men" we do need to be informed and able to operate knowledgeably in today's fast changing world. A daily reading of the local newspaper will keep you informed of what is happening in your city, state, and world. I would caution that 10-20 minutes is plenty of time to read the paper. You do not have time to read the sports page and every human interest article on every page. Be careful, some fall into the trap of a long leisurely reading of the morning's paper over coffee. Discipline yourself to a

few minutes. Next, a good weekly news magazine such as "Time" or "Newsweek" will help you to relate to our society. (Not accept, just understand and relate). It may be your wish to subscribe to some other publications, as they will help you to keep your thinking stimulated and fresh. I would also recommend a good business publication, as part of your work will be related to administration, and it pays to be informed. After these publications, you will have interests inside religious type publications, and perhaps some outside material. I know you will be on a tight budget, so you may try some used bookstores. The library is also provided free by our government, take advantage of it. I have enjoyed, over the years, biographies and history books that have also been helpful to my ministry.

Keep in mind that most of what you read will be written by sinners who do not know God. Study your Bible first and most of all and the other item can find second place. Above all, do not allow your mind to become stagnant, keep it fresh and sharp.

Your Relationship with God

It must be remembered by any person who works at a church, whether they are full-time or not, that the church is not just a corporation or business. While many operations of the church must be run in a business-like manner and there is much to be learned from the business world, the church is a work of the Spirit. There will be

business to attend to, money to be handled, buildings to work on, but the focus of your work is not profit. It is people, it is souls. The businessman has no need of anything even remotely religious, but you and I are fools if we think we can be about the Father's business without the touch of God. "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." There is only one way to have the touch of God. It is by prayer.

A wise man said, "No prayer, no power. Little prayer, little power. Much prayer, much power." A truer statement has never been made. As an assistant you must have the touch of God every day. If you do not pray, your attitude will be wrong. If you do not pray, you will make the wrong decision. If you do not pray, you will be inefficient. Although you are working for the pastor, you are ultimately working for God, and you cannot work for Him unless you have a relationship with him. There can be no relationship without prayer.

There are some good books that provoke a man to prayer. There are several books written by E.M. Bounds, which are excellent. There is also a compilation of parts of these books, edited by Leonard Ravenhill. These can be a real help in inspiration to prayer. There is no substitute for prayer.

Your relationship with God ne-

cessitates a time of self-examination, a time of allowing God to speak to you. The clay is of no use to the potter if it cannot be molded to his wishes. You will never reach a place with God where you are perfected to the point that He no longer has to shape you. You and I, as servants of God must ever hear the voice of God. There are three main ways in which God may speak to us. Prayer, reading and meditating in His word, and being preached to. The third category, that is, the spoken word, can be very helpful. In addition to regular attendance to church, a regular program of listening to tapes is a genuine blessing. Let God speak to you about yourself.

That special time when you talk to God and those times when he speaks to you should be very precious. Some like to come to the church early in the day, while it is still dark and no one else is there. Others prefer to pray late at night. Whenever, wherever, your meeting may be, keep your relationship with God fresh and new.

Your Work

Your work will fall into two categories. The first, we will call spiritual, that is preaching, teaching, counseling, and praying. The second, we will call secular. That is, the business part of your job.

("Shadows" continued from page 5)

A man that I worked for many years ago taught me a very valuable lesson. He said, "Always remember, the shortest pencil is longer than the longest memory." Two of the most indispensable tools you will use are a pen and a small pad of paper. The assistant pastor may or may not carry a wallet, comb, and keys, but he must always carry a pen and paper.

You may wish to consider having three lists; things to do, things to talk to the pastor about and things to talk to God about. If you don't write it down, you will forget. If you do, you will never forget. As you go through your day there will be things you see that need to be done; the pastor will mention things to you, thoughts will come to mind. Write them down.

It is a good idea to start your workday (after praying) by sitting down and formulating your "to do" list. Get organized. A few minutes of careful scheduling can

save hours of time. If, during your day, you find yourself going to the same area of town twice, you are probably not organized well enough.

