**THE BEAUTIFUL DOCTRINE OF GOD**

***By Pastor Rob Benardo***

Many and various have been the errors that have crept into God's church over the years. For the most part in recent history, the Battle Creek tabernacle has been spared from these things. But recently a very God dishonoring error has come in and that is anti-trinitarianism. It unfortunately misrepresents God’s character and distorts the whole plan of salvation. When understood correctly, the Godhead will be seen as unbelievably unselfish and giving. Certainly this was the evidence given by Christ as he lived his life here, but it is certainly true also of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.

"The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption" Counsels on Health, p. 222).  Here we see that all the members of the Godhead looked down upon humanity with agape love. It's very unfortunate, but the Holy Spirit has been maligned and disrespected probably more than the Father or the Son. Make no mistake about it though, he is just as much a person with a personality as they are and just as involved in the plan of salvation. "We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.--" Manuscript 66, 1899. (From a talk to the students at the Avondale School.)  "We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, --and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God.--" Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, p. 51. (1905)

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person; else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. "For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man, which is in him; even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."— (Ms 20, 1906. 20MR 69). These statements are quite clear and unequivocal.

Amazingly, God who is all powerful is also filled with agape love and all three persons of the Godhead are constantly pointing away from themselves to the others. How are things going in your family? Is it all about you or do you love to exult others? One thing we can be sure of, the doctrine of the Godhead as taught in scripture and the spirit of prophecy, paints an awesome, amazing picture of a God that creates and sustains all thing through His amazing selfless agape love. Don't you want to thank him for that love today?

**A SONG IN THE NIGHT**

*By Lorrie Rietman*

A few nights ago as I was getting ready for bed pretty late, through the open window I heard a bird singing in the stillness and darkness of the night.  I went outside to get a better listen. The song was continuous and after I listened for some time it seemed endless; this bird was not stopping! With a little research it was confirmed that this was a whippoorwill! As I looked up this bird I found a rather homely-looking little bird that spends most of its day sleeping in the nooks and crannies of the woods but often will be heard singing on summer nights. I read that one observer of the bird counted the bird chanting its song 1,088 times without stop. Bird songs fascinate me. Many of the times they seem to be communicating but so often it also seems like birds just love to sing their songs. I like to think that the birds are simply singing praise to their Maker all hours of the day.

  The Bible speaks several places of having a song in the night. Psalm 42:8 reads, “The Lord will command His loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me…” Job 35:10 asks, “Where is God my maker, who gives songs in the night…” Psalm 77:6 says, “I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search.” The nighttime can be dark, frightening and oppressive. It is often in the dark of night when one could worry over the concerns of their heart or fear the unknown. We can learn from the whippoorwill that no matter how small we may view ourselves and how dark the world may seem, God has a song for us to sing! He wants to give us the peace of mind and joy to sing in the face of darkness and worry. And just as I took note of that song in the blackness of night, so shall our testimony bring glory to God in this dark world.

**PATHFINDER CLUB REPORT**

*By**Brad and Tracey Hall, Directors of the Battle Creek Pioneers Pathfinder Club*

In August the Battle Creek Pioneers had the privilege to join about 57,000 other Pathfinders from around the world in Oshkosh, WI for the International Camporee that takes place once every five years.

The weather was nearly perfect the entire week. The evening pastor and plays were amazing and well planned out.  There were so many fun activities planned. Our club enjoyed water bikes, kayaks, rock climbing, mini golf, pin trading and an escape room just to name a few things. There was more to do than time to do it. It was definitely a spiritual high for the week being surrounded by like minded Seventh day Adventist Christians! It helped our Pathfinders realize that they are a part of a much larger movement than what they are normally exposed to.

Thank you to all of our church members and friends for your donations to help make this trip possible.  More than 1,300 youth were baptized during the week. You may never know this side of heaven what impact this trip made on our youth. We couldn't have done it without your support.

Pathfinders will be starting up again soon. It is for youth grades 5-12. If you or someone you know is interested in joining please email me at bt.hall@hotmail.com.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LADIES TEA:** **Sept 9** at **1:00 p.m.** in the Dining Room for a “Tea/Craft” Day.

**EVANGELISTIC SERIES: JESUS ON PROPHECY** with Bill Brace. We have our evangelistic reaping series coming up starting **September 23** and it's always a great time of the year to do two things: first of all, to be revived ourselves and to get to know God better and secondly, to be able to bring those to the series that we have been praying for and sharing with!  So don't miss this opportunity to bring your friends, neighbors and coworkers to hear this end time message for these end times!

**VISITATION MINISTRY:** Meets at **3:00 p.m.** in the Seminar Room the **1st** and **3rd Sabbath** each month.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**Oct. 12** – **Laura Williams** in concert at **7:00 p.m.**

**Oct. 19 & 20** – **Health Fair** at Battle Creek Academy-**10:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Oct. 26** – **Church Social**

**Nov. 1-3** – **Chef Mark Anthony** (vespers/worship service/cooking class)

**Nov. 2** – **Ministry Fair** after the worship service