You will most likely use the telephone quite often in the course of your day. Learn to develop good telephone habits. Be pleasant without being phony. Show an interest in people, don't just push through the business in a cold-hearted manner. Identify yourself so the person knows who they are talking to. When leaving a message for someone, give as much information as you are able without being too lengthy. If you do, you will get better response.

As you work with the pastor, realize that you are there to help him, not take up his time. When you talk with him about business take out your list and you can quickly cover all questions.

Remember that you are there to free his time for more important matters; do not use up his time.

The longer you work with a man, the more you will understand what he expects of you and to what extent. As you begin to feel more comfortable with your boundaries you should begin to "protect" the pastor. There are some things that the pastor wants to handle all by himself, there are others he doesn't even want to know about. Unfortunately, in every church there are some people who need constant attention. These people can burden the pastor and use up all his time. In time you can learn to protect him by talking to them yourself, or simply by taking a message. One may take a telephone call with a conversation such as this: "This is Brother Assistant, Brother Pastor is busy right now, is there something I can do for you?" If it is personal or private they can feel free to say no. If it is a simple, relatively unimportant matter (and it sometimes is) you can write down a message and give it to him later.

("Shadows" Part III continued in next AV)

MAN IN THE SHADOWS (PART 2 OF 3)

Money. If you like money and want plenty of it you are in the wrong business. God will take care of you, it is not the will of God for you to go without what you need. If you are a full-time assistant, do not expect a big salary. Learn to live within your means. If you are a good steward and use the principles of giving, you will do fine. Do not run-up credit accounts and take out a lot of loans. Use discipline. If you burden yourself with bills and financial worries you will throttle your ability to minister.

I know a man who has been a full-time assistant in a couple of churches, for several years. He left a good secular job to be full-time in the ministry. At first, he and his family had to do without many things and had a difficult time. He was faithful to God, the pastors he worked with, and the churches he served. In time, God took care of him. He now drives a nice car, lives in a nice house, and is able to provide well for his family. All of this happened, not because he made a lot of money, but, because of stewardship, discipline and faithfulness to God. If it falls your lot to sacrifice. Do it. In time God will take care of you. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

To those who are married; do not neglect your family. There will be times that you have to be so busy

that you hardly have time to eat and sleep. When such is necessary, give it all you've got. However, in the midst of such times, do not forget your family. When your wife says, "I might as well be a widow," and your children say, "Aw dad, we never see you any more," it is time to take a time out. I know of situations where the minister's family became bitter because the work of God took dad completely from them. Do not let that happen to you. Pay attention to your family. It does not take a lot of time to give consistent attention to your children. Take a few minutes to look them in the eye, ask them how things are going, listen to what they say. It is a good idea to have one night a week set aside specifically as family night. Spend that time with them. Take them out after church for a hamburger. Every month or two go for a drive, on a picnic, go somewhere. Father, take your son with you sometimes; he needs to learn how to be a man. The list can go on and on. The man that makes a conscious effort to take care of his family will find a way.

I feel compelled to add a word of caution here. Balance is the key. While attempting to care for his family, a man, if he is not careful, may help them too much. You should not find yourself constantly running errands for your wife, you do not have time. Keep a good balance.

Work on your image. I know about an assistant in a particular church who goes to the office in the morning, in poor condition. He walks in, hair mussed, shoes scuffed, suit wrinkled, shirt dirty, tie askew, and shirt tail hanging out. He is very intelligent, he prays, he loves God, he has a good attitude, he is helpful, he works hard, but his image destroys any concept of respect that people might have for him.

Your image is very important. I know nothing takes the place of prayer, fasting, and the study of the word, but you can negate

(continued on page 4)



Galen Gregg is a husband, the father of three children who all live for God, and the proud grandfather of three grandsons. Both sets of grandparents were true Apostolic, with one grandfather being an old-time brush arbor evangelist. Brother Gregg began his ministry in his early twenties with God eventually guiding him to Fresno, California where he worked as an assistant under the ministry of Elder Vaughn Morton for some 12 years. He then assumed the pastorate of a church in central California for several years and now pastors in southern California in the city of Thousand Oaks.

